

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 142
Asian American Literature

I. **Catalog Statement**

English 142 is a study of representative pieces of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction written by Asian American writers. The course examines ethnic context, artistic technique, and literary themes, providing a window to the rich cultures of Asia which underlie the perspective of Asian American minority groups in America. The course also makes connections between literature and art, as well as philosophy, of Asian American minority groups. Students develop a sensitivity to and an understanding of cultural differences from a literary standpoint with attention paid to historical, psychological, and sociological enhancement.

Units - 3

Lecture Hours - 3

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101

II. **Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions
5. gather and organize information through library research
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work as specified by the English 120 rubric.

III. **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. evaluate the literary contributions of Asian American writers and discuss their place in reflecting and shaping thought and behavior;
2. analyze cultural themes in Asian American writing;
3. identify major authors and important works of the cultures covered;
4. apply critical reading and writing skills to the analysis of a work of literature;
5. discuss literature using relevant support from the text;
6. do research pertaining to the text and synthesize this material in a written or oral project;
7. compare and contrast Asian and American cultural differences;
8. discuss the sociopolitical and cultural contributions of Asian Americans.

IV. **Course Content**

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| A. Foundations for Asian American Literature | 6 hours |
| 1. Asian American literary traditions | |
| 2. Literary identities | |
| 3. Role of history, religion, culture, and myth | |
| B. Themes and Issues | 6 hours |
| 1. Formation of Asian American identities | |
| 2. Family and heritage | |
| 3. Memory and story | |
| 4. Myth and superstition | |
| 5. Gender and gender roles | |
| 6. Home, community, and society | |
| 7. Stereotypes and racism | |
| 8. Assimilation, conformity, and rebellion | |
| 9. Coming of Age | |
| 10. Class, consumerism, and economics | |
| 11. Marriage | |
| C. Novel | 12 hours |
| 1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of novels | |
| 2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles | |
| 3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers | |
| D. Short Story | 7 hours |
| 1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of short stories | |
| 2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles | |
| 3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers | |
| E. Poetry | 4 hours |
| 1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of poems | |
| 2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles | |
| 3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers | |
| F. Non-Fiction | 7 hours |
| 1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of non-fiction writing | |
| 2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles | |
| 3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers | |

G. Other topics

6 hours

1. Survey of Asian American history
2. Literary techniques and strategies

V. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture;
2. discussion;
3. audio-visual aids such as videos, maps, recordings, reproductions of historical documents, art and artifacts, clothing;
4. on-line bulletin board and chat room as appropriate and available.

VI. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**

1. Written essays which require a student to analyze and compare/contrast the major themes, styles, and methods of development of Asian American writers. Research may be required.
2. Examinations which require a student to demonstrate how the Asian American writers' themes, styles, and methods of development are related to the sociopolitical environment.
3. In-class discussion in which a student demonstrates critical evaluation of each work of literature and how it relates to its time, its author, its place, and its genre.
4. Journal which annotates reading progress and includes analysis of assigned materials.
5. Final essay exam.

VII. **Textbooks**

- Chin, Frank, et.al., eds. Aiiieeee! An Anthology of Asian American Writers. Meridian (Penguin) 1997 – 12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-452-01176-0.
- Chin, Frank. Donald Duk. Second edition. Coffee House Press (Consortium Book Sales & Distribution: 1045 Westgate Dr., St. Paul, MN 55114), 1991. 11th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-918273-83-8.
- Jen, Gish. Typical American. Plume (Penguin), 1992. 9th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN 0-452-26774-9.
- Inada, Lawson Fusao. Drawing the line: Poems by Lawson Fusao Inada. Coffee House Press, 1997. 12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 1-56689-060-8.
- Kingston, Maxine Hong. China Men. Vintage International (Random House), 1989. 11th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-679-72328-5.
- Lee, Chang-rae. Native Speaker. Riverhead Books, N.Y., 1996. 12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 1-57322-001-9.

- Lee, Gus. China Boy. Plume (Penguin), 1994. 12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-452-27158-4.
- Tan, Amy. The Kitchen God's Wife. Vintage Contemporaries, 1993. 12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-679-74808-3.
- Yamaguchi, Yoji. Face of a Stranger. HarperPerennial, 1996. 11th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 0-06-017235-5.