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. If you miss some or all of a class session for any reason, contact a classmate about changes to the syllabus. Complete all readings and assignments by the listed date. Bring all readings to class on the day they are due.

Course Description
“From now on, I am departing from this building. / All my fellow villagers rejoice with me. / Don’t say everything within is Westernized,” quotes the largest of the Angel Island poems, one of the first literary expressions of an Asian American experience. The idiosyncratic nature and upbringing of the United States of America sow the seeds for the complexities of otherness in this country. The course will focus on the (im)material things that construct and disperse ‘culture,’ specifically Asian-American for this class, through the aperture of consumerism and race theory. Although the nucleus of the course is literary and theoretical in its text, the course ardently stands inter-disciplinary in spirit. We will extend close attention to our readings toward issues of community and praxis, as well as ponder the availabilities and limitations of literary and academic texts for social impact. The course works to, as Kimiko Hahn puts it, “teach [students] a language not to listen and obey, but to engage in narratives.”
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.

Required
GR: Giant Robot, February 2010
HM: Hyphen Magazine, February 2010

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

Course Requirements
1. Class Participation. Regular and punctual attendance is necessary for adequate performance in classes. Students are expected to be prepared for class, to participate in class discussions, to be able to respond to questions posed to them, and to have assignments when they are due. A substantial portion of participation relies on the notecards students fill out during each class. The notecards will be the foundation for the written assignments.

2. Exams. The three tests, one of which is the final exam, address the content matter of course texts and movies. The exams are cumulative. The final exam takes place during the scheduled final exam date, TBD.

3. Short Paper (5-7 pages). One of three major writing assignments, building on the notecards and the journals. The long paper will critically engage with a number of texts, starting with close attention to the primary texts, and then extending out to historical and cultural implications. The paper will incorporate some researched material. A more detailed guideline and prompts will be provided.

4. Long Paper (8-10 pages). One of three major writing assignments, building on the notecards and the journals. The long paper will critically engage with a number of texts, starting with close attention to the primary texts, and then extending out to historical and cultural implications. The paper will incorporate a substantial amount of researched material. A more detailed guideline and prompts will be provided.

5. Final Project: Creative Writing Piece (12 pages). Students will create a creative writing project modeled on and informed by texts studied during the semester. More detailed guidelines will be provided.

6. Community Event. Students will attend three community events for the semester. At least one of the two events must be the Kimiko Hahn reading or a reading at the Asian American Literary Review symposium. At least one of the two community events must occur off campus. The event must showcase an invited speaker, writer, and/or performer. More detailed guidelines will be provided.
Written Work Specifications
Margins: one-inch margins
Font size: twelve
Spacing: Double-spaced
Style Guide: MLA

Late Papers -- Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due, otherwise they are late.
LATE PAPERS are not eligible for any credit. You are entitled to one “Late Paper” pass: for one assignment you can have a “pass”. You won’t need to explain to me why you don’t have the paper; just tell me at the beginning of class you are using your pass, and that’s it. But you only get one and you should use it wisely, because I will not accept excuses for late papers after your pass has been used.
Also, if you use the pass for a draft, that doesn’t excuse you from being present in class to be a peer editor. Also, papers are not accepted electronically.

If you believe that you have an exonerating reason for submitting late work (i.e. auto breakdown, work problem, or illness) please contact your instructor as soon as you can to discuss your late assignment. Note that your instructor is required by University policy to require that you provide them with reasonable written proof of the exonerating incident (i.e. doctor’s note, note from a family member, receipt from an auto maintenance company, etc.).

Course Percentages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation (note cards)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Throughout semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Events</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Throughout semester</td>
</tr>
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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>
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</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. If you do miss an exam contact your instructor immediately and notify them of the situation. Note that UMD’s official attendance policy is available at (http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html).

Academic Integrity: 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)

Classroom Etiquette: 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.

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 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 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: 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 Week-by-Week Schedule

**Week 1: the American Dream**
Readings due: Ginsberg (ph); MTN 1-34

**Week 2: the Racial Fetish**
Readings due: Bhabha (ph); JH 438-52

**Week 3: the Marxist Fetish**
Week 4: Mythologies
Readings due: RB in entirety; MTN 221-46

Week 5: Kimiko Hahn
Test 1
Readings due: KH in entirety; MTN 161-78

Week 6: Auto/biography and journals
Readings due: MTN 247-70; Giant Robot; Hyphen

Week 7: Comics and Superheroes
Paper 1 due
Readings due: JY in entirety; JH 119-32

Week 8: Food
Readings due: JL in entirety; MTN 150-60

Week 9: TV
Readings due: Freud (ph); MTN 179-93;

Week 10: Kung-Fu and Immigration
Readings due: JH 275-284; MTN 271-304

Week 11: Music and Dancing
Test 2
Readings due: Baldwin (ph); MTN 35-68;

Week 12: Fashion
Readings due: Mallarme (ph); JH 187-91, 299-311, 543-54

Week 13: Movies
Paper 2 due
Readings due: Chiang (ph); JH 391-405, 362-79

Week 14: Movies & Consumption
Readings due: TBD

Week 15: Farewell
Readings due: TBD