

### CMLT 2400 Asian American literature

220 Joe Brown Hall    MWF 1:25 pm—2:15 pm    Haihong Li    Office: 125 Joe Brown Hall  
Phone: 706-542-2144    Office Hour: Wednesday, 2:15pm—3:15pm    HAIHONGL@UGA.EDU

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Asian American literature is written by persons of Asian descent in the United States, not necessarily citizens. The image of being suspended between two worlds and belonging to none; the insider-outsider syndrome; the role of memory, nostalgia and assimilation are often discovered with striking similarities among the works of these Asian American writers. This course is devoted to the study and appreciation of contemporary literature written by these writers.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior*      Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*  
David Henry Hwang, *M. Butterfly*      Chang-Rae Lee, *A Gesture Life*  
Ronald Takaki, *Strangers from a Different Shore*

#### Note:

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course intends:

- To familiarize students with some influential works of Asian American literature
- To examine how the identity of Asian Americans are constructed and emphasized by American culture
- To help students recognize and understand ethnical and moral issues that arise in these works through class discussion and writing

#### TO succeed in this course, you will need to

- Complete all assignments on time.
- Engage with the materials critically; be an active reader, listener and thinker.

#### COURSE POLICIES

- Students with a disability or health-related issue who need a class accommodation should make an appointment to speak with the instructor as soon as possible.
- All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. For more information please check on-line:  
[http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic\\_honesty/academic\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm)
- All reading assignments should be finished before class.
- Late work will not be accepted.

#### Make-up Policy

**No make-up quizzes** will be allowed. In some extenuating circumstances, make-up exam can be arranged before the day of the exam.

#### Grading

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Midterm Exam     | 20% |
| Presentation     | 10% |
| Final Exam       | 20% |
| Participation    | 10% |
| Attendance       | 10% |
| Quizzes          | 15% |
| Home assignments | 15% |

(More than 5 absences-excused or unexcused-during the term will result in a lower **overall** grade in class)

08/17 Course Introduction, review syllabus and expectations  
08/20 *Woman Warrior* "No Name Woman"  
08/22 *Woman Warrior* "White Tigers"  
08/24 *Woman Warrior* "Shaman"  
08/27 *Woman Warrior* "At the Western Palace"  
08/29 *Woman Warrior* "A Song for a Barbarian Reed Pipe"  
08/31 Screening: "Slaying the Dragon"  
09/03 **Holiday**  
09/05 Quiz #1  
09/07 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 3-42  
09/10 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 42-75  
09/12 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 79-132  
09/14 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 230-270

09/17 *Obasan* 1-51  
09/19 *Obasan* 52-84  
09/21 *Obasan* 85-130  
09/24 *Obasan* 131-162  
09/26 *Obasan* 163-197  
09/28 **Conference; No class meeting**  
10/01 *Obasan* 198-230  
10/03 *Obasan* 231-300  
10/05 Midterm exam  
10/08 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 179-230  
10/10 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 357-406

10/12 *M. Butterfly* Act I  
10/15 *M. Butterfly* Act II  
10/17 *M. Butterfly* Act III and Huang's commentary  
10/19 Screening: Edward Said "Orientalism"  
10/22 Quiz #2

10/24 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 270-294, 493-497  
10/29 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 472-492  
10/31 *A Gesture Life* 1-35  
11/02 *A Gesture Life* 36-62  
11/05 *A Gesture Life* 63-96  
11/07 *A Gesture Life* 97-152  
11/09 *A Gesture Life* 153-176  
11/12 *A Gesture Life* 177-216  
11/14 *A Gesture Life* 217-271  
11/16 *A Gesture Life* 272-305  
11/19 *A Gesture Life* 306-356  
11/26 Quiz #3

11/28 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 406-440  
11/30 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 441-471  
12/03 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 294-314  
12/04 *Strangers from a Different Shore* 315-354

**Final Exam** Fri, Dec 14 12:00pm-3:00pm