

**ELIT24/ICS24 Asian American Literature**  
**De Anza College**  
**Fall 2010**

This class meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-3:10, in G10

Instructor: Sherwin Mendoza, [mendozasherwin@deanza.edu](mailto:mendozasherwin@deanza.edu)

Office Hours and Location: Mondays 12:00-1:00 and by appointment, FOR 6E

Course Web Site: <http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/mendozasherwin/elit24ics24f10/index.html>

Course Blog: <http://apalitfall2010.blogspot.com/>

This course is an introduction to Asian American Literature. The readings emphasize three themes: problems of identity as it relates to class, gender, mixed heritages, and sexuality; politics and the history of Asian American activism and resistance; and the diversity of cultures within the Asian American community. Regardless of whether you identify yourself as Asian American or not, as a result of taking this course you should become better at describing yourself and your experience.

Here are the basic goals I have for each of you:

- 1) Become more comfortable and practiced in understanding and interacting with people from diverse backgrounds.
- 2) Learn a body of facts and analytical procedures that are generally expected of people who have taken a course in Asian American Studies.

**Attendance is mandatory.** All class time counts and attendance every day is required. After two unexcused absences your final grade will drop by one full letter grade. Two unexcused tardies are equivalent to an absence. Assignments turned in late with no excuse will lose one full letter grade for each class day past the deadline.

### **Required Texts**

ICS24/ELIT24 Reader

*The Latehomecomer* by Kao Kalia Yang

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1: Intros**

September 20 Go over the syllabus

September 22 Census; Kelly Tsai

#### **Week 2: Historical Overview**

Unit I: Immigration and the Asian American Movement

September 27 Lecture on history, introduce *The Latehomecomer*

September 29 Introduce Telling Your Story; *The Latehomecomer* Prologue, Part I (1-52)

#### **Week 3: Immigrant Struggles and Contributions**

October 4 *The Latehomecomer* Parts II and III (53-210); **Quiz**

October 6 *The Latehomecomer* Part IV and Epilogue (211-274)

Week 4: You, Your Family and Historical Events

October 11 Lynda Barry, Li-Young Lee; **Essay on *The Latehomecomer* due; Quiz**

October 13 **Telling Your Story Groups**; Immigration History, connect to stories

Week 5: Discrimination, Prison, ICE

October 18 Angel Island poems

October 20 Miné Okubo, Lawson Fusao Inada, Janice Mirikitani;

**Quiz; Telling Your Story Part I due**

Week 6: Migrant Labor and the Asian American Movement

October 25 Carlos Bulosan, Philip Vera Cruz, Jeff Tagami, Dawn Mabalon

October 27 Karen Tei Yamashita, Daniel Tsang; **Quiz**

Week 7: Transition

November 1 **Exam 1**

Unit 2: New Social Movements and Decolonization

November 3 Introduce Unit 2, introduce analytical paper

Week 8: New Media and Self-Expression

November 8 **Group Presentations**; Nellie Wong

November 10 **Group Presentations**; Marilyn Chin

Week 9: Memoir and Oral History

November 15 Dong Hwan Ku, Youn Jae Kim; Bich Minh Nguyen;

**Quiz; Reflection due; Plan for analytical paper due**

November 17 Paul Kim, Hyun Yi Kang, Lê thi diem thùy

Week 10: Hawai'i, Colonization and Decolonization

November 22 R. Zamora Linmark, Haunani Kay Trask, Mililani B. Trask;

**Quiz; Analytical paper due**

November 24 Class cancelled for Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 11: Telling Your Story Part II

November 29 **Telling Your Story Presentations**

December 1 **Telling Your Story Presentations**

Week 12: Who are Asian Americans?

December 6 Exam Review; **Write-ups due**

**Final Exam:** 1:45-3:45, Thursday December 9

## **Assignments**

100 pts: In-Class Participation

In-class writing assignments, group work

100: Blog

Discussion questions (20)

Responses (80)

100: Quizzes

Six quizzes, 20 pts apiece (drop the lowest score)

100: Mid-term paper on *The Latehomecomer*, 3-5 Pages

100: New Media

Group Presentation (50)

Reflection (50), 1-2 Pages

100: Literary Analysis

Plan for analytical paper (20), 1 Page

Analytical paper on a poetic or fictional text (80), 3-5 Pages

200: Telling Your Story

Part I written (50), 1-2 pages

Part II written (100), 2-3 pages

Part II presentation (50)

200: Exams

Mid-term (100)

Cumulative final (100)

1000: Total

## **Grading Scale**

A+ 1000 or more points

A 950-999

A- 900-949

B+ 870-899

B 830-869

B- 800-829

C+ 770-799

C 730-759

C- 700-729

D 600-699

F Less than 600 points

### **Extra Credit**

Up to 100 points, 20pts apiece

Attend and write-up an event related to this class (see me first)

### **Blog**

The blog will be one chance for you to give direction to our classroom discussions. During the quarter you are required to suggest two questions—one before and one after the mid-term exam—that will guide your classmates' blog responses to the readings. Aim for something you're interested in and/or something that will lead to discussion. If there is more than one reading assigned you can choose to address one or more than one of the readings. You should send the question to me over e-mail at least two days before we are scheduled to discuss the reading in class, and you should be prepared to talk about your question on the day of our discussion.

If you are not one of the people posting the questions you should check the blog the day before class and you should post a response to at least one of the questions. I encourage you to read your classmates' responses, and I hope that the blog has the feel of a conversation, just not entirely face-to-face. If you want you can reference previous responses or readings. Please sign each of your posts. To get full credit you will need to post two questions (ten points apiece) and respond to blog questions for at least ten course meetings (four points apiece).

For the following assignments I will post a more detailed description on the course web site.

### **Mid-term Paper on *The Latehomecomer***

For this assignment you will write a formal academic essay that relates your own coming-of-age story with Kao Kalia Yang's.

### **Group presentation on a YouTube video**

You along with a group of your classmates will select and present to the class a YouTube video that is both relevant to the course themes and that has received over 5000 hits.

### **Analytical paper on a poetic or fictional text**

This is an assignment that you will find most often in English classes. You will write a formal essay that analyzes one of the poetic or fictional texts assigned for this class in terms of both the themes given in the course description as well as the specifically artistic qualities of the texts.

### **Telling Your Story**

This is a two-part assignment, and both parts of the assignment will include both a presentation and a write-up. In the first part you will be telling your life story directly to a small group of your classmates. In the second part you will be telling your story indirectly to the whole class by presenting something you care about and know a lot about.