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Leti Volpp
Berkeley Law

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SYLLABUS: ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS AND THE LAW

Professor Leti Volpp

INTRODUCTION


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).


Film: DIRTY LAUNDRY: A HISTORY OF HEROES (Richard Fung 1996).

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


**IMMIGRATION – CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**


**VIOLENCE**


**GENDER**


**SEXUALITY**


**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EDUCATION**

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


**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND CLASS**


