

AFRO-ASIAN FORMATIONS OF RACE

(ER&M 350; AMST 362)

Revised (3/23) Course Syllabus, Yale College, Spring 2020



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A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This reading-intensive seminar examines relational, comparative and intersectional scholarship on racial identity, racial formation, and race-based social movements through the relationship of Afro-Asian diasporas across place and time. By studying race relationally and intersectionally, and through a shared field of meaning and power, the seminar makes visible the connections among such subordinated groups and the logic that underpins the forms of inclusion and dispossession they face. Relational frameworks of race require both an attention to specificity—the distinct social locations, histories and contexts inhabited by differentially racialized groups—as well as the articulations and dependencies that mutually constitute and produce such formations.

The course pays particular attention to sites of cultural production, literary, visual and musical cultures. Several of the texts and course themes also focus regionally on the Caribbean, and its particular histories of Afro-Asian encounters. A final theme of the course concerns contemporary politics and public policy, examining issues including affirmative action and housing segregation.

The course will include several guest speakers and will culminate in a series of group based projects and interventions.

B. READINGS AND REQUIRED TEXTS

All of the articles and essays posted on the syllabus can be accessed through the Course Canvas site. The book below is required and are NOT available electronically through Yale Libraries:

- **Patricia Powell**, *The Pagoda* (Harvest, 1999)

We will also be using these books; digital versions are available through Yale Libraries.

- **Vijay Prashad**, *Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: Afro-Asian Connections and the Myth of*

Cultural Purity (Beacon, 2002).

- **Heike Raphael-Hernandez and Shannon Steen** edited, *Afro-Asian Encounters: Culture, History, Politics* (NYU Press, 2006)
- **Tamara Roberts**, *Resounding Afro Asia: Interracial Music and the Politics of Collaboration* (Oxford, 2016)
- **Crystal S. Anderson**, *Beyond the Chinese Connection: Contemporary Afro-Asian Cultural Production* (Mississippi, 2016)
- **Fred Ho and Bill V. Mullen** edited, *Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political and Cultural Connections between African Americans and Asian Americans* (Duke, 2006)

C. ASSIGNMENTS (ALL OF THE ASSIGNMENTS BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE).

1. **CLASS FACILITATION.** Beginning Week 3, students will sign up in groups of 2-3 to facilitate a discussion in seminar on the week's readings, themes, questions and interventions. **(10% of final grade)**
2. **TEN READING RESPONSE PAPERS.** Beginning Week 2, students will submit a 1-2 page response paper synthesizing (rather than summarizing) the key insights and questions from the readings and course discussion, based on a provided prompt. Detailed directions will be provided. **(40% of final grade)**
3. **COURSE IMPACT PROJECT.** Students will work in groups to design and implement a collective project designed to bring some of the lessons and insights of the course to a broader public and audience. Examples include the design and implementation of a student/community-based discussion or exhibition; a curriculum unit for high schools or middle schools; an online exhibition or project; etc. Detailed instructions will be provided Week 3. **(25% of final grade)**
4. **SEMINAR AND WIKI PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE.** Attendance is taken every class; advanced reading and participation are critical. You must notify the instructor in advance if you anticipate missing a class meeting and you must complete a make-up assignment. **(15% of final grade)**

D. OTHER COURSE POLICIES

1. **CLASSROOM CONDUCT & CLIMATE.** We are all accountable to create a climate of mutual respect and engagement in the classroom. While differences of opinion, perspective and analysis are important and will be encouraged, common courtesy as well as University policy prohibit personal attacks and discriminatory conduct.
2. **ATTENDANCE.** You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class and participate fully in class discussions. Please contact the instructor in advance to request an accommodation for any anticipated absences.
3. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** Wireless devices and cell phones must be turned off prior to class. Please see the instructor if you need to use your laptop in class.
4. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Penalties for plagiarism can include a failing grade for the course. Guidelines on proper citation practices and avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/usingsources/> and here: <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism/what-plagiarism>.
5. **ACCOMMODATIONS.** If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability related barriers to your participation, please notify the instructor as soon as

possible to discuss an accommodation. You may also wish to contact the Yale Resource Office on Disability <http://rod.yale.edu/course-accommodation>. The ROD is located at 35 Broadway, Room 222 and can be reached at 203-432-2324.

6. **SYLLABUS CHANGES:** Changes to the syllabus may be made during the term and will be announced in class and on Canvas.
7. **LATE SUBMISSION POLICY:** Generally, a letter grade will be deducted for any assignments submitted after the due date.
8. **DIGITAL RESOURCES:** Relevant class materials posted on Canvas are indicated. Students are expected to check the course site regularly.

E. COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: Course overview (1/14)

Please read in advance:

- **Robin Kelley.** "People In Me" *ColorLines*, Winter 1999, <https://zcomm.org/znetarticle/people-in-me-by-robin-kelley/>
- **Rinku Sen.** "Are Immigrants and Refugees People of Color?" *ColorLines*. 39, July/August 2007, <https://www.colorlines.com/articles/are-immigrants-and-refugees-people-color>
- *In class screening:* **Angela Davis & Yuri Kochiyama.** "Mountains that Take Wing: A Conversation on Life, Struggles & Liberation." A film by C.A. Griffith & H.L.T. Quan. 2009, 97 mins (selections).

WEEK TWO: Relational Formations of Race--Theory and Method (1/21)

- **Daniel Martinez HoSang and Natalia Molina,** "Introduction" in *Relational Formations of Race*
- **Antonio T. Tiongson Jr.** "Afro-Asian Inquiry and the Problematics of Comparative Critique." *Critical Ethnic Studies*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2015, pp. 33–58.
- **Claire Jean Kim,** "The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans." *Politics & Society*. Vol 27(1), March, 1999: 105-138
- **Paul Kramer,** "Race-Making and Colonial Violence in the U.S. Empire: The Philippine-American War as Race War," *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (April 2006).

WEEK THREE: Historical Formations (1/28)

Readings:

- **Jeff Yamashita,** "Relational Racialization of Settler Colonial White Supremacy: A Historical Case Study of Japanese American World War II soldiers in the U.S. South." *Relational Formations of Race*.
- **Moon-Ho Jung,** "Outlawing 'Coolies': Race, Nation, and Empire in the Age of Emancipation," *American Quarterly* 57.3 (2005).
- **Robin Kelley,** "Roaring from the East: Third World Dreaming" in *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*. (Beacon, 2002).

- **Roderick Ferguson**, "The Relational Revolutions of Anti-Racist Formations," in *Relational Formations of Race*.
- **Yuko Kawai**, (2003). "Revisiting the 1966 Model Minority Myth: A Narrative Criticism of its Textual Origins." *Kaleidoscope* 2, 50-69.

Primary Documents

- "Success Story of One Minority Group in U.S." *U.S. News and World Report*, December, 1966
- **William Peterson**. "Success Story, Japanese-American Style." *New York Times* 9 January 1966, 21. 4
- **Michelle Malkin**. "Asian-Americans have nothing to celebrate." *Townhall.com*. June 25, 2003.

WEEK FOUR: Visual and sonic culture (2/4)

Readings:

- **Evelyn Hu-DeHart** "Introduction. Coolies, Shopkeepers, and Artists: A Historical Overview of Chinese Immigrants and Their Descendants in the Caribbean" in Alexandra Chang, edited, *Circles and Circuits: Chinese Caribbean Art*.
- **Albert Chong**, photographic selections (on Wiki)
- **Tao Leigh Goffe**, "'Guano in their destiny': Race, Geology, and a Philosophy of Indenture," *Amerasia Journal*, June 2019.
- **Tao Leigh Goffe**, "Sugarwork: The Gastropoetics of Afro-Asia After the Plantation," *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*, April, 2019.
- **Tao Leigh Goffe**, "Albums of Inclusion: The Photographic Poetics of Caribbean Chinese Visual Kinship," *Small Axe*, 56, July 2018.
- **Guest speaker, Tao Goffe, African American Studies, Cornell University**

WEEK FIVE: Afro-Asian Cultural Imaginaries (2/11)

Readings:

- **Crystal S. Anderson**, *Beyond the Chinese Connection: Contemporary Afro-Asian Cultural Production* (Introduction; Chapter 1; Chapter 4)
- **Vijay Prashad**, *Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting: Afro-Asian Connections and the Myth of Cultural Purity*. (selections)

WEEK SIX: Literary formations (2/18)

Readings:

- **Patricia Powell**, *The Pagoda*

WEEK SEVEN: Colonial Intimacies in the Caribbean (2/25)

Readings:

- **Jordan Lynton**, "What is a Hakka? Deconstructing Chinese Jamaican National and Racial Identification" (working paper)
- **Lisa Lowe**, *The Intimacies of Four Continents*, Chapter 1
- **Christine Ho** (1989) "Hold the Chow Mein, Gimme Soca": Creolization of the Chinese in Guyana, Trinidad and Jamaica, *Amerasia Journal*, 15:2, 3-25,
- **Stuart Hall**. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora."

- **Guest speaker (via Skype): Jordan Lynton**

WEEK EIGHT: Anti-Racism and Black Internationalism (3/4)

Readings:

- **Martin Luther King Jr.** “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence.” Speech delivered at Riverside Church, April 4, 1967.
- **Gerald Horne**, *The End of Empires: African Americans and India*. Introduction and Chapter 2. (Munshiram, 2010)
- **Cristina Mislán** (2016): Claudia Jones speaks to “half the world”: Gendering Cold War politics in the Daily Worker, 1950–1953, *Feminist Media Studies*.
- **Ashley Farmer**, *Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era* (UNC Press, 2017). “Chapter 5: The Third World Black Woman, 1970-1979.”
- **Dayo F. Gore**, “A Common Rallying Call: Vicki Garvin in China and the Making of US Third World Solidarity Politics.” In Keisha Blain and Tiffany Gill, *To Turn the Whole World Over* (University of Illinois Press, 2019).

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

All class meetings conducted via Zoom (link on Canvas)

WEEK NINE: (3/24): Relational Political Formations of Grace Lee Boggs

20 minute Individual and small group meetings via Zoom, sign up [here](#)

- View “American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs” directed by **Grace Lee** on Amazon Prime, Google Play, or YouTube.

READINGS

- Browse film discussion guide and facilitation guide for *American Revolutionary* (*on Canvas*)
- **Kalamu ya Salaam** “Why Do We Lie about Telling the Truth? In **Fred Ho and Bill V. Mullen** edited, *Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political and Cultural Connections between African Americans and Asian Americans* (Duke, 2006) (**OPTIONAL**)
- **Cheryl Higashida** “Not Just a “Special Issue’: Gender, Sexuality, and Post-1965 Afro Asian Coalition Building in the Yardbird Reader and This Bridge Called My Back.” In *Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political and Cultural Connections between African Americans and Asian Americans*. (**OPTIONAL**)
- **LISTEN:** “[A Letter From Young Asian-Americans To Their Families About Black Lives Matter.](#)” July 27, 2016. *CodeSwitch* (**OPTIONAL**)

WEEK TEN: Afro-Asian Music, collaboration and accompaniment (3/31)

1:30-2:30 pm Guest speakers via Zoom: Loren Kajikawa, Associate professor of music at the George Washington University's Corcoran School of the Arts & Design and Oliver Wang, Professor of Sociology at California State University, Long Beach.

Readings:

- **Oliver Wang**, “These Are The Breaks: Hip-Hop and AfroAsian Cultural (Dis)Connections.” In **Heike Raphael-Hernandez and Shannon Steen**, edited *Afro-Asian Encounters: Culture, History, Politics* (New York: NYU Press, 2006).

- **Loren Kajikawa**. “The Sound of Struggle: Black Revolutionary Nationalism and Asian American Jazz.” *Jazz/Not Jazz: The Music and its Boundaries* (Berkeley: UC Press, 2012)
- **Bill Shoemaker**, “East Meets Left: Politics, Culture and Asian-American Jazz.” April 25, 2019, *Jazz Times*. <https://jazztimes.com/archives/east-meets-left-politics-culture-and-asian-american-jazz/>
- **Tamara Roberts**, “Introduction” *Resounding Afro Asia: Interracial Music and the Politics of Collaboration*. (OPTIONAL)
- See Canvas Wiki page for listening and viewing examples
- Contribute to collaborative **Afro-Asian Formations Playlist** on Spotify here: https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0JG109owxIjRjhussnIoHk?si=GN2B89TtRA2GX62CdpOrT_w

WEEK ELEVEN: Relational Asian American Histories (4/7)

1:30-2:30pm, Guest speaker, Soya Jung, co-founder ChangeLab

<https://www.changelabinfo.com/about/>

Readings:

- **Soya Jung**, “A Different Asian American Timeline” <https://aatimeline.com/>
- **Vijay Prashad**, “Bandung Is Done: Passages in AfroAsian Epistemology” in **Heike Raphael-Hernandez and Shannon Steen**, edited *Afro-Asian Encounters: Culture, History, Politics*
- **Gary Y. Okihiro**, “Toward a Black Pacific” in *Afro-Asian Encounters*.
- **Eric Tang**, “A Gulf Unites Us: The Vietnamese Americans of Black New Orleans East.” *American Quarterly*, Volume 63, Number 1, March 2011, pp. 117-149 (OPTIONAL)

WEEK TWELVE: Relational frameworks in contemporary policy (4/14)

1:30-2:30PM. Guest speaker (via Zoom): **Claire Jean Kim**, Professor of Political Science and Asian American Studies, UC Irvine

Readings:

- **Claire Jean Kim**, PART I from book manuscript in progress, “Asian Americans in an Anti-Black World.”

WEEK THIRTEEN:— Class summary and panel of select student projects (4/21)

1:30-3:20 PM—Zoom class meeting.

Readings:

- **Hisaye Yamamoto**, “The Fontana Fire.”
- **Grace Kyungwon Hong**. “‘Something Forgotten Which Should Have Been Remembered’: Private Property and Cross-Racial Solidarity in the Work of Hisaye Yamamoto.” *American Literature*, vol. 71, no. 2, 1999, pp. 291–310

