

The Ohio State University  
335 Campbell Hall  
Spring 2004  
Office Hours: Wed. 2:00-3:00  
and by appointment

Professor Sanbonmatsu  
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292-9986  
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**Asian American Politics  
Political Science 508**

This course is an introduction to Asian American politics. We will discuss the political history of the various Asian American groups (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, Koreans, Asian Indians, and Vietnamese) and examine the extent to which a subjective, panethnic identity exists across groups. Do Asian Americans have shared political interests and behave in politics as a cohesive group? Topics include public opinion, mass political behavior, elite politics, and several policy debates including immigration and racial profiling. Throughout the course, we will examine the ways in which ethnicity, class, gender, citizenship status, and generation shape the political experiences of Asian Americans. We will also compare the experiences of Asian Americans with the experiences of Latinos and African Americans, and consider the possibilities of coalition building across racial/ethnic groups.

Course Objectives: This course will provide students with a basic understanding of Asian American politics and political behavior and a background in several policy areas. Successful students will develop an analytic framework for understanding current debates and policies concerning Asian Americans.

Course Requirements: Your grade will be based on:

- one 4-5 page essay (25%)
- one midterm exam (30%)
- one final exam (30%)
- class participation (15%)

There will be a midterm exam on Monday, May 3. You will write a short essay that is due at the start of class on Wednesday, May 19. Topics for this essay will be handed out in class on Wednesday, May 5. (Note that I will not accept electronic versions of this paper; you must give me a hard copy.) The final exam will be held on Wednesday, June 9 from 9:30 - 11:18 a.m. Attendance at all class meetings is expected. Your participation grade will be based on your participation in class discussion and in small group work during class.

Late essays will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade each day that it is late. There will be no makeup exams. The only exceptions that will be granted are the cases of a family emergency or a serious illness. (In the case of a family emergency or a serious illness, contact me as soon as possible by phone (292-9986) or email (sanbonmatsu.1@osu.edu). In the event of illness, please be advised that I will also need an original note from a medical doctor.)

### Required Books:

- Gordon H. Chang, Ed. 2001. *Asian Americans and Politics: Perspectives, Experiences, Prospects*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press. (Chang)
- Eric Lai and Dennis Arguelles, Eds. 2003. *The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers, Diversity & Change in the 21st Century*. Berkeley, CA: AsianWeek and UCLA Asian American Studies Press. (Lai and Arguelles)
- Pei-te Lien, M. Margaret Conway, and Janelle Wong. 2004. *The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community*. New York: Routledge. (Lien, Conway, and Wong)
- Julie Otsuka. 2002. *When the Emperor Was Divine*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Frank H. Wu. 2002. *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*. New York: BasicBooks. (Wu)

All readings on this syllabus are required. The five required books are on sale at the OSU Bookstore, Long's, and other local bookstores. All remaining readings are on electronic reserve at the OSU library <<http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/>>. (From the library homepage, select "Reserves-by Course" from the "FIND" menu and then enter "Political Science 508." Click on the electronic reserves for this course. Readings appear in the same order as they are listed on the syllabus. You will need to enter your name and your Social Security number, barcode, or university id. number to access the readings). Most of the books have also been placed on reserve at the Main Library. The Otsuka book does not circulate; it is available in the CHA Stacks in the Rare Books and Manuscripts section of the Main Library (The William Charvat Collection of American Fiction, available Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

Academic Honesty: All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper attribution) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to university policy and, when appropriate, reported to the university Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Disability: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disabilities Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

### Week 1

**March 29 Introduction**

## ASIAN AMERICANS AND PANETHNIC IDENTITY

### **March 31 Who Are Asian Americans?**

Wu: Chapter 1, "East is East, East is West: Asians as Americans."

Lai and Arguelles: Introduction and Section I, Chapter 1.

Lien, Pei-te. 2002. *The Making of Asian America through Political Participation*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1, "Charting a Hidden Terrain: Historical Struggles for Inclusion and Justice Prior to the Era of Civil Rights and Electoral Politics."

### Week 2

#### **April 5 Immigration, Citizenship, and the Social Construction of Race**

Chang: Chapters 1-3.

"Asian Americans and Politics: Some Perspectives from History" (Gordon H. Chang);

"The Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans" (Claire Jean Kim);

"Citizenship Nullification: The Impossibility of Asian American Politics" (Neil T. Gotanda).

#### **April 7 Panethnic Identity**

Lien, Conway, and Wong: Chapters 1, 2: "Introduction"; "Who am I? Mapping Ethnic Self-Identities."

Lai and Arguelles: Section I, Chapter 2.

### Week 3

#### **April 12 Panethnic Mobilization**

Wu: Chapter 2, "The Model Minority: Asian American 'Success' as a Race Relations Failure."

Lai and Arguelles: Section I, Chapter 4 ("Socioeconomics").

Lien, Pei-te. 2002. *The Making of Asian America through Political Participation*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. Chapter 2, "Constructing a Community That (Almost) Cannot Be: Contemporary Movements Toward Liberation and Empowerment—After 1965."

## PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

### **April 14 Public Opinion and Party Identification**

Lien, Conway, and Wong: Chapter 3, "Political Orientations: Beliefs and Attitudes about Government."

## Week 4

### **April 19 Electoral Behavior**

Lien, Conway, and Wong: Chapters 4-5, "Understanding the Contours, Sources, and Impacts of Political Partisanship"; "Political Participation in Electoral and Non-electoral Settings."

Chang: Chapter 9, "Asian Pacific American Youth: Pathways for Political Participation" (Peter Nien-Chu Kiang).

### **April 21 Gender and Political Behavior**

Lien, Conway, and Wong: Chapter 6, "Where and When Does Gender Matter?"

## Week 5

### **ELITE POLITICS**

### **April 26 The New Elites: Asian American Elected Officials**

Lai and Arguelles: Section IV, Chapter 4 ("Politics and Civil Rights").

Chang: Chapter 13, "Lessons Learned from the 'Locke for Governor' Campaign" (Judy Yu and Grace T. Yuan).

James S. Lai, Wendy K. Tam Cho, Thomas P. Kim, and Okiyoshi Takeda. 2001. "Asian Pacific-American Campaigns, Elections, and Elected Officials." *PS: Political Science & Politics* (September): 611-617.

Esther K. Arinaga and Rene E. Ojiri. 1992. "Patsy Takemoto Mink." In *Called from Within: Early Women Lawyers of Hawai'i*, ed. Mari J. Matsuda. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

### **April 28 Elections and Party Competition**

Chang: Chapter 11, "The Impact of Mainstream Political Mobilization on Asian American Communities: The Case of Korean Americans in Los Angeles, 1992-1998" (Edward J. W. Park).

Lai and Arguelles: Section II, Chapter 1 ("Chinese"); Section II, Chapter 4 ("Koreans").

Leland T. Saito and John Horton. 1994. "The New Chinese Immigration and the Rise of Asian American Politics in Monterey Park, California." In *The New Asian Immigration in Los Angeles and Global Restructuring*, ed. Paul Ong, Edna Bonacich, and Lucie Cheng. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.

## Week 6

May 3      **\*\*Midterm Exam\*\***

**May 5      Fundraising**

**\*\* Essay topics to be handed out in class \*\***

Chang: Chapters 12, 14.

“People from China Crossing the River: Asian American Political Empowerment and Foreign Influence” (Frank H. Wu and Francey Lim Youngberg);

“Building on the Indigenous Base: The Fund-Raising Controversy and the Future of Asian American Political Participation” (Paul Y. Watanabe).

Wu, Chapter 3: “The Perpetual Foreigner: Yellow Peril in the Pacific Century.”

## Week 7

### POLICY ISSUES

**May 10      Japanese American Internment**

Lai and Arguelles: Section II, Chapter 6 (“Japanese”).

Otsuka. *When the Emperor Was Divine*.

Brenda L. Moore. 2003. *Serving Our Country: Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. Chapter 3.

**May 12      Racial Profiling and the Wen Ho Lee Case**

Wu, Chapter 5: “True But Wrong: New Arguments Against New Discrimination.”

Lai and Arguelles: Section II (“Ethnicity”).

## Week 8

**May 17      Immigration Policy**

Chang: Chapter 5, 8.

“Asian Americans as the Median Voters: An Exploration of Attitudes and Voting Patterns on Ballot Initiatives” (Wendy K. Tam Cho and Bruce E. Cain);

“U.S.-Born, Immigrant, Refugee, or Indigenous Status: Public Policy Implications for Asian Pacific American Families” (Kenyon S. Chan).

Lai and Arguelles: Section 1, Chapter 3 (“Immigration”); Section III (Geography).

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**May 19 California Politics**

**\*\* Essay Due at start of class \*\***

Lai and Arguelles: Section III, Chapter 1 ("California").

**Week 9**

**May 24 Current Policy Issues**

Lai and Arguelles: Section IV ("Culture and Society").

**COALITION BUILDING**

**May 26 Intergroup Relations and Comparisons**

Wu: Chapter 8, "The Power of Coalitions: Why I Teach at Howard."

Claire Jean Kim and Taeku Lee. 2001. "Interracial Politics: Asian Americans and Other Communities of Color." *PS: Political Science & Politics* (September): 631-637.

**Week 10**

**May 31 \*\* Memorial Day Holiday \*\***

**June 2 Conclusion**

Lien, Conway, Wong: Chapter 7, "Conclusions and Implications."

Yen Le Espiritu. 1992. *Asian American Panethnicity: Bridging Institutions and Identities*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. Chapter 7.

**\*\*Final Exam\*\***: Wednesday, June 9, 9:30 – 11:18 a.m.