Notice
This syllabus is subject to change depending on new developments or pace of the class. You are responsible for any and all changes announced in class. The instructor reserves the right to change any course requirements listed below provided they inform you verbally and via e-mail of the changes.

Course Description
This course examines how Asian American visual artists of different ethnic and generational backgrounds, ranging from recent immigrants and refugees to the American-born, articulate both their personal and community identity through the visual arts. This course will use slides, artists' videos, and film to explore themes such as the historical impact of Western "orientalism," the experience of traversing cultures, the difficulties of situating oneself in America, interaction between the United States and Asia, intergenerational connections, gender roles, and Asian cultural stereotypes. The course asks how artists frame "ethnic-specific" work and how artists present themselves and their work through contemporary exhibitions and curatorial as well as critical practices. Visits to pertinent art exhibitions and public programs will be arranged.

We will examine the objects and products of art by Asian American artists and analyze the context, appreciation, and awareness the arts bring to society. Local artists and community members will be guest speakers, with some of the dates of their visits (as seen on this course schedule) subject to change during the semester.
Course Learning Outcomes

- Increase awareness of the richness of Asian American arts and their development
- Gain an understanding of how cross-cultural interaction and the Asian American experience impacts art and culture
- Examine how visual art affects the personal and community identity of Asian Americans

Required Texts

Books are available immediately at the UMD Bookstore. In addition, whenever possible, a book’s ISBN has been specified so that you have the option of purchasing a used copy of the book from another vendor.


Also, other readings, if required, will be distributed during the course.

Recommended Texts


Course Requirements

Class Participations. Your participation in discussion should show evidence of preparation and thought about the readings and artwork. During class, though our subject matter may be controversial, I ask that you respect the classroom as our workplace. You should feel free to disagree about ideas, but we should strive to conduct ourselves professionally and respectfully. In other words, we all can disagree without being disagreeable.

Oral Histories: The main requirement will be two oral histories that each student will do, one of a local Asian American artist and one of a non-artist community leader. More details will be given in class.

Community History Paper: The class will collectively be writing a history of local D.C. Metro artists and their work, so each student will be expected to write one part of this history based on his or her research.
Oral presentation: Each student will make a ten-minute formal presentation of your final Community History paper to the whole class. You will be assessed on your ability to communicate your main points quickly and effectively to the audience. In addition, since this is an art course, you will be assessed on your ability to integrate visual aids into your presentation to support your claims.

Written Work: Any papers not turned in by the beginning of class on the date due will be considered late and will be penalized 10% for every 24 hour period following the deadline. In addition to the quality of your ideas, your papers will be graded on the quality of your spelling and grammar. All written work must meet the following specifications. Failure to meet the specifications will result in a lower grade:
Margins: one-inch margins
Font size: twelve
Spacing: Double-spaced

Extra Credit: The National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference will be hosted by the University of Maryland from April 8-10, 2010. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn and make professional connections. Anyone attending and writing a two-page summary of what they saw will receive 5 extra points toward their final grade.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Throughout semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral History 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral History 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Collaboration</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Throughout semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grading Guidelines

Students in AAST courses earn grades based on their performance on the course requirements listed above. Here is a description of the grading criteria according to the UMD Faculty Handbook (http://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/grades.html).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+, A, A-</td>
<td>“Denotes excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+, B, B-</td>
<td>“Denotes good mastery of the subject and good scholarship.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+, C, C-</td>
<td>“Denotes acceptable mastery of the subject and the usual achievement expected.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+, D, D-</td>
<td>“Denotes borderline understanding of the subject. These grades denote marginal performance, and they do not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>“Denotes failure to understand the subject and unsatisfactory performance.”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Attendance and Participation:** Students should attend all class meetings, be on time, and be prepared to participate on a substantive and analytical level in discussions of the readings and topics. If you do miss class, contact a classmate to make sure you are up to date on all changes. Bring the appropriate texts and syllabus to class *every time we meet*. Note that UMD’s official attendance policy is available at [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html).

**Academic Integrity:** The AAST takes the issue of academic honesty very seriously. We expect our students to uphold high standard of conduct. The University of Maryland is dedicated to ensuring academic integrity, symbolized by the Honor Code upheld by the Student Honor Council. You are asked to write the following pledge on all your written work: “*I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment).*” Even if you choose not to write the pledge on your work, you are still bound by it. The Student Honor Council defines the following as academic dishonesty:

- **Cheating:** intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication:** intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitation:** intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Honor Code.
- **Plagiarism:** intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise without citation.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these policies: [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html)

**Classroom Etiquette:** The AAST values the diversity of its student body and is committed to providing a classroom atmosphere that encourages the equitable participation of all students. Students should be respectful of others’ opinions at all times. If you disagree with someone, you should express your alternative view using the evidence that led you to your interpretation. Personalized comments, inappropriate language, insults, sleeping, and raised voices are not conducive to learning and will not be tolerated in the classroom. In addition, cell phone texting or viewing and laptop use other than taking notes are disruptive activities that inhibit students’ ability to learn and are to be refrained from in lecture and discussion section. Please place your cell phone on silent or “vibrate” mode while in lecture or discussion section.

**Procedures for Inclement Weather**

If the University closes due to inclement weather, the instructor will contact the students via e-mail and communicate any changes in class meeting times or locations and to discuss any changes in assignments. Be aware that the University posts closure information on its main page at [www.umd.edu](http://www.umd.edu) and many DC and Baltimore area media outlets such as radio and TV will also carry information regarding school closures.

**Online Expectations:** We will assume that the e-mail address that you provided to the university is accurate, up to date and checked at least once a day during business days. If your official e-mail address is not up to date, please update it. In addition, all students will be required to sign into Blackboard in order to obtain or view course-related files or information. On Blackboard, we will have links and handouts relating to the course. Note that the instructor
will generally inform you verbally and via e-mail when an item has been added to Blackboard. You can find information relating to getting started with Blackboard here: (http://elms.umd.edu)

**Writing Center:** The UMD offers a superb resource in the form of the campus writing center. It is recommended that you bring your written work to the writing center so that they can help you improve your writing.
Writing Center website: (http://www.english.umd.edu/the-writing-center-front-page)
Office Number: (301) 405-3787 (The Grammar Hotline)
Location: 1205 Tawes Hall

**Religious Observances:** University policy provides that students “should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs: students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances.” Please inform the instructors at the start of the semester if you are going to miss any lecture sessions, discussion sections, exams, or other assignments due to religious observances so that alternative arrangements can be made.

**Special Accommodations:** If you require any special accommodations due to disability, please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that the instructor can make arrangements for exams and other items. In addition, please make an appointment with the Disability Support Services (DSS) so that you can learn the procedures and fill out the necessary paperwork. DSS contact information:
• DSS Website: (http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS)
• Main office phone number: 301.314.7682 (fax 301.405.0813)
• Location: Fourth floor of Susquehanna Hall (next to the South Campus Dining Hall)

**Course Evaluations:** During the end of the semester, you will be asked to fill out online course evaluations via the website at (www.courseevalum.umd.edu). Please take the time to fill out these forms, because the AAST takes them very seriously as tools which we can use to improve our teaching. Therefore, over the course of the semester please think about what worked well in the course, what was ineffective in the course, and what you would recommend be done to improve the course.
Course Schedule

Week 1 (25 January): Introduction
- Overview of syllabus and course expectations
- Defining the scope: What is Art? (visual, performing; fine art vs. popular culture, functional art, entertainment...etc). Who are Asian Americans, and who are the Asian American artists? Role of art in community identity, significances and challenges, danger of a collective grouping of diverse cultures

Week 2 (1 February): Mine Okubo: Artist in Context
- Discuss her classical training, work in camp context and work afterwards
- QUESTIONS: Why is she classified as an Asian American artist? How does context affect art? How was her life affected by her art, and vice versa?
- READ: Mine Okubo's Citizen 13660 and Chang, pp 111-140 ("Deployments, Engagements, Obliterations") and pp 407-408 ("Mine Okubo")

Week 3 (8 February): Hiro: APA Art in Metro D.C.
- GUEST ARTIST: Hiro, former head, As.Am. Arts and Media and award-winning local artist

Week 4 (15 February): Photography as Art
- GUESTS: Harry Chow (photographer) and Wendy Lim (author and curator), both of whom were active in the APA arts scene in the 1960s and 70s
- READ: Chang, pp 141 to 168 ("The Wind Came From the East: Asian American Photography, 1850 to 1965")

Week 5 (22 February): Sculpture as Art
- GUEST: Prof Foon Sham, UMCP Department of Art
- READ: Chang, pp 201-230 ("Chinese Artists in the United States: A Chinese Perspective")
- QUESTIONS: How does Prof Sham integrate his Asian heritage with the other influences on his art? What are those influences?

Week 6 (1 March) Preserving Local Community Art and Culture
- GUESTS: Smithsonian Folklife Festival staff will come to train students on how to do oral histories of local artists and leaders
- READ: Chang, pp 257-282 ("Art and Social Consciousness")
- VISIT: Folklife Festival Website: [http://www.festival.si.edu/](http://www.festival.si.edu/)
**Week 7 (8 March) Filipino and Filipino American Art**
- GUEST: Miriam Riedmiller, local Filipino American community leader
- READ: Machida, pp xiii to 56 (Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1)

*Spring Break (15 March to 19 March)*

**Week 8 – (22 March) Korean American Art and Design**
- GUEST: Mihae Kim, local Korean American designer and community leader
- READ: Machida, pp 57-193 (Chapters 2 and 3)

**Week 9 (29 March) Costume Design and Asian American Art**
- GUEST: Prof Helen Q. Huang, UMCP Department of Theater
- VISIT: Prof Huang's departmental page: [http://www.theatre.umd.edu/faculty/helen-huang](http://www.theatre.umd.edu/faculty/helen-huang)
- QUESTIONS: How does Prof Huang integrate her Asian heritage with the other influences on her art? What are those influences?

**Week 10 (5 April) Indian and Indian American Art**
- GUEST: Mr. Shyam Shah, a local businessman who has studied Indian art extensively
- VISIT: Website of Freer and Sackler Asian art at the Smithsonian: [http://www.asia.si.edu/](http://www.asia.si.edu/)

**Week 11 (12 April) Burmese American Diasporic and Subversive Art**
- GUEST: Burmese American artist Sandi Tun and other artists
- READ: Machida, pp 194 to end (Chapter 4 and Epilogue)

**Week 12 (19 April) Laotian American Art and Culture**
- GUESTS: King Pathammavong and artists from the Laotian American community

**Week 13 (26 April) Art Funding and Education**
- Visit to Arthur M. Sackler & Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian.
- Future of Asian American art in public display: funding, education, art source
- Cultivation of Asian American artists

**Week 14 (3 May) Student Presentations**
- Discuss and review oral histories

**Week 15 (10 May) Student Presentations and Wrap-up**
- Discuss and review oral histories
- Discuss course objectives and get student comments and evaluations

**Final (17 May)**
- **FINAL HISTORY PAPER DUE VIA E-MAIL AT 7:30PM ON MAY 17th**