1. WS358 Asian American Women: Gender Transformations

2. Course Description:
This course focuses on the contemporary Asian immigration to the United States and examines its impact on immigrant women’s roles in the workplace, family, and the community. It addresses the importance of gender in immigrant adaptation and identity formation not only among the immigrants but also among their US-born children. Discussion includes the ways in which ethnicity, class, age, citizenship, and sexuality intersect to shape various experiences of Asian American women in the context of work and life. The complexity of ethnicity, including multiracial/multiethnic identities and the phenomenon of intermarriages, is explored in connection with gender relations in the contemporary Asian American communities.

3. Course Prerequisites:
WS 110 or WS 150 or AACS 150 or AACS 155 or ENG 110

4. Course Objectives:
This course will
1. Focus on the contemporary Asian immigration to the United States and examine its impact on immigrant women’s role in the workplace, family, and the community;
2. Address the importance of gender in immigrant adaptation and identity formation not only among the immigrants but also among their native-born children;
3. Discuss the ways in which ethnicity, class, age, citizenship, and sexuality intersect to shape various experiences of Asian American women in the context of work and life; and
4. Explore the complexity of ethnicity, including multiracial/multiethnic identities and the phenomenon of intermarriages.

5. Student Learning Outcomes:
After successful completion of this course, students will be able to
1. Demonstrate knowledge of Asian American feminist theory and the history of Asian American labor migration to the United States;
2. Analyze the lives of immigrant women and their immigrant history and experiences, including their social position and significant experiences that demonstrate the intersections of race, gender, class, age and sexuality;
3. Articulate knowledge about Asian immigrant women’s experiences in the workplace, both historical and contemporary;
4. Show knowledge of various issues around gender, family, and community for Asian American women, including domestic violence, inter/intra-racial dating and marriages, and adopted and multiethnic identities;
5. Show knowledge of how Asian American women and men are represented in the media, media impact on the construction of masculinities and femininities and sexuality among American Americans;
6. Illustrate understanding of the impact of the “model” minority myth on Asian Americans, including sexual harassment and anti-Asian violence;
7. Analyze the impact of militarism on prostitution, sex trafficking, and gender violence;
8. Consider ways to make social changes.

6. Topical Outline of the Course Content:
I. Asian American Feminist Theory and Historical Background
   ▪ Re-visioning Contemporary Asian American Women
   ▪ Race, Gender, Class, and Nation in Asian America
   ▪ Asian American Feminism
   ▪ Labor Migration, Immigration, and Settlement
II. Work and Family in Asian America
   ▪ Asian Immigrant Women’s Work
   ▪ Gender Politics at Work
   ▪ Work and Identity
   ▪ Autobiography and Life Histories of Asian American Women
   ▪ Gender, Family, and Generations
   ▪ Gender Relations in the Community
   ▪ Domestic Violence
   ▪ Inter/Intra-Racial Dating Marriages
III. Identities
   ▪ Representations
   ▪ Masculinities/Femininities
   ▪ Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Identities and Communities
   ▪ Adopted and Multi-ethnic
   ▪ Deconstructing the “Model Minority”
   ▪ Sexual Politics: Military Prostitution and Sex Trafficking
IV. Resistance and Change
   ▪ Sexual Harassment and Anti-Asian Violence
   ▪ Movements for Social Change

7. Suggested Teaching Methods and Student Learning Activities:
   ▪ Seminar
   ▪ Class discussions
   ▪ Group discussant and memo
   ▪ Quizzes
   ▪ Films
   ▪ Guest speakers
   ▪ Analytical papers
   ▪ Critical autobiography or oral history paper
   ▪ Research papers
   ▪ Class presentations

8. Suggested Methods of Student Assessment:
Grades will be determined by evaluations of the course requirements. Students are required to attend every class session and make thoughtful contribution to discussion, in-class writing, and group exercises. Students may be required to write papers analyzing assigned readings. Students may be required to lead a class discussion. Students may be required to critically examine their own lives or interview an Asian American woman and
apply the readings from the course to discuss their/her immigrant history and experiences within the larger context of discussions on Asian American women’s lives. Students may be required to complete a research or action paper, in which they either conduct original research or plan an action that is pro-immigrant and pro-women.

9. Suggested Readings, Texts, Objects of Study:


10. Bibliography:


11. Preparer’s name and date:
   Jo H. Kim
   11/17/05

12. Original departmental approval date:
   11/30/05

13. Reviser’s name and date:

14. Departmental revision approval date: