



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# ART 274 Introduction to Asian American Literature

Winter 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course explores the rich and diverse literary contributions of Asian Americans, examining the complexities of their experiences, identities, and cultural heritage as expressed through literature. Key thematic focal points include immigration and exclusion, shedding light on the profound impact of migration on the Asian American experience. The course will also delve into the intersections of militarism and refugee displacement, offering insights into the consequences of historical conflicts on individual and collective identities.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical, social, and political contexts that have influenced and shaped Asian American literature;
2. Recognize and appreciate the inherent heterogeneity and capacious nature of Asian American culture through the exploration of various literary traditions and voices;
3. Investigate the potential for coalition-building within and beyond Asian American narratives;
4. Understand the diverse perspectives within Asian American narratives and examine how these differences contribute to the richness of the literature;
5. Foster cultural competence by gaining insight into the diverse cultures and experiences represented in Asian American literature.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A



## GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

| ITEM       | POINTS     |
|------------|------------|
| 3 Quizzes  | 30 Points  |
| 2 Essays   | 20 Points  |
| Midterm    | 20 Points  |
| Final Exam | 30 Points  |
| Total      | 100 Points |

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Jinqi Ling, *Asian American Literature*. 1st Ed, Bloomsbury Academic, 2022.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

| MODULE   | TASKS   |
|----------|---|
| Module 1 | <b>Topics:</b><br>Topic 1: An Overview of Asian North American Literature<br>Topic 2: Asian North American History<br>Topic 3: Asian North American Rhetoric and Literary Criticism<br>Topic 4: Asian North American Literary Themes<br><b>Assessments:</b><br>Quiz#1 |



|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Module 2 | <b>Topics:</b><br>Topic 5: The Necessity and Fiction of “Asian America”<br>Topic 6: Writing Immigrants<br>Topic 7: Cultural Translation<br>Topic 8: The Transnational Turn<br><b>Assessments:</b><br>Essay#1  |
| Module 3 | <b>Topics:</b><br>Topic 9: The Social Function of Literature<br>Topic 10: Aesthetic Form<br>Topic 11: Protocols and the Politics of Institutionalization<br>Topic 12: Historical contexts related to immigration<br><b>Assessments:</b><br>Midterm<br>Quiz#2  |
| Module 4 | <b>Topics:</b><br>Topic 13: Social movements and their impact on Asian American identity<br>Topic 14: Historical events shape identity and belonging<br>Topic 15: Discussion of citizenship issues within the Asian American context<br>Topic 16: Race, Gender, and Class<br><b>Assessments:</b><br>Essay#2 |
| Module 5 | <b>Topics:</b><br>Topic 17: Essentialism and Difference<br>Topic 18: Community-Based Self-Representation<br>Topic 19: Militarization, Critical Refugee Studies, and Ecocriticism<br>Topic 20: Current trends and debates within Asian American literature<br><b>Assessments:</b><br>Final Exam<br>Quiz#3    |

## ATTENDANCE

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1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student’s frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.



2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**



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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.