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 s/he informs you verbally and via e-mail of the changes.

Course Description
Graphic novels are suddenly “serious literature.” Asian American graphic novels have flooded the comics market over the last 10 years. Race has always been visual. How can we draw these seemingly disparate realities into conversation? This class will examine a range of Asian American graphic works expressly as racial projects. That is, we will consider these works as they enter, often self-consciously, a contested arena of racial and cultural representation, not only documenting or exploring Asian American experience and history, but playing with, thinking through, and subverting racialization, racial identity formation and construction, and the politics of visual representation. We will pay particular attention to the strategic use, and interweaving, of narrative and visual modes of representation. How, we will ask, do Asian American graphic
novels open up the work—and representational repertoire—of Asian American literature proper, and why do they matter?

Course Learning Outcomes

- students will learn to read graphic narratives critically, with attention to historical contexts and political issues
- students will acquire an understanding of a number of theoretical lenses for considering the visual and narrative representation of Asian Americans
- students will acquire an understanding of Asian American history
- students will learn to craft analytical, argumentative responses to graphic narratives

Required Texts

Citizen 13660, by Mine Okubo. ISBN: 978-0295993546
Tina’s Mouth, by Keshni Kashyap and Mari Araki. ISBN: 978-0618945191
100 Crushes, by Elisha Lim. ISBN: 978-1-92766806-1
Lydia’s Funeral Video, Sam Chans. ISBN: 9781885030085
Silent Anatomies, Monica Ong Reed. ISBN: 978-188853697

(course texts all available for purchase at Big Planet Comics, 7315 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740)

Possible texts for presentations/projects
(available for borrowing from instructor)
Shortcomings, by Adrian Tomine. ISBN: 978-1897299753
Vietnamerica, by G.B. Tran. ISBN: 978-0345508720
I am in Friend-Love with You, by Yumi Sakagawa
Skim, by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki
Circle K Cycles, Karen Tei Yamashita
Kiss & Tell, by MariNaomi. ISBN: 978-0062009234

Course Requirements

Participation:
Be a regular contributor to in-class discussions. No participation points if absent. We will also have weekly an online participation requirement: as a class we’ll pick a page from our assigned reading to post on the Canvas Discussion Board and analyze as a class.

Presentation A:
In groups students will be responsible for presenting on our required course texts. Presentations will include: 1) a scanned and annotated key “scene” from the graphic novel, with a close reading that pays particular attention to visual cues and iconography, layout, narrative development, and racial construction/representation; 2) set side by side, two parallel (or importantly contrasting) pages from the
graphic novel, with careful analysis of how they might be understood together; 3) set side by side, two parallel (or importantly contrasting) pages from the graphic novel and another course text, with careful analysis of how they might be understood together. Roughly 15 min; turn in presentation as document.

Exam:
Final exam. Exam review will be provided in the classes preceding the exam date.

Essay:
Write one 10-12 page essay. It must pose a clear interpretive thesis that you devise about 1-3 of the course texts. The essay must be turned in via Canvas, as word document, before the start of class on the due date. Late submissions will be penalized half of a letter grade per 24-hour period. The essay must follow MLA style.

Presentation B:
Pick an Asian American graphic novel other than one of our required course texts (some suggested texts listed above) and prepare a presentation for the class. The presentation should include: 1) A brief outline of the graphic novel; 2) 4 scanned and annotated key “scenes” from the graphic novel, with close readings that pay particular attention to visual cues and iconography, layout, narrative development, and racial construction/representation; 3) synthesizing analysis of 2) that draws larger interpretive conclusions about how the graphic novel is engaging Asian American experience; and 4) some discussion of the text in relation to other texts we’ve read this semester—key overlaps and departures, thematically, regionally and demographically, formally/visually/aesthetically. Roughly 15 min (with focus on 1 key scene); turn in full work as document.

Course Percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Throughout semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation A</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>by sign-up, throughout semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>4/25/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation B</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5/2-5/9/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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Grading Guidelines
Students 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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**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. At all times students should be respectful of others’ opinions. 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.

**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](http://elms.umd.edu)

**Writing Center:** The UMD English Department 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: Susquehanna Hall, Fourth Floor

**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 (1/25): class canceled—snow day  
week 2 (2/1): class introductions  
SYLLABUS  
“The Boat”  
week 3 (2/8): *American Born Chinese*  
week 4 (2/15): *Citizen 13660*  
week 5 (2/22): *Tina’s Mouth*  
week 6 (2/29): *Night Fisher*  
week 7 (3/7): *Ms. Marvel: No Normal*  
week 8 (3/14): SPRING BREAK  
week 9 (3/21): *100 Crushes*  
week 10 (3/28): *Lydia’s Funeral Video*  
week 11 (4/4): *Silent Anatomies*  
PAPER TOPICS/THESIS DISCUSSION  
week 12 (4/11): PRESENTATION B WORK  
week 13 (4/18): PRESENTATION B WORK
### Rough Draft workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 (4/25)</td>
<td>Rough Draft workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation B work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Paper Due

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 (5/2)</td>
<td>Presentation B due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 (5/9)</td>
<td>Presentation B due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Final exam review

Final exam location, date, and time are to be determined. As soon as this information is known it will be announced both in class and via e-mail.