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Spring 2-1-2022

### LIT 344.01: Asian American Literature

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# LIT 344 Asian American Literature

Spring 2022

Dr. Quan M. Ha  
Office hours: Tues + Thurs: 9:00-9:30 and 12:30-2:00  
Class meetings: Tues + Thurs: 2:00-3:20

[quan.ha@umontana.edu](mailto:quan.ha@umontana.edu)  
Office: LA 213  
Classroom: LA 244

## Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This course introduces you to major themes and critical issues in late 20<sup>th</sup>- and early 21<sup>st</sup>-century Asian American literature. We will read fiction, life narratives, poems, and plays written by Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese Korean, and Filipino American authors. The assigned readings focus on how Asian American literature has developed since the early 1900s; how its has gained substantial attention from critics since the 1970s; and how Asian American literature functions as a political and racial agency in critiquing America-centrism, postcolonialism/imperialism, and racial inequality in the US.

After completing this course, you will be able to

- think critically about Asian American prose narratives and their thematic approaches
- analyze literature insightfully and write critical analysis of prose narratives
- appreciate cultural differences and ethnic diversity
- understand the politics of race and ethnicity and how history shapes one's identity and perspective
- understand key concepts in ethnic studies: stereotype, model-minority myth, diaspora, identity, US imperialism and the Third World, Asian American citizenship, interracial and interethnic relations, etc.
- be familiar with the current trends and movements, both theoretically and literarily, in Asian American literature

## Required textbooks

- 1/ Jean Kwok, *Girl in Translation* (Chinese American novel)
- 2/ John Okada, *No-No Boy* (Japanese American novel)
- 3/ Monique Truong, *The Book of Salt* (Vietnamese American novel)
- 4/ Change-Rae Lee, *Native Speaker* (Korean American novel)
- 5/ Peter Bacho, *Cebu* (Filipino American novel)

## Assignments

Three research essays (7 pages/each)

One oral presentation: You will prepare 8 questions for class discussion over the readings you have been assigned.

Two in-class exams

Reading quizzes: Submit your quiz answers to Moodle twice a week

## Grades

Grades will be assigned as percentage scores (0-1000) throughout the term. Ultimately, your final grade will be converted to the university's letter grade system using this scale:

A (931-1000)	A- (900-930)	
B+ (870-899)	B (840-869)	B- (800-839)
C+ (770-799)	C (740-769)	C- (700-739)
D (640-699)	F (below 640)	

Essays-----	500 points (essays 1 & 2: 150 points/each; essay 3: 200 points)
Reading quizzes -----	200 points
One presentation -----	50 points
Two exams -----	250 points (125 points/each)
<b>TOTAL: 1,000 points</b>	

### **Classroom policies**

1. You are not allowed to read newspapers or class-unrelated materials while class is in session.
2. The use of cell phones, beepers, or other electronic devices is prohibited during class.
3. Any persistent talking or sleeping while the instructor or another student is speaking will result in (1) a warning and (2) then your dismissal from the classroom.
4. You are permitted to use laptops during class for note-taking and other class-related work only.
5. Behave in a courteous and respectful manner toward your instructor and your fellow students.

### **E-mail correspondence**

Use your UM e-mail account for electronic correspondence with the instructor. You may expect my response within 48 hours (except weekends and holidays). I expect you to use a professional tone in your correspondence with me. E-mails that have no greeting or express a disrespectful tone will not be answered.

### **Attendance and Tardiness**

1. Tardiness of between 5 and 10 minutes will be noted: each such tardiness after the first two will be counted as an unexcused absence; tardiness of 20 minutes or longer will be treated as an unexcused absence.
2. If you have to leave class early due to personal problems, inform me before class starts.
3. You are allowed TWO free absences. After your second unexcused absence, 10 points will be deducted for each additional absence. More than 5 unexcused absences will result in the failure of the course.
4. Make-up quizzes are for excused absences only.

### **Covid**

1. Mask use is required within the classroom.
2. If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
3. If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress.

### **Policies on written assignments and in-class tests**

1. Late papers will be penalized with a 10% deduction for each day after the due date, including weekend days. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from turning in a paper on time, please talk to me BEFORE the paper is due. I am not likely to make allowances after the deadline has come and gone.
2. All papers are to be typed in 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced. Follow the MLA guidelines for formatting, citations, and documentations.
3. For each formal essay, you must turn in a revised draft.
4. Do not ask me to proofread your essays electronically (via email). If you need help with your papers, please schedule an appointment, or just come during my office hours.
5. Under no circumstance will I offer make-up tests/exams.

### **Grade Appeals**

If you wish to appeal a grade, you should first consult with me. You will have 7 days, from the time the grade is assigned/posted, to set up an appointment with me to discuss the grade. After 7 days, all grades are final.

### Accommodations

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations for coursework. To request accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible in the semester. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

### Academic Integrity

Refer to [https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/um\\_student\\_code\\_of\\_conduct\\_2021-2020.pdf](https://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/um_student_code_of_conduct_2021-2020.pdf) information about academic misconduct. If you are found guilty of academic misconduct, legal action will be taken. It is your responsibility as a student to understand the Student Conduct Code described in the link above.

### Reading Schedule (subject to change)

The symbol ● indicates readings that will be posted on Moodle.

#### *Chinese American Lit.*

##### **WEEK 1: Jan 17--23**

Tues: Introduction & Syllabus

Thurs: It Wavering Image + A Flawless Silence + Persimmons ● BRICE

##### **WEEK 2: Jan 24--30**

Tues: No Name Woman + Half Half + A Pair of Ticket ● EVAN

Thurs: *Chickencoop Chinaman* ● JONATHAN

##### **WEEK 3: Jan 31--Feb 6**

Tues: *Girl in Translation* (pp. 1-100) ZOE

Thurs: *Girl in Translation* (pp. 101-203) MATEA

##### **WEEK 4: Feb 7--13**

Tues: *Girl in Translation* (pp. 203-end) CHRISTIAN

Thurs: In the American Society + Who's Irish + Birthmates ● ANIKA

#### *Japanese American Lit.*

##### **WEEK 5: Feb 14--20**

Tues: And the Soul Shall Dance + Rosebud + Otoko ● JADE

Thurs: Theorizing AA Fiction + AA Lit. and the Resistances of Theory ● BEN

##### **WEEK 6: Feb 21--27**

Tues: *No-No Boy* (pp. 1-116) SAM

Thurs: *No-No Boy* (pp. 117-end) KELLY

**\*\*\* ESSAY # 1 DUE: Sunday, 11:00 PM**

**WEEK 7: Feb 28—Mar 6**

Tues: Japanese Hamlet + Yoneko's Earthquake + The Woman Who Makes Swell Doughnuts • JAMIE  
Thurs: *EXAM # 1*

*Vietnamese American Lit.*

**WEEK 8: Mar 7--13**

Tues: Gift of Years + This or Any Desert + Origins • KATHERINE  
Thurs: Show and Tell + Sister + The Stories They Carried • MARTHA

**WEEK 9: Mar 14--20**

Tues: *The Book of Salt* (pp. 1-133) MELINA  
Thurs: *The Book of Salt* (pp. 134-end) JOSEPH

**WEEK 10: Mar 21—27**

☺ SPRING BREAK ☺

**WEEK 11: Mar 28—Apr 3**

Tues: The Immolation + Fatherland + My Father's "Norton ..." • ILENA  
Thurs: Gifts + Waiting + The Walls, the House, the Sky • MARIA

**\*\*\* ESSAY # 2 DUE: Sunday, 11:00 PM**

*Korean American Lit.*

**WEEK 12: Apr 4--10**

Tues: *Native Speaker* (pp. 1-130) CLAIRE  
Thurs: *Native Speaker* (pp. 131-249) ANDREA

**WEEK 13: Apr 11--17**

Tues: *Native Speaker* (250-end) ANDREA  
Thurs: Sweetheart Sorrow + A Temporary Marriage + And We Will Be Here • LORAN

*Filipino American Lit.*

**WEEK 14: Apr 18--24**

Tues: *Cebu* (pp. 1-102) SYDNIE  
Thurs: Carlos Bulosan's poetry •

**WEEK 15: Apr 25—May 1**

Tues: *Cebu* (pp. 103-end) JULIA  
Thurs: Cunanan's Wake + Foreign Bodies + The Blossoming of Bongbong • SOPHIA  
**\*\*\* ESSAY # 3 DUE: Sunday, 11:00 PM**

**WEEK 16 May 2--8**

Tues: TBA  
Thurs: Last day of class / Review + conclusion