Asian American Studies Program

Asian American Queerness

Spring 2013

Professor Glenn D. Magpantay

Office Hours: Wed. before and after class and by appointment

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ASIAN AMERICAN QUEERNESS

Course Description and Objectives
This course will explore the issues, struggles, political organizing, and theory of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) Asian Americans, South Asians, Southeast Asians, and Pacific Islanders. Through readings of historical and modern texts, law and public policy, film and video, guest speakers, and field work, students will come to understand the intersection between LGBT identity and racial/ethnic identity. Major topics will include:

- Queer History in America, Asia, and the Pacific
- Identity and Coming Out
- Love and Desire
- Family, parents, and parenting
- Discrimination / Marginalization
- Political Organizing Struggles
- Health and Wellness
- Arts and Culture
- Theory
- Underrepresented Constituencies:
  - Transgender
  - South Asians
  - Pacific Islanders
  - Women
- Public Policy including
  - immigration
  - schools and bullying
  - marriage
  - violence and harassment
  - media representation

Learning Goals
- To appreciate historical and contemporary issues facing LGBT Asian Americans, South Asians, Southeast Asians, and Pacific Islanders
- To be able to present and convey information in oral and written form
- To develop oral presentation skills
- To accomplish project team assignments and peer education
- To have fun.
Required Materials

Books:

Supplement:
A supplemental reader is also required. It is available for purchase at Wholesale Copies, 1 East 28th Street, at 5th Avenue, 4th floor.
You should call in advance to let Jim or Chris know that you are coming, 212-779-4065.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Paper: Students must complete a paper of 10-15 double-spaced pages (inclusive of footnotes) that focuses on any topic or issue related to Asian American queer issues. Students are NOT to use Wikipedia as a source. Students must submit the following for their papers:
- Abstracts (1 to 2 pages) by February 20.
- Final papers due by April 10.
Abstracts and Final Papers are to be emailed by 12 Noon on these dates as WORD or PDF attachments to gmagpant@hunter.cuny.edu.

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and to actively participate in class discussions. This includes attendance, punctuality, participation in discussion, and quality of commentary. Preparing the reading is obligatory. Be prepared to be questioned and called up at random.

Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, as well as a record of the frequency and quality of commentary made in class. Each class will begin with a short oral quiz of the material from the preceding class.

During guest speakers, students will be required to ask questions of those presenting or to make an informed comment.

Field Work: The class will participate in community service volunteering for one of the city’s leading Asian American organizations. This effort will include 6 hours of field work. One class on April 10 will be set aside to make up the time. Students are encouraged to work in self-selected teams. Organizations include:

- QWAVE – Asian Pride Project
  Contact: Elena Chang, elena.jin.chang@gmail.com
• APICHA - Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS
  Contact: Jay Gabor, JGabor@APICHA.org
• Gay Asian & Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY)
  Contact: gapimny@gapimny.org
• South Asian Gay & Lesbian Association (SALGA)
  Contact: Tara, gonsalves.tara@gmail.com, or Sarah Joseph Kurien, sarah.kurien@gmail.com
• Queens Pride House
  Contact: Pauline Park, PPark@queenspridehouse.org
• NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm and Immigration Committee Chair
  Contact: Yessika A. Giraldo, YGiraldo@council.nyc.gov
• National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
  Contact: Glenn Magpantay, glenn_magpantay@nqapia.org

Students may propose other placements with approval, including offices of LGBT group, elected
officials and non-Asian immigrant groups, among others.

Students who cannot participate in this activity may write a 5 page research paper or as a group
conduct a second class presentation on a topic of their choosing.

Final Exam: A short examination will be given on the last day of class that will review the
material from throughout the semester. It will include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank,
matching, and true/false.

Grading: The following will be used to calculate final grades.
  Class attendance – 15%
  Class participation – 20%
  Field work – 5%
  Class paper – 30%
  Final Exam – 30%

Extra Credit Opportunities: Occasionally there are conferences, presentations, panels and other
events that will help in understanding the broader context of Asian American queer issues.
These events might be offered at Hunter College or off campus at another school or in the
community. Throughout the semester I will announce these opportunities and will award extra
credit to students who voluntarily partake in them.

Students who cannot participate in any extra credit opportunities due to work, family, or
academic scheduling or obligations may write a 5 page research paper on a topic of their
choosing. Pre-approval is required.

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations,
obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious
offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the
CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/or Learning) consult the Office of Accessibility located in Room 1124 East to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230).

TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

WEEK 1: JAN 30

Introduction
Course Introduction
Video Screening: The Wedding Banquet (106 mins, 1993)

WEEK 2: FEB. 6

History of Discrimination
History of LGBT Oppressions and Current Public Policy Objectives
History of Anti-Asian Discrimination

Leong, Asian American Sexualities, pp. 1-18, 18-35
Eng & Hom, Q & A: Queer in Asian America, pp. 374-393
Supplement: ENDA Fact Sheet
Supplement: Manalansan, Martin. “Race, Violence, and Neoliberal Spatial Politics in the Global City.” in Social Text, 141-155

Model Minority Myth
Supplement: Robert Chang, Toward and Asian American Legal Scholarship, 463-468
Supplement: The Problem of Attributed “Foreignness”: Natsu Taylor Saito, Alien and Non-Alien Alike, 471-475
Supplement: Committee of 100, Still the Other: Public Attitudes Toward Chinese and Asian Americans, April 2009

WEEK 3: FEB. 13

Identity and Coming Out
Kumashiro, Restoried Selves, pp. 19-28, 37-46, 73-80
Eng & Hom, Q & A: Queer in Asian America, pp. 157-165, 256-261, 369-373
Supplement: Chong-suk Han, Geisha of a Difference Kind: Gay Asian Men and the Gendering of Sexual Identity, 109-118
History Abroad

Guest Speaker: Pauline Park, Proto-Transgenderal & Homoerotic Traditions in Asia & the Pacific

WEEK 4: FEB. 20

Wednesday follows Monday schedule. No Class. Abstracts of proposed class papers due by 12 Noon and are to be emailed as WORD or PDF attachments to gmagpant@hunter.cuny.edu.

WEEK 5: FEB. 27

Identity and Coming Out (con’t)


Video Screening: Saving Face (91 mins, 2004)

History in the US


WEEK 6: MARCH 6 (might be switch with March 13 or 20)

Culture and Organizing

Supplement: NQAPIA Queer Asian Compass
Kumashiro, Restoried Selves, pp. 29-35, 127-130
Eng & Hom, Q & A: Queer in Asian America, pp. 41-56, 65-78, 166-184
Leong, Asian American Sexualities, pp. 51-64, 85-89

Guest Speakers: Stephanie Hsu, QWAVE and Jason Tseng, Gay Asian & Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY)

Religion

Kumashiro, Restoried Selves, pp. 81-86
Eng & Hom, Q & A: Queer in Asian America, pp. 323-334
Supplement: Eunai Shrake, Homosexuality and Korean Immigrant Protestant Churches, 145-156

Guest Speaker: Jess Delegencia, Coordinator, API Roundtable, Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies, Pacific School of Religion (tentative)
WEEK 7: MARCH 13  (might be switch with March 20)

People of Transgender Experience
Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 93-99
Eng & Hom, *Q & A: Queer in Asian America*, pp. 227-243

Pacific Islanders
Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 13-17
Eng & Hom, *Q & A: Queer in Asian America*, pp. 244-255
Leong, *Asian American Sexualities*, pp. 113-118

Video Screening: *Ke Kulana He Mahu* (“Remembering a Sense of Place”) (67mins, 2001)

South Asians
Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 7-12
Eng & Hom, *Q & A: Queer in Asian America*, pp. 141-156
Leong, *Asian American Sexualities*, pp. 119-127

Guest Speaker: Sarah Joseph Kurien, South Asian Gay & Lesbian Association (SALGA) and Desi Queer Helpline

WEEK 8: MARCH 20  (might be switch with March 6 or 13)

International LGBT Issues
Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 119-126
Eng & Hom, *Q & A: Queer in Asian America*, pp. 57-64, 185-209
Supplement: The Yogyakarta Principles, 1-35


Immigration
Supplement: NQAPIA Principles on Immigration Reform
Supplement: NQAPIA Fact Sheet: Undocumented
Supplement: NQAPIA Fact Sheet: Immigration Enforcement

Guest Speaker: Toni Choi, Minkwon Center and Dream

WEEK 9: MARCH 27
No Class – Spring Break
WEEK 10: APRIL 3

Schools/ Bullying/ Hate Crimes

Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 1-6
Supplement: NYCLU, NYS Dignity for All Students Act
Supplement: N’Tanya Lee, Don Murphy, Lisa North, and Juliet Ucelli, Bridging Race, Class, and Sexuality for School Reform, pp. 251-260.
Supplement: Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act of 2009

Families and Parents

Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 47-52
Guest Speaker: Marsha Aizumi and Clara Yoon, API PFLAG

WEEK 11: APRIL 10

No Class Lecture – Field Work
Final papers due by 12 Noon and are to be emailed as WORD or PDF attachments to gmagpant@hunter.cuny.edu.

WEEK 12: APRIL 17

Love and Desire

Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 111-118
Eng & Hom, *Q & A: Queer in Asian America*, pp. 135-138
Supplement: Hoang, Nguyen Tan, “The Resurrection of Brandon Lee” in Porn Studies, 223-269
Video Screening: Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP) Asian Shorts

Marriage

Supplement: Sean Cahill, Same-Sex Marriage in the United States, pp. 1-17
Supplement: *Loving v. Virginia*, 992-996
Supplement: California Exit Poll Results, Nat’l Election Pool and Asian Pac. Amer. Legal Ctr.
Video Screening: API Family Pride/ API Wellness Center (44 mins).

WEEK 13: APRIL 24

Queer Theory

Supplement: Butler, Judith, “Passing, Queering” in Bodies That Matter, 166-284
Guest Speaker: Professor Trevor Lee
Media
Kumashiro, *Restoried Selves*, pp. 53-57
*AmerAsia Journal*, “Marriage Equality,” pp. 75-88
Supplement: Sean Metzger and Gina Masequesmay, 1-21
Supplement: Dan Bacalzo, The One that She Wants, 43-50
Guest Speaker: Elena Chang, Asian Pride Project

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**WEEK 14: MAY 1**

**Health and AIDS/HIV**
Leong, *Asian American Sexualities*, pp. 201-217

Field Trip – Meet at 9:30AM
APICHA - Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS
400 Broadway, Entrance on Walker Street,
One block South from Canal Street, Lower Manhattan
Take: N, R, Q, 1, A, C, E, J, Z and 6 trains to Canal Street.

Extra Credit Field Trip (after class):
Rubin Museum of Art: Art of the Himalayas
150 West 17th Street; New York, NY 10011
Take: A, C and E to 14th Street (8th Avenue); 1 to 18th Street (7th Avenue); 1, 2, 3 to 14th Street (7th Avenue); N, R, Q, 4, 5 and 6 to 14th Street Union Square

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**WEEK 15: MAY 8**

**The Arts and Literature**
Leong, *Asian American Sexualities*, pp. 181-200 (re-read)
Guest Speaker: Mashuq Deen

**Course Review**

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**WEEK 16: MAY 15**

Final Exam

Class Evaluation