

Prof. Juliana Chang
Asian/Pacific/American Studies
New York University
Spring 2001

Asian American Literature • V15.0301

Crosslist: *V41.0716 English*
V29.0301 Comparative Literature

In this course, we will read Asian American literature within the psychoanalytic frameworks of fantasy, desire, and trauma. We will consider the following questions: How are Asia and the Asian/American constituted as objects of knowledge, fantasy, and desire? How does the Asian American come into being through processes of racial identification and desire? How are race and nation traumatic formations? What is uncanny about racial identities? What losses does the Asian American mourn? What specters haunt the Asian American and the American nation? Course requirements include several short writing assignments, one session of discussion leading with a group, a midterm paper, and a final paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS

David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly*
Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*
Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*
Jessica Hagedorn, *Danger and Beauty*
Kimiko Hahn, *The Unbearable Heart*
Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*
Course packet

Week 1 (1/16-1/18)

Hisaye Yamamoto, "Wilshire Bus"
Shawn Wong, "Eye Contact"

Week 2 (1/23-1/25)

Lisa Lowe, "Immigration, Racialization, Citizenship: Asian American Critique"
Homi Bhabha, "The Other Question: Stereotype, Discrimination and the Discourse of Colonialism"

Week 3 (1/30-2/1)

David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly*

Week 4 (2/6-2/8)

Selected Essays

Week 5 (2/13-2/15)

Selected Essays

Week 6 (2/20-2/22)

Meena Alexander, "The Shock of Arrival"
Cathy Caruth, *Unclaimed Experience*

Week 7 (2/27-3/1)

Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*

Week 8 (3/6-3/8)

Lonny Kaneko, "The Shoyu Kid"

MIDTERM PAPERS DUE

SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (3/20-3/22)

Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*

Sau-ling C. Wong, "Sugar Sisterhood: The Amy Tan Phenomenon"

Week 10 (3/27-3/29)

Frank Chin, "Railroad Standard Time"

Jeannie Chiu, "Uncanny Doubles"

Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny"

Sigmund Freud, "Mourning and Melancholia"

Week 11 (4/3-4/5)

Jessica Hagedorn, *Dogeaters*

Week 12 (4/10-4/12)

Jessica Hagedorn, *Danger and Beauty*

Week 13 (4/17-4/19)

Kimiko Hahn, *The Unbearable Heart*

Week 14 (4/24-4/26)

Fae Myenne Ng, *Bone*