

ASAM20/ELIT24 Asian Pacific American Literature
De Anza College
Spring 2023

This class meets Tuesdays, 10:30 AM – 12:20 PM, in MCC-10

Instructor: Sherwin Mendoza, mendozasherwin@fhda.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Office Hours Location: MCC-14 (the IIS Division Office)

Final Exam: Due online by Friday, June 30

Catalog Description: This course is an introduction to Asian Pacific American literature. Through readings in twentieth and twenty-first century works, students will explore and analyze issues related to complexities of identity as it relates to class, gender, mixed heritages, and sexuality; politics and the history of Asian American activism and resistance to cultural marginalization; and diversity of cultures and experiences within the Asian Pacific American community.

The Student Learning Outcomes for this course state that at the end of the quarter you should be able to do the following:

- 1) Identify multiple cultural and historical issues pertaining to Asian Pacific Americans in literature.
- 2) Analyze issues pertaining to race, class, sexuality and/or gender in relation to Asian Pacific American communities.

Narratives and Counter Narratives

This course aims to challenge the dominant narratives in California that buttress U.S. imperialism, racial capitalism, militarism, and settler colonialism. The primary method we will use to challenge these narratives will be by producing counter narratives, or narratives that center the experiences of those oppressed by U.S. imperialism, racial capitalism, militarism, and settler colonialism.

In the first half of this class, you will write two narratives. The first narrative will be an autobiographical one. The second narrative will be a mixture of fiction and non-fiction. Expect to share these narratives with at least a few of your classmates.

Additionally, you will work with a small group of your classmates to produce a piece of “digital storytelling” for De Anza’s Ethnic Studies Summit on June 1st. A narrative written by you or one of your group members will be featured in the digital storytelling piece, but other members of the group will also contribute by focusing on music/sound, images, video editing, or something else that will be necessary to produce the piece of digital storytelling.

Readings in the course will have two objectives. One, the readings should familiarize us with a range of short narratives written by Asian Americans in order to inform the narratives written by students in this course; two, the reading should allow us to practice

analyzing narratives to assess the extent to which they support or counter U.S. imperialism, racial capitalism, militarism, and settler colonialism.

Course Policies

Attendance is mandatory. All class time counts and attendance every day is required. Please contact me before class if you are unable to attend, and we will set up a way for you to make up the missed class time. Please respect my time and the time of your classmates by coming to class on time. **If you miss the roll call at the beginning of class, you will lose 20% of the class participation points for that day.**

Please turn in assignments on time to make it easier for me to track the progress of everyone in the class. **Late assignments will be penalized by 10%, and assignments will not be accepted more than a week after the due date.**

This course will abide by the college-wide policies of De Anza College with respect to academic conduct (honesty, respect for diversity, etc.). Likewise, this course will comply with conditions set in accommodations letters sent from De Anza's Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) division. If you feel like disability accommodations will help you to succeed in this course, visit <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/> or the DSPS office on campus to learn how to apply for DSPS services.

Course Texts

This course has one required textbook, *The Art and Craft of Asian Stories* (ISBN 9781350076563). Additionally, you will read flash fiction published by the Asian American Writers Workshop as well as other texts written by figures within the field of Asian American Studies.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Course Introductions

Weeks 2 and 3: Non-fiction (telling your story/biography/personal narrative)

Weeks 4 and 5: Flash Fiction

Weeks 6 – 8: Digital Storytelling

Weeks 9 – 11: Analytical Essay

Finals Week: June 26 - June 30

Final exam due on the Friday of exam week.

Canvas

Canvas is the learning management system used by De Anza College. On the course's Canvas site you will be able to find detailed course schedules and assignment descriptions, and you will turn in assignments using Canvas.

Small Assignments

Each week you should expect to have two or more very short assignments such as a contribution to a Canvas discussion, a paragraph-length response to a question, a contribution to a group project, or a reading quiz. Many of these assignments will be tied to face-to-face class participation points. For assignments tied to class participation, if you miss class you can still receive up to 50% of the possible points by completing the Canvas portion of the class participation assignment. If you are late for class, you can receive up to 80% of the possible class participation points, but not full credit.

Non-Fiction and Fiction

Through roughly the first half of the quarter you will write a brief autobiographical piece and a piece of flash fiction.

Group Projects

Early in the quarter, you will form a group that will meet every week during class. This group will be responsible for leading class discussion during one of the course meetings, and the group will also produce a digital storytelling piece, or a short video that showcases a fictional or non-fictional narrative written by one of the group members.

Extra Credit

Several times during the course, you will have the opportunity to attend public events and write short responses for extra credit. See Canvas for assignment descriptions for extra credit opportunities.

Grades

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Class Participation: 10 points/class meeting	110 (11 course meetings)
Very Short Written Assignments	About 200
Group Discussion	100
Non-Fiction	100
Flash Fiction	100
Digital Storytelling	200
Analytical Essay	100
Final Exam	100
<u>Extra Credit: 10 points apiece</u>	
Total	About 1,000

Grading scale:

A	90%
A-	89%
B+	86%
B	80%

B-	79%
C+	76%
C	70%
D	60%
F	Below 60%