

Syllabus: Asian American Gender and Genre

The aim of this course is to look at the construction of gender/race in various genres: video art; short stories; life history narratives; poetry; and film. You are required to purchase one book. The rest of the readings will be posted on Blackboard. Please note that more than five absences will automatically result in failure unless you bring in a valid explanation.

Texts:

How Does it Feel to be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America By Moustafa Bayoumi

“Orientalism” Edward Said

“Gender and the Culture of Empire: Towards a Feminist Ethnography of Cinema” Ella Shohat

“Vacation Cruises: Or the Homoerotics of Orientalism” Joseph A. Boone

Dictee (Selections) by Theresa Cha

Mahina Movement CD www.mahinamovement.com

Films:

11.09.01 dir. Mira Nair (2001) Short Film

Passage Video Art by Shirin Neshat (2001)

Dome (2005) and *Book of Gestures* (1999) Video Art by Lida Abdul

Hostage (2000) Video Art by Walied Raad

Glass House Home Videos (1999) and Permanent Transit (2004) Mariam Ghani

More Video Art to be Announced

The Kite Runner dir. Mark Foster (2007)

Axis of Evil Comedy Group

Piccadilly dir. E.A. Dupont (1929) Silent Film

Chan is Missing dir. Wayne Wang (1982)

The Motel dir. Michael Kang (2005)

Finishing the Game (2007) Justin Lin

Assignments:

- External Event Papers (2pp) 20% (Each paper is worth 10% each) The

- external event is on September 9th. You may discuss possible options with me before you write your review. External Event papers are due on 12/12.
- 4 (3pp) short papers in place of a midterm and a final paper. These short papers can be in response to particular readings or films/videos. You may also choose to do up to two individual presentations in place of papers. Please discuss with me beforehand. Each paper will be worth 15% (altogether: 60%)
 - Blackboard Responses 10%
 - Attendance. Participation. Behavior. 10%

The **4 short papers** (3pp. each) are due: 9/30; 10/28; 11/25 and 12/12. They can be submitted with revisions as a final portfolio. This option is for those students who received a grade of B or lower on their short papers and would like to revise papers. These papers should be in depth responses to readings or films discussed in class. The essays should show some research into the writer, filmmaker or artist discussed.

Plagiarism

Please be aware that submitting the work of other people as your own is a serious offense; it is punishable by either suspension, or dismissal from the university. Varieties of Plagiarism are:

1. Submitting of essays, or portions of essays, written by other people as one's own;
2. Failing to acknowledge, through footnotes and bibliographical entries, the source of ideas essentially not one's own;
3. Failing to indicate paraphrases or ideas or verbatim expressions not one's own through proper use of quotations and footnotes;
4. Submitting an essay written for one course to a second course without having sought prior permission from both instructors.

Week 1: August 29

Introductions

Week 2: Sept. 2 / Sept. 5

How Does it Feel to be a Problem?: pp. 1-114 (Rasha; Sami; Yasmin)

Week 3: Sept. 9 / Sept. 12

How Does it Feel to be a Problem?: pp. 117-270 (Akram; Lina; Omar / Rami; Afterward)

Eng. 256.62
Asian 210.52

Contact: ZohraSaed@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tues 5:30pm

Office: 1

9/9: Panel with Author 7 PM

Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts 323 W. 39 Street, 2 Fl., New York City

<http://www.arteeast.org/pages/events/506>

9/12 Towelhead opens at Angelika Theater

Week 4: Sept 16 / Sept. 19

Axis of Evil Comedy / "Orientalism" Edward Said

Week 5: Sept 23 (Class Canceled Sept 26 - I will be out of town giving a lecture)

"Gender and the Culture of Empire" Ella Shohat / "Vacation Cruises: Or, the Homerotics of Orientalism"

First papers due via email on 9/30

Week 6: Oct 3

Suheir Hammad's Spoken Word / *Passage* Shirin Neshat

Week 7: Oct. 7 / Oct. 10

Book of Gestures & Dome Lida Abdul / *Glass House Home Movies* Mariam Ghani

Week 8: Oct. 17

Hostage / 11.09.01 Mira Nair

Week 9: Oct. 21 / Oct. 24

Piccadilly / Excerpts from *Flower Drum Song*

Week 10: Oct. 28 / Oct. 31

Chan is Missing

Second Papers are Due

Week 11: Nov. 4 / Nov. 7

The Motel / Finishing the Game

Week 12: Nov. 11 / Nov. 14

Finishing the Game

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Week 13: Nov. 18 / Nov. 21

Mahina Movement / Class Visit: Moana Niumeitolu

Week 14: Nov. 25 (Class Canceled - I will be away on a trip)

Third Papers are Due via Email

Week 15: Dec. 2 / Dec. 5

Dictee Theresa Cha

Week 16: Dec. 9 / Dec 12

Chanika Svetvilas: Suitcase Art (Class Visit) / Thai American Film & Art

Fourth Papers are Due

Week 17: Dec. 16 Last Day of Class Celebration (Bring snacks)