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ENGLISH 362 (CRN 36684)

## ASIAN AMERICAN WRITERS

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Spring 2016 | Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00 - 10:50 am | Knight Library Room 41

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*What makes a book “Asian American”? Is it the ethnicity of the author? The characters? The plot? How does defining something as “Asian American Literature” change the way we read, teach, and understand it?*

In this course, we will go beyond the traditional line-up of “classic” Asian American texts and writers like Maxine Hong Kingston’s *Woman Warrior* and John Okada’s *No-No Boy* to consider how the Asian American canon has been defined through and against those texts and genres who defy, reject, or fail to “count” as what is conventionally understood as “Asian America.” The course satisfies English major requirements in “1789 to the present” and Folklore, Ethnic, and Women’s Literature, as well as the University’s Multicultural Requirement IP (“Identity, Pluralism & Tolerance”).

In a local sense, this course will help you understand what Asian American literature is (or at least how and why it has been historically defined that way); where it came from; its relationship to other genres of minority American literature and experience; and why it is an important part of both Asian American experience and contemporary American literature. It will also allow you to practice your close-reading and analytical skills, mostly in relation to literature but also in other mediums, including film, comics, and rhetoric. But in the broadest sense, this course will allow you to engage with questions and ideas which are relevant to issues of race and literature as a whole: How and why are canons formed – why, that is, do students read what they read, consumers buy what they buy, and universities teach what they teach? What is the difference between “racist” and “racial”? What does it matter how or who we define as a “minority” or as an “author”?

### *Learning Objectives*

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop and pose high-level, open-ended questions which stimulate critical debate
- Improve public speaking and rhetorical argument-development skills
- Analyze and “close read” Asian American texts as literary and historical objects by developing a precise vocabulary and critical methodology
- Understand the major historical and cultural texts, contexts, and trends that shaped Asian American Literature in the 20/21 century

To realize these objectives, you must take responsibility for your own learning and participate as an active learner. The best way to learn about Asian American literature is not just to read it, but to write about it and discuss it with your peers.

### **Professor Tara Fickle**

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#### *Office*

372 PLC (3rd floor)

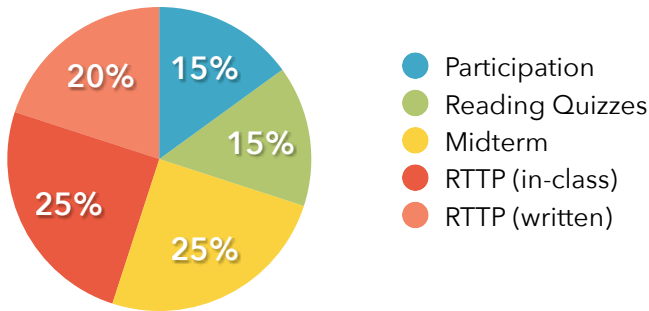
#### *Office Hours*

Wed 11:30am - 2:30pm

#### *Email*

[tfickle@uoregon.edu](mailto:tfickle@uoregon.edu)

## Assignments



**Class Participation (15%).** This class is strongly discussion-based. Students who contribute frequently (i.e. most classes) and actively get the full 10%; those who are present and attentive but rarely contribute get 5%; those who are consistently late, distracted, sleeping, etc. get 0%.

**Consistently using your phone, tablet, or laptop for non-class purposes will lead to an automatic 0%.**

**Reading Quizzes (15%).** Most classes will begin with short iClicker quizzes to assess comprehension of material and provide direction for the day's discussion.

**Midterm (25%).** Multiple-choice and short answer in-class exam during Week 6.

**Reacting to the Past Final Project (45%. 25% in-class performance, 20% written work).** The last 5 class sessions will involve an in-class role-playing game called "Reacting to the Past" which will allow you to literally "bring to life" the characters and debates you've encountered during the quarter.

**If you anticipate needing to miss any of the last five class meetings (RTTP), you may not wish to take this class.**

## Policies

### Late Work

Late work loses 1/3 grade (i.e. B to B-) every 24 hours after the due date, beginning 1 hour after the deadline.

### Absences & Tardiness

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class via TopHat, followed by a short quiz; if you miss class or arrive after the quiz begins, you are ineligible for those points. I will post lecture slides on Canvas before the Midterm; however, if you miss an individual class, you should contact a classmate to get notes. (See below)

### Academic Integrity

All work must adhere to standards of academic honesty outlined in the Student Conduct Code. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course and additional sanctions as determined by the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

### Accessible Education

In compliance with UO policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first two weeks of the quarter. Students are encouraged to register with the Accessible Education Center to verify their eligibility.

### Incident Weather or Class Cancellations

The Prof. will e-mail you if class is cancelled for any reason.

Classmate 1	Name:
	Email:
Classmate 2	Name:
	Email:

## Required Materials (for sale at UO Duck Store)

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- Wong, Jade Snow. *Fifth Chinese Daughter* (1989). Hopkins.
- Nakamura, Hiroshi. *Treadmill: A Documentary Novel* (1996). Mosaic.
- Yang, Gene. *American Born Chinese* (2006). MacMillan.
- Reacting to the Past Gamebook (will be available by Week 7)

## Other Required materials

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- Tophat account & Phone, Tablet or Laptop (see below)
- Readings on Canvas (<http://canvas.uoregon.edu>). Click "Modules" (left sidebar).

## Top Hat

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Attendance and Reading Quizzes are conducted through Top Hat, an interactive student response system and content presentation website. It replaces the more traditional iClicker system by allowing students to respond using their phone, tablet, or laptop. **The instructor prefers that you use your phone (it does not need to be a smartphone.)**

### Getting Started

Top Hat requires students to create an account. Many other UO courses use Top Hat; if you already have an account and subscription, you do not need to create a new one for this class; skip to step 2. If you do not have an account already:

1. Create a Top Hat account. Visit <https://tophat.com/> and click "Sign Up" in the top right. Choose "Student."
2. You will be asked for a "Join Code" for the course: Enter **452697**.
3. You must enter your student ID (DuckID) to have your grades recorded. It is also recommended, if you are planning on using your smartphone for Top Hat, to enter and confirm your phone number. You should also download the Top Hat app if you are using your phone or tablet.
4. After signing up and subscribing (you may choose whichever plan you wish), you should click "Enroll" to enroll in the course. (This may have already been done.). Enter the Course and you will see content listed in the left sidebar. This is where you can review lecture slides, take quizzes, and access other content as it comes available.

### Technical Support

If you have a question or an issue that relates to Top Hat functions, contact the Support team at [support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com) or (888) 663-5491. Please include as much detail as possible about the issue (e.g. error messages, descriptions of your steps, screen shots) so that the team at Top Hat can help solve your problem as quickly and effectively as possible.

	Date	Reading/Assignment DUE that day
Week 1	Mon 3/28	Introduction
		<b>Create Tophat account and join course (see page 3 of syllabus) &amp; do required reading (below)</b>
	Wed 3/30	Far, "The Story of One White Woman who married a Chinese" and "Her Chinese Husband" (PDF) AND "All Look Same" assignment (Canvas)
	Fri 4/1	<i>Aiiiiiiii!</i> Preface & Revised Preface (PDF)
Week 2	Mon 4/4	Wong, <i>Fifth Chinese Daughter</i> : Intro, Author's Note, Ch 1-4 [pp. 1-36]
	Wed 4/6	Wong, <i>Fifth Chinese Daughter</i> : Ch 5-11 [pp. 37-96]
	Fri 4/8	Wong, <i>Fifth Chinese Daughter</i> : Ch 12-17 [pp. 97-154]
	Mon 4/11	Wong, <i>Fifth Chinese Daughter</i> : Ch 18-22 [pp. 155-198]
Week 3	Wed 4/13	Wong, <i>Fifth Chinese Daughter</i> : Ch 23-28 [pp. 199-246]
	Fri 4/15	Flower Drum Song (in-class viewing of first 45 min)
		<b>Watch remainder of Flower Drum Song on your own (Canvas) before class Monday</b>
Week 4	Mon 4/18	In-class discussion
	Wed 4/20	Nakamura, <i>Treadmill</i> : Intro, Ch 1-2
	Fri 4/22	Nakamura, <i>Treadmill</i> Ch 3-6
Week 5	Mon 4/25	Nakamura, <i>Treadmill</i> Ch 7-10
	Wed 4/27	Nakamura, <i>Treadmill</i> Ch 11-14
	Fri 4/29	Nakamura, <i>Treadmill</i> Ch 15-18
Week 6	Mon 5/2	Nakamura, <i>Treadmill</i> Ch 19-22 • RTTP Gamebook Available (purchase at UO Duck Store)
	Wed 5/4	David Wong Louie, "In a World Small Enough" (PDF)
	Fri 5/6	Midterm
Week 7	Mon 5/9	Chiang, "Liking What You See: A Documentary" (PDF)
	Wed 5/11	RTTP Pedagogical Introduction
	Fri 5/13	All RTTP Grading Rubrics (BB) & Yang, <i>American Born Chinese</i> pp. 1-52

	Date	Reading/Assignment DUE that day
Week 8	Mon 5/16	RTTP Gamebook pp. 1-12 & Yang, <i>American Born Chinese</i> pp. 53-130
		<b>*RTTP Roles Preference due on Canvas: Mon 5/16, 11:59p</b>
	Wed 5/18	Yang, <i>American Born Chinese</i> pp. 131-198; RTTP Roles Assigned
	Fri 5/20	Yang, <i>American Born Chinese</i> pp. 199-End
		<b>*RTTP Role Sheet Research Assignment due: Sunday 5/22, 11:59pm</b>
Week 9	Mon 5/23	RTTP Role-Play Game Set-Up. Reading due: Student Gamebook (all) & Required Secondary Texts (General)
	Wed 5/25	RTTP Role-Play Act 1: Committee Introductions & Author Roundtable. Reading Due: Required Secondary Texts (Your Role).
		<b>*Assignment Due: Minute Keeper only: 1-2pp. written account of session minutes by 11:59p Wed 5/25.</b>
	Fri 5/27	RTTP Act 1, continued. Reading Due: Session Minutes (Canvas)
		<b>Assignment Due to Canvas by 11:59p Sat 5/28: For Authors, 3-5 pp. written version of speech. Minute Keeper only: 1-2pp. written account of session minutes.</b>
Mon 5/30	Memorial Day; No Class	
Week 10	Wed 6/1	RTTP Act 2: Expert Testimony. Reading Due: Session Minutes (Canvas)
		<b>Assignment Due to Canvas by 11:59p Thurs 6/2: For Experts, 3-5 pp. written version of speech. Minute Keeper only: 1-2pp. written account of session minutes.</b>
	Fri 6/3	RTTP Act 3: Committee Vote. Reading Due: Session Minutes (Canvas)
		<b>*RTTP Self- and Peer-Evaluation due to Canvas by Sun 6/5, 11:59p</b>