SYLLABUS: ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS AND THE LAW

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INTRODUCTION


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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Legal, social, and political discourse on American law has traditionally marginalized Asian Pacific Americans. This course disrupts the traditional view by placing Asian Pacific Americans at the center. Since the 19th century, American law has played an enormous role in constructing Asian Pacific Americans as subjects, through profoundly shaping demographics, experiences, and possibilities. At the same time, Asian Pacific Americans have had a tremendous impact on shaping American law. This course will examine these relationships through judicial opinions, law review articles, and historical and contemporary readings on topics such as immigration and naturalization, de jure discrimination, alien land laws, internment and reparations, culture, colonialism and self determination, labor issues, racial and gendered violence, affirmative action, sexuality and miscegenation, class, and community empowerment.


**Immigration and Exclusion**

Chae Chan Ping v. United States, 130 U.S. 581 (1889).

Excerpts, George Peffer, *If They Don't Bring Their Women Here - Chinese Female Immigration Before Exclusion* (1999).


**Naturalization and Citizenship**

*In re* Ah Yup, 1 F. Cas. 223 (C.C.D. Ca. 1878).

*Ex parte* Shahid, 205 F. 812 (E.D. S.C. 1913).


United States v. Thind, 261 U.S. 204 (1923).


**EARLY DAYS**


Terrace v. Thompson, 263 U.S. 197 (1923).


**COLONIALISM**


CULTURE


INTERNMENT


Film: HISTORY AND MEMORY (Rea Tajiri 1991).

REDRESS


Mari Matsuda, *Looking to the Bottom: Critical Legal Studies and Reparations, in* *Critical Race Theory: The Key Works That Formed the Movement* (Kimberle Crenshaw et al. eds., 1995).


**Immigration – Contemporary Issues**


**Violence**


**GENDER**


**SEXUALITY**


**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EDUCATION**

Gong Lum v. Rice, 275 U.S. 78 (1927).


**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND CLASS**


