

**THE ASIAN AMERICAN MEMOIR: BIOGRAPHY AND FICTION      ASIAN 320 / ENGL 318.55**  
**FALL 2010 SYLLABUS**

Prof. Luis Francia  
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Classes: 414 TH, Tue, Fri: 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Office and Office Hours: 1034 HE / TBA

**COLLEGE POLICIES:**

• *Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on exams, 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 Integrity Procedures.*

• *In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities (emotional, medical, physical, and/or learning). Consult the Office of Accessibility located in Rm. 1124 East to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call 212-772-4857 / TTY 212-650-3230.*

**LEARNING GOALS:**

This is an inter-disciplinary course whose primary goal is to examine the construction of personal and collective identity through the narrative, whether in the form of personal biography or fiction. We will read and discuss literary texts that encompass a range of experience: from immigration and gendered narratives to explorations of longing and belonging but all of them containing insights into the personal lives and histories of various Asian Americans. In addition we will also read relevant essays and screen selected videos. Above all, we will explore the formation of subjective identities and the roots of memory: how, what, when, and why we remember. The course will require oral presentations and writing of personal essays relevant to the text being investigated.

**TEXTS:**

*America Is in the Heart*, by Carlos Bulosan. Seattle & London: University of Washington Press, 2003. ISBN: 0-295-95289-X

*The Woman Warrior*, by Maxine Hong Kingston. New York: Vintage, 1989. ISBN: 0-679-72188-6

*Native Speaker*, by Chang Rae Lee. New York: Riverhead Books. ISBN: 1-57322-531-2

*No-No Boy*, by John Okada. Seattle: Univ of Washington Press. ISBN 1-889876-15-1

Selected essays and videos

ALL TEXTS CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE SHAKESPEARE & CO. BOOKSTORE ON LEXINGTON AVENUE, BETWEEN 68<sup>TH</sup> AND 69<sup>TH</sup> STREETS.

## CLASS POLICIES:

- **ATTENDANCE AND CONDUCT:** Punctual attendance is expected; tardiness is disruptive and habitual tardiness will not be tolerated. Courteous behavior towards everyone in the classroom, even when expressing disagreement, is a must.
- **NOT ALLOWED** in class: the use of cell phones, I-Phones, I-Pods, Blackberry, Twitter or any other form of electronic communication or entertainment device.
- **LAPTOPS.** *Anyone using a laptop must first secure my permission.*
- **ABSENCES:** No more than three excused absences are allowed. More than three will seriously affect the student's final evaluation, and could result in a failing grade.
- **GRADING:** 40 percent of the course grade will be based on short written analytical essays; 25 percent on the Final Paper; 20 percent on class participation and discussion; and 15 percent on attendance and punctuality.

## SCHEDULE

8/27, 8/31; 9/3, 9/7; 9/14, 9/21.

[NO CLASS 9/10 & 9/17]

***America Is in the Heart.*** Reading and Discussion: Filipino America. Life in Rural Philippines. Voyage to America. Labor Organizing, Illness, and Writing. Reaffirmation of Faith in America as an Ideal.

9/24: Screening of Marlon Fuentes's *Bontoc Eulogy*.

9/28, 10/1; 10/5, 10/8; 10/12, 10/15.

***No-No Boy.*** Reading and discussion: Japanese America. World War II and the internment camps. Military service and the dilemma of young men. Interracial and generational differences.

10/19: Screening: Documentary on the All-Nisei 442<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

10/22, 10/26; 10/29, 11/2; 11/5, 11/9; 11/12.

***The Woman Warrior.*** Reading and discussion: Chinese America. Constructing a modern female identity from two different cultures. Confucianism and patriarchy. The notion of the "warrior" and of voice.

11/16, 11/19; 11/23, 11/30; 12/3, 12/7.

[Thanksgiving Recess: 11/25-11/28]

***Native Speaker.*** Reading and discussion: Korean America. Spying as a metaphor for cultural and personal explorations. Economic and political dimensions of Koreans in New York.

12/10: Overview & Recap of course

12/14: Reading Day

12/17: Final Paper due