

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## AMCS 220: Contemporary Asian America

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course is an introduction to recent experiences, political, social and cultural formations of Asian Americans. We will be exploring the emergence and significance of "Asian American" as an identity formation, a racialized category, and set of ethnic experiences. Through reading, writing and discussion, we will focus on the following questions: What is Asian America, and whom does it include: Does the category "Asian American" make sense as a racial identity: Within American Asian ethnic communities: How does the Asian American experience help us understand contemporary race issues and current ethnic-racial identities? MnTC Goal 7.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 01/10/2011 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. This course provides a sociocultural backdrop of the experiences of Asian Americans in the United States. Understanding the experience of this minority group, including federal policies of exclusion and other forms of racial discrimination will demonstrate how racial discrimination becomes codified in American law and immigration policy
2. This course has directed readings on Asian American popular culture, and makes ample use of Asian American films in order to show the many contributions of Asian Americans to American contemporary society. It also highlights the diversity within Asian America by focusing on Asian Americans of East Asian heritages those from Southeast Asia, South Asian and Asian American adoptees.
3. This course focuses on the relationship of Asian Americans within a greater American context. The course is designed to be both a place for MSUM'S Asian American students to learn more about their own histories and for non-Asian American students to learn about diverse Asian American cultures and the contexts in which Asian Americans have been viewed in the United States. Throughout this course, students will be given multiple opportunities to articulate and reflect on their own values, assumptions, biases and perspectives about Asian Americans. In readings and discussion, students will be required
4. Students will be exposed to and immersed in materials about Asian Americans, currently one of the fastest growing racial and ethnic groups of Americans. Special attention will be given to cultural and social relations between Asian American groups and mainstream America to focus on the results of stereotypic images and their consequences in Asian American communities. Problematic relations will consistent with the racialized history of this group will be contrasted with contemporary phenomenon in Asian American communities including the mixed race experience.
5. This course provides a cultural history of the problematic and racialized images of Asians in the United State and explains the context and results of these images including: The Yellow Horde, Fu Manchu, Anti-Chinese sentiment during the exclusion period, anti-Japanese sentiment in the 1980s and the model minority.

#### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Understand the causes, manifestations, and impacts of prejudicial exclusion, structured inequalities, and systemic oppression.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the experiences and contributions of the many groups that shape societies and cultures, in particular those groups that have been historically excluded and oppressed.
3. Demonstrate intercultural communication skills (verbal and nonverbal) for interacting with those culturally different from one's self.
4. Cultivate attributes such as flexibility, respect, and self-reflection necessary for adapting to changing and diverse communities and for building authentic relationships with diverse peoples.
5. Recognize stereotypes and critically assess cultural images.
6. To explore differing facets of Asian American racial identity
7. To understand and critique Asian American racial formation and racialization
8. To provide students with the necessary tools to debunk stereotypes about American minority peoples and their histories
9. To understand the history and context of Asian American political formations
10. To interpret images of Asian Americans as portrayed in popular culture and Asian American experiences as depicted in memoir

#### **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

##### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
4. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

#### **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

#### **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted