Asian American Religion
RGST 123 / ASAM 161

This course focuses on the way scholars and writers undertake the study and observation of religion in the lives of Asian Americans. Each of the texts in this course is written from a different vantage point, and together will give students a broad sense for the themes, issues, and predicaments for Asian Americans and religion.

Tuesdays will be mostly devoted to lectures on contexts for the reading, and Thursdays will focus on discussion of the assigned reading. This course is not a passive learning experience. Students will be expected to participate in discussions, do all of the reading, complete all assignments, and come to class.

This course fulfills the GE requirements for: E – Culture and Thought, ETH – Ethnicity, and WRT – Writing

Requirements:

- Attendance/Participation 10%
- 4 Weekly Response Papers (4 x 10%) 40%
- Final Paper (10 – 12 pages, due Dec. 12) 50%

Books: (in order of reading)


Soong-Chan Rah, The Next Evangelicalism: Freeing the Church from Western Cultural Captivity, Intervarsity Press, 2009

Khyati Joshi, New Roots in America’s Sacred Ground: Religion, Race and Ethnicity in Indian America, Rutgers University Press, 2006


Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Dictee, University of California, 2009 [1982]

Greg Pak, Robot Stories (screenplay), Immedium, 2005
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Week 0
9/27  Introduction, Syllabus, Questions

Week 1
10/2  Survey Data:  Asian American Religion by the Numbers
      “Asian Americans:  A Mosaic of Faiths,” 5 - 56  ONLINE:  

Week 2
10/9  Cultural Studies:  The Ideological Context
      Iwamura, Virtual Orientalism, Intro – 110
      10/11 Iwamura, Virtual Orientalism, 111 - 166

Week 3
10/16 Sociology:  The Second Generation and Institutional Religion
      Kim, A Faith of Our Own, 1 - 109
      10/18 Kim, A Faith of Our Own, 110 - 167

Week 4
10/23 Practical Christian Theology:  Should Race & Culture Matter?
      Rah, The Next Evangelicalism, 11 - 126
      10/25 Rah, The Next Evangelicalism, 127 - 208

Week 5
10/30 Case Studies:  The Second Generation...Again, but Different
      No class:  Professor away
      Joshi, New Roots in America’s Sacred Ground, 1 - 61
      11/1 Joshi, New Roots in America’s Sacred Ground, 62 - 117

Week 6
11/6  Joshi, New Roots in America's Sacred Ground, 118 - 198
      11/8 TBA
Week 7  Protestant Theology: Theorizing Asian American Religion

Week 8  
11/20  No class: American Academy of Religion
       *Students: This is a good week to catch up on reading and work on your papers.*
11/22  No class: Thanksgiving

Week 9  Performance Art: Constructing the Self / History / Religion
11/27  Cha, *Dictee*, read it through once
11/29  Cha, *Dictee*, read it through again

Week 10 Science Fiction: Meaning, Identity, & Transcendence for the 26%
       and “The Robot Fixer”
12/6   Pak, *Robot Stories*, “My Robot Baby,” and “Clay”

*Papers due: Wednesday midnite, 12 December, in RTF or PDF format via email to: rude@religion.ucsb.edu*