ASA 130: Introduction to Asian American Literature

Winter 2015
MW 2:10-4:00pm
Olson 101
Professor Susette Min

This course serves as a broad introduction to multiple forms of Asian American literary production. Close textual readings will provoke sustained inquiry and analysis on the cultural work, key debates, critical moments, and multiple approaches in reading a wide range of Asian American literature written between 1940 to the present. What are the different narrative strategies and stylistic elements of a manifesto, novel, graphic novel, and short story? Who writes and why? What kind of responsibility does the writer, reader, critic, and scholar bear in relation to the Asian American movement, past and present? How do Asian American writers formally twist and/or spin an immigrant tale, a love story, a spy thriller, and a twitter exchange? We will read literature by Gish Jen, Jhumpa Lahiri, Lynda Barry, Chang-rae Lee, Hisaye Yamamoto, Linh Dinh and many others.

If you have questions and/or concerns about the class, please contact Susette Min at ssmin@ucdavis.edu. Recommended Prerequisites: ASA 1, 2, or 4, but the course is open to all who love to read.