Course Description
Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing minority groups in the United States. What is the significance of the Asian American community in the American political system? In what directions are political attitudes and behavior developing among Asian Americans? This course will increase students' understanding of the role of Asian Americans in American politics and the political attitudes and behavior of Asian Americans. Although the class will concentrate on Asian Americans, issues related to Asian American politics will be examined within the larger context of America’s multicultural political landscape. This course will examine the historical and contemporary factors that have contributed to the development, form, and importance of race and ethnicity as mobilizing forces in politics and the methods used by groups to negotiate the political, economic and social consequences of race. A focus on the emerging interactions between Asian Americans and the U.S. political system will also highlight broader themes in American politics such as the development of ethnic political communities, how immigration and changing demographics affect political participation, political incorporation and exclusion, and the conditions that promote or challenge coalition building between ethnic and racial groups.

The goal of this course is to improve students’ understanding of the topic of Asian American politics and to provide opportunities for students to engage with and critically assess issues related to Asian American politics.

Course Expectations and Grading Procedures
- Participation. Students should attend all class meetings and be prepared to participate on a substantive and analytic level in discussions of the readings and topics. More than two missed class meetings without a valid excuse will affect your attendance grade. Class slides will not be distributed electronically. If you miss a class meeting, please get the notes from a classmate. Readings should be complete by the date they appear on the syllabus.

- Attendance. According to university policy, absences can be excused for illness, religious observances, participation in University activities at the request of university authorities and compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control. If you need to be absent from class to participate in a religious observance, please provide the instructor a list of the dates you will need to be absent by the second day of class. Absences due to illness on the date of exams
or the dates assignments are due must be supported by documentation from a medical professional.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Paper (Due 12/2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Election Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Required Textbooks and Readings:**


All other required readings available/posted on ELMS.

**Class Communication**

Announcements regarding class cancellations, room changes, or other issues will be sent via email through the email address you have associated with ELMS. Change your communication settings to allow email through ELMS.

**Academic Integrity and the University of Maryland Honor Pledge**

Please adhere to the UMD Code of Academic Integrity and Honor Pledge (“I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.”). Cheating or engaging in any form of academic dishonesty will be reported and subject to university policies regarding academic integrity.

According to the UMD Code of Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- **Cheating** (intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise),
- **Plagiarism** (intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise) including writing from other students, websites, and library materials,
- **Fabrications** of any kind (intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise) including false information in requests for assignment or examination extensions, and
- **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** (intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this Code)

For more information on academic integrity, please refer to the Student Honor Council website, [http://www.shc.umd.edu](http://www.shc.umd.edu).

**Student Resources and Arrangements for Students with Disabilities**
The University is legally obligated to provide appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. The campus's Disability Support Service Office (DSS) works with students and faculty to address a variety of issues ranging from test anxiety to physical and psychological disabilities. If an instructor believes that a student may have a disability, DSS should be consulted (4-7682 or dissup@umd.edu). Note that to receive accommodations, students must first have their disabilities documented by DSS. The office then prepares an Accommodation Letter for course instructors regarding needed accommodations. Students are responsible for presenting this letter to their instructors by the end of the drop/add period.

Services for students in various forms of distress are offered by the Counseling Center and the Mental Health Service in the Health Center. During evenings and weekends, the student peer-counseling hotline (4-HELP or 4-4357) is available.

**Laptops and Cell Phones**
If you prefer to take notes on a laptop, please sit in the first row of the class. Please turn off your cell phones before entering the classroom (no phone calls, texting, or taking pictures during class).

**Copyright Notice**
All class lectures and other materials are copyrighted and that they may not be reproduced for anything other than personal use without written permission from the instructor.

**Emergency protocol**
If an emergency occurs that closes the University for an extended period of time, this course will be taught on-line via the ELMS site.
Class Schedule and Readings
Come to class with readings for that date complete

Week 1
Tues 9/2  Introduction
“The First Asian American President”
“Fun Facts”

Thur 9/4  Asian American Politics Today
What is an Asian American political issue?
[News articles and video clips posted on ELMS]

Week 2
Tues 9/9  Defining the Asian American population
Aoki and Takeda, Ch 2 “Asian Americans Today” and Appendix (p. 191-196)

Thur 9/11  Asian Americans and Post-9/11 Activism/Hate Crimes
Film Screening: Divided We Fall

Week 3
Tues 9/16  What is race? Why does race matter now?
Aoki and Takeda, Ch 1, “Why Study Asian American Politics? Racialization and its Consequences”


Thur 9/18  The History of Asian American Politics: Immigration and Exclusion
Wong et al. Asian American Political Participation, p. 34-54

[Posted on ELMS] Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

Week 4
Tues 9/23  Asian Americans, Citizenship and Naturalization


**Thur 9/25**

**The Changing Demographic Landscape: Contemporary Immigration**

**Week 5**

**Tues 9/30**

**Measuring the Asian American Population: Census and Data Disaggregation**

**Thur 10/2**

**Political Parties and Asian Americans**
[Posted to ELMS: News clips and journal articles on party approaches to Asian Americans]

**Week 6**

**Tues 10/7**

**“Why don’t Asian Americans Vote?”**
Wong et al. 2011. *Asian American Political Participation*, Ch 1
[Posted to ELMS: Pew Study on Asian American turnout]

**Thur 10/9**

**Asian American Political Participation: Mobilization**

**Week 7**

**Tues 10/14**

**Asian American Political Participation: Immigrant Socialization**
Wong et al. 2011. *Asian American Political Participation*, 54-84

**Thur 10/16**

**Asian Americans and Civic Participation, Campaign Donations, and Social Media Activism**
Wong et al. 2011. *Asian American Political Participation*, Ch 6

Week 8
Tues 10/21  MIDTERM EXAM (Paper Assignment Distributed)

Thur 10/23  Asian American Political Participation: The role of the children of immigrants

Week 9
Tues 10/28  Asian American Elected Officials I
Film: Mr. Cao Goes to Washington

Thur 10/30  Asian American Vote Choice, Party Identification
[Posted to ELMS] Cullen, Lisa Takeuchi. 2008. Does Obama have an Asian Problem?
http://content.time.com/time/politics/article/0,8599,1714292,00.html

[Posted to ELMS] National Asian American Survey Report

Week 10
Tues 11/4  ELECTION DAY – No class meeting: poll monitoring/voter protection activity

Thur 11/6  Identity and Politics + Overview of Asian American Political Participation
Aoki and Takeda, Ch 7, “Images of Asian Americans and their Political Consequences”

Wong et al. 2011 Asian American Political Participation, Chapter 5

Week 11
Tues 11/11  Asian American Elected Officials II, Other Political Leaders
Film: Grace Lee Boggs, American Revolutionary (part I)

Aoki and Takeda, Ch 5, “Elected Officials and Representation”

[Posted to ELMS]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9TCMDHdmHk
Asian American Activism: The Asian American Movement and Other Social Movements
Film: Grace Lee Boggs, American Revolutionary (part II)

Aoki and Takeda, Ch 4, “Interest Groups and Social Movements"

Asian American Issues: Same-sex marriage and Language Policy
[Posted to ELMS] National Asian American Survey Report
http://www.naasurvey.com/resources/Presentations/2012-aapipes-national.pdf

Asian American Issues: Immigration Reform and Economic Redistribution
[Posted to ELMS] Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals – “DACA” readings

Asian American Issues: Education and Affirmative Action
Aoki and Takeda, Ch 8, “Asian Americans, Public Policy, and Intersectionality”
[Posted to ELMS] National Asian American Survey Report
http://www.naasurvey.com/reports/affirmative-action.html

Panethnicity and Coalitions
Aoki and Takeda, Ch 6, “Conflict and Cooperation with Other Minority Groups"

Asian Americans, Religion, and Politics


PAPERS DUE

The Field of Asian American Politics – Questions and Methods
Week 15
Tues 12/9  Winning the Asian American Vote – Strategy Session

Week 6  Thur 12/11  Review

FINAL EXAM (University has not confirmed): Saturday, December 20 10:30-12:30 (meet in regular classroom)

This syllabus is intended to give the student guidance in what may be covered during the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement and make changes as the course needs arise.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

SOCIAL SCIENCE
• Demonstrate knowledge of fundamental concepts and ideas related to the specific topic of political attitudes and behavior of Asian Americans in the United States and the role of Asian Americans as an emerging political force in the larger US political landscape (S1)
• Demonstrate critical thinking in evaluating causal arguments related to why rates of political participation vary across racial and ethnic groups, how immigration shapes political participation, and how race and ethnicity are related to political attitude formation (S2)
• Explain how culture, social structure, diversity, and other key elements of historical context have an impact on individual perception, action, and values (S3)
• Articulate how historical change impacts society, particularly in terms of how it shapes racial position and racial politics in the United States, particular for Asian Americans (S4)
• Explain how a popular social science tool/method, survey research, can be used to analyze contemporary issues related to Asian American politics and to develop policies for social change (S5)

PLURAL SOCIETIES
• Demonstrate understanding of the basis of human diversity: biological, cultural, historical, social, economic, or ideological (P1)
• Demonstrate understanding of fundamental concepts and methods that produce knowledge about plural societies, such as stereotyping and racialization (P2)
• Explicate the processes that create or fail to create just, productive, egalitarian, and collaborative societies, including discrimination and exclusion (P3)
• Articulate how particular policies create or inhibit the formation and functioning of plural societies (P4)