Course Description

Covers major works by Asian American writers from 1900 to the present. Examines the formation of Asian American subjectivities across the axes of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class. Develops student critical reading, writing and thinking skills via texts, films and cultural theories. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Course promotes understanding of the great diversity of the Asian American experience and fosters cultural awareness of the Asian American communities and their heritage. It also develops student skills in critical literacy and provides opportunities for self-expression.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Prerequisites are ENG 112, ENG 125 or division approval.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- analyze and interpret critical Asian American texts from 1900 to the contemporary period;
- identify critical movements and developments in Asian American literature and art;
- place the literary contributions of Asian American writers within the larger social and political context of American history from the twentieth century to the present;
- understand the relationship between Asian American literature and American literature, and distinguish Asian American literature from Asian Literature.
- write critically and analytically about literary texts.

Major Topics to be Included

- the intersection/relationship of race, gender and authenticity
- the issue of displacement and acculturation or a pan-Asian American identity
- the issue of Asian-American identities and World War II
- the issue of cultural nationalism and memory/cultural continuity and nostalgia
- the issue of identity politics and academic disciplines
- the issue of ethnicity and aesthetics