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Spring 2-1-2017

### LIT 344.01: Asian American Literature

Quan Ha

*The University Of Montana*

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# LIT 344: Asian American Literature

Spring 2017

Dr. Quan M. Ha  
Office hours: Tues + Thurs: 12:30-2:00  
Class meetings: Tues + Thurs: 9:30-10:50

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Office: LA 213  
Classroom: GBB 202

## 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 prose narratives. We will read fiction, life narratives, and plays written by Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Pakistani, Singaporean, and Vietnamese American authors. The assigned readings focus on how Asian American literature has developed since the early 1900s; how it 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. Bharati Mukherjee, *Wife* (Indian/South-Asian American fiction)
2. Lan Cao, *The Lotus and the Storm* (Vietnamese American fiction)
3. Amy Chua, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* (Chinese American non-fiction)
4. John Okada, *No-No Boy* (Japanese American fiction)
5. Ronyoung Kim, *Clay Walls* (Korean American fiction)
6. Chay Yew, *Porcelain* and *A Language of Their Own: Two Plays* (Singaporean American drama)
7. David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (Chinese American drama)

Readings from the Coursepack will be sent to your email.

## Assignments

- TWO RESEARCH ESSAYS (7-9 pages/essay): Specific instructions to be announced.
- ONE CLOSE-READING ESSAY (4 pages)

- **TWO ORAL PRESENTATIONS:** You will prepare 8 questions for class discussion over the readings you have been assigned. Make enough copies of your questions and bring them to class for distribution.
- **TWO EXAMS (in class):** Specific instructions to be announced
- **READING QUIZZES:** At the beginning of each class meeting, you will take a reading quiz.

## 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)	

Reading quizzes -----	200 points
Two presentations -----	100 points (50 points/each)
Two exams -----	200 points (100 points/each)
Close-reading essay (4 pages) -----	100 points
Research paper # 1 (6-7 pages) -----	150 points
Research paper # 2 (8-9 pages) -----	200 points
In-class discussion -----	50 points

**TOTAL: 1,000 points**

## 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. If you miss no class, I will add 10 bonus points to your final grade.
5. Make-up quizzes are for excused absences only.

## 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 enter my corrections and turn in the revised version. Failing to do this will result in a zero on the assignment.
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 [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php) for 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 sent to your email.*

### WEEK 1: Jan. 23--29

Tues: Introduction + syllabus

Thurs: The Day the Dancers Came + Who's Irish? + A White Woman Who Married a Chinaman ■

### WEEK 2: Jan. 30--Feb.05

Tues: *No-No Boy* (pp. 1-117)

Thurs: They Won't Crack It Open + A Wife's Story + Silver Pavements, Golden Roofs ■

### WEEK 3: Feb. 06--12

Tues: *No-No Boy* (pp. 118-end)

Thurs: *M. Butterfly* (entire play)

### WEEK 4: Feb. 13--19

Tues: *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* (pp. 1-120)

Thurs: *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* (pp. 121-end)

### WEEK 5: Feb. 20--26

Tues: *And the Soul Shall Dance* + The Popcorn Man ■

Thurs: Unacknowledged + Caste System + The Lost Sparrow ■

\*\*\*\*\* *Close-reading essay due, Friday, 12:00 Noon (my office)*

### WEEK 6: Feb. 27—Mar.05

Tues: *Wife* (pp. 1-106)

Thurs: *Wife* (pp. 107-end)

WEEK 7: Mar. 06—12

Tues: *Exam # 1*

Thurs: Slingshot + Grandma's Tales + Birds of Paradise Lost ■

WEEK 8: Mar. 13—19

\*\*\*\*\* *Research paper # 1 due, Monday, 12:00 Noon (my office)*

Tues: *Clay Walls* (pp. 1-147)

Thurs: In Other Rooms, Other Wonders + A Spoiled Man + Nawabdin Electrician ■

WEEK 9: Mar. 20—26

-----*SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS*-----

WEEK 10: Mar. 27—Apr. 02

Tues: *Clay Walls* (pp. 148-end)

Thurs: *Porcelain* (entire play)

WEEK 11: Apr. 03—09

Tues: *The Lotus and the Storm* (pp. 1-127)

Thurs: *Indian Cowboy* + *Sia(b)* ■

WEEK 12: Apr. 10—16

Tues: *The Lotus and the Storm* (pp. 128-244)

Thurs: Fatherland + The Americans + The War Years ■

WEEK 13: Apr. 17—23

Tues: *The Lotus and the Storm* (pp. 245-end)

Thurs: TBA

WEEK 14: Apr. 24—30

\*\*\*\*\* *Research paper # 2 due, Monday, 12:00 Noon (my office)*

Tues: *A Language of Their Own* (entire play)

Thurs: Wilshire Bus + Yoneko's Earthquake + The Legend of Miss Sasagawara ■

WEEK 15: May 01—07

Tues: In the American Society + Birthday + Pangs of Love ■

Thurs: Review + Conclusion (last day of class)

\*\*\*\*\* *Exam # 2: TBA*