Syllabus: Asian Americans and the Law

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SYLLABUS: ASIAN AMERICANS AND THE LAW

Robert S. Chang

READING CLUSTER 1: IDENTITY: THEORY AND NARRATIVES

A. Theory


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1. This is a synthesis of my syllabi from my teaching the course the last five years. I taught it as a two or three unit seminar. I have mostly relied upon course reading packets that I compiled, working from syllabi and course materials shared by Keith Aoki, Neil Gotanda, Bill Hing, Jerry Kang, and Leti Volpp. In Spring 2002, I used as a core text: ERIC K. YAMAMOTO ET AL., RACE, RIGHTS AND REPARATION: LAW AND THE JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT (2001). One year, I used as a core text my book, ROBERT S. CHANG, DISORIENTED: ASIAN AMERICANS, LAW, AND THE NATION-STATE (1999). In different years, I have emphasized different themes as embodied in the clusters. As I noted above, this is a synthesis and the materials presented here are more than what can be covered adequately in a typical two or three unit seminar or course. For those who might use it as a guide, I suggest choosing which clusters to cover along with selective addition and elimination of some readings. I welcome feedback with regard to readings or themes I have missed or overlooked.
B. Episodes


**READING CLUSTER 2: IMMIGRATION, EXCLUSION, AND REPEAL**

A. Introduction: Early Experience and Narratives


B. Exclusion


Chy Lung v. Freeman, 92 U.S. 275 (1875).

McClain, supra, 147-72 (Chapter 6: Federal Exclusion Act Litigation: The First Phase).


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


C. Repeal of Exclusion


**Reading Cluster 3: Citizenship**

A. Citizenship and Naturalization


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

Elk v. Wilkins, 112 U.S. 94 (1884).


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


B. Birthright Citizenship


READING CLUSTER 4: LIVELIHOOD

A. Race, Class, and Labor


CHRIS FRIDAY, ORGANIZING ASIAN AMERICAN LABOR: THE PACIFIC COAST CANNED SALMON INDUSTRY, 1870-1942, at Introduction, ch. 4, ch. 6 (1994).

B. Alien Land Laws

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


### C. Gender and Work


### Reading Cluster 5: Internment and Redress


Michi Weglyn, *Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America’s Concentration Camps*, at ch. 9 (1976).


YAMAMOTO, supra, at 390-409.

READING CLUSTER 6: COLONIALISM

A. The Philippines


E. San Juan, Jr., *One Hundred Years of Producing and Reproducing the “Filipino”*, 24 AMERASIA J. 1 (1998).


Ocampo v. United States, 234 U.S. 91 (1914).


B. Hawai’i


C. Other


**READING CLUSTER 7: RACIAL-SEXUAL POLICING**

**A. Asian American Femininity**


**B. Asian American Masculinity**


C. Antimiscegenation Laws


**READING CLUSTER 8: INTERGROUP RELATIONS**

A. Early Episodes


B. The Los Angeles Unrest

Film: SA-I-GU (Christina Choy & Elaine Kim 1993).


### C. Coalitions and Faultlines


### READING CLUSTER 9: EDUCATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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


READING CLUSTER 10: CONVERSATIONS

A. Culture Clash


B. Is there an Asian America?


