

IDS 180.05: Perceptions of Asian American Women (The Hypersexual Female Asian Body)

WEDS. 2:00 – 2:50, PAD 211

FALL 2015

Course Information

Geishas, China Dolls, Mail-Order Brides, Woman Warriors, and Model Minorities. Who are Asian American women? How have they been represented in American society? What do their experiences and cultural representations reveal about the intersectional nature of race, gender, sexuality, and citizenship in American and Asian societies? This course investigates how the legacies of American militarism in Asia shape the racialized and sexualized depictions of women of Asian descent. Students will explore the historic and contemporary experiences and cultural representations of Asian American women. We will examine themes such as immigration, family, sexuality, militarism, globalization and activism. Course materials will be drawn from a variety of fields (History, Sociology, Literature, Women's Studies, Asian American Studies,) and sources (life histories, Asian American activists' blogs/artwork, documentaries/films, etc.).

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze how cultural representations travel across national borders;
- Thoughtfully discuss the intersections between racial, gender, sexual, class hierarchies within the context of the U.S. nation and as these power differences are manifested through U.S. relationships with Asian countries and Asian peoples; and
- Examine the historical trajectories and consequences of the circulation of racialized and hypersexualized images of Asian American women.

Required Texts

- Celine Parreñas Shimizu, *The Hypersexuality of Race: Performing Asian/American Women on Screen and Scene* (2007, Duke University Press)
- Additional readings available on Blackboard

Kimberly McKee, PhD

Email: mckeeki@gvsu.edu

Phone: 616-331-8196

Office: LOH 315

Blackboard IM: mckeeki

SkypeID: mckeekkee

FaceTime:

mckee.kimberly@gmail.com

Website: www.mckeekkimberly.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00am – 12:00pm (Allendale/Blackboard IM);
Wednesdays, 3:00pm – 4:30pm (Allendale/Blackboard IM); By appointment

Email is usually the best way to contact me. **Please include IDS 180 in the subject line.** Emails should always include a subject, a greeting, and a signature. **I will respond to your email within 24-hours** on weekdays, and by Sunday evening at the latest on weekends (beginning Friday evening). *Students must check their emails every 48 hours to ensure they are aware of communications sent by Prof. McKee.*

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Please consider the Three Before Me rule. Before emailing me re: technical questions or other class logistics, try learning your answer through three other means first:

1. For technical support, contact the Help Desk by phone (616.331.2101) or email: helpdesk@gvsu.edu.
2. You can also review the support documents in our Blackboard course site or by clicking the "Help" button at the top of your Blackboard window.
3. Refer to course resources (e.g. syllabus, important deadlines, assignments) on our Blackboard site. Check the FAQ Forum on our discussion board. Everyone is welcome to post and answer questions that are posted there!
4. Email a classmate.

Course Requirements

Class Discussion	25%
Ques. Submission	25%
<i>Miss Saigon</i> Op-Ed	20%
Final Paper	30%

Class Discussion: 25%

The course will be conducted as a seminar in which we shall discuss specific topics based on the assigned readings and other materials as case studies. Students must come to class having read all assignments and prepared to participate meaningfully in class discussions.

We represent a multitude of diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and opinions. Please do not attack your fellow students for voicing their opinions. The inclusion of multiple, and even contrasting, viewpoints will help us to synthesize course material. In order for this course to be productive learning environment, it is imperative that we all treat one another with respect and courtesy.

If you uncomfortable speaking in class, **there are other ways to participate:**

- Tweet me (@mckeekee) relevant articles that pertain to class readings/discussion
- Email me (mckeeke@gvsu.edu)
- Stop by office hours

How is participation graded?

To earn a **C-range participation grade**, you must fulfill five basic requirements:

- Arrive on time and remain in class for the entire period.
- Be ready to discuss readings.

- Be prepared with the textbook and/or Blackboard material in class.
- Maintain a respectful demeanor, whether talking or listening.
- Engage actively and productively in group work, class discussion, and other in-class activities.

To earn a **B-range participation grade**, you must **consistently fulfill C-range requirements** and:

- Volunteer questions/points of interest from readings to generate discussion.
- Make substantive comments/points that clearly demonstrate you thoughtfully read the text
- Identify essential issues or questions of the text
- Point to the author's thesis
- Willingly offer ideas in class, making sure your contributions are topical and thoughtful.

To earn a **A-range participation grade**, you must **consistently fulfill B-range requirements** and:

- Show leadership in class discussion (break uncomfortable silences; respond to open-ended questions; ask difficult questions).
- Deepen the level of class discussion
- Ask clarifying questions
- Summarize the arguments of the text and paraphrase the author's main points
- Challenge an idea or present an alternative interpretation
- Respond to other students' ideas (not just mine) by asking questions or building on their points.
- Contribute questions/comments that demonstrate that you're making broader

connections to other lectures, readings, and society-at-large

Discussion Question

Submission: 25%

Students will submit one question per class about the reading (Week 2-15; Except Week 12). These questions will be **submitted via email (mckeeke@gvsu.edu) by 8AM EST every Wednesday**. Your weekly question should reflect your engagement with the weekly readings.

The grading criteria is below:

- 12 – 13 submissions: 100%
- 10 – 11 submissions: 90%
- 8 – 9 submissions: 80%
- 6 – 7 submissions: 70%
- 4 – 5 submissions: 65%
- 0 – 3 submissions: 0%

Miss Saigon Op-Ed: 20%

Students will examine how the Minneapolis, MN Ordway Theater's recent revival of the musical *Miss Saigon* generated protests and activism by the Asian American

Questions/Concerns:

community and their allies. Utilizing readings from class, students will create a 500 – 550 word, editorial response to the recent revival based on their knowledge of American militarism in Vietnam.

Final Paper: 30%

In a 2-3 page, double-spaced essay, students will analyze the representation of female Asian American sexuality in the documentary *Seeking Asian Female* (2013).

Course Policies

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session. *Students are allowed two unexcused absences.* Please use these absences wisely. **For every additional absence you will lose five points per absence from your overall course grade.** For example, if you miss three additional classes, fifteen points will be deducted from your final grade.

Please notify the professor if you have a personal emergency or health issue causing you to miss class. Proper documentation is required for these absences to be considered "excused."

Written Assignment Guidelines

Standard grammar and essay guidelines should be followed. **All written assignments must be completed in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins.** All citations must be standardized (e.g. be consistent with your use of MLA, Chicago, or APA).

Your Work Cited/Bibliography should be on a separate page. In Microsoft Word, go to Insert > Page Break.

Check out mckeekimberly.com to learn more about my teaching philosophy.

If the professor provides you with comments/edits on paper drafts, you must integrate this feedback as part of your revision process. Failure to do so will result in grade deductions at the discretion of the professor and revise and resubmit the paper.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments must be submitted via correct Blackboard folder. Papers will be accepted within forty-eight hours of the deadline. **Ten points** will be deducted from assignments submitted **within twenty-four hours of the deadline.** **Fifteen points** will be deducted from assignments submitted **between twenty-four and forty-eight hours of the deadline.**

The professor will not grant extensions unless prior arrangements have been made in consultation with her. Proper documentation is required for extensions.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

Students are responsible for doing their own work, and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarism, or the use of another's words without proper citation, will result in an F for the assignment and possibly the course. A report will be made to the student's dean and the Center for Academic Integrity so that they may also take appropriate disciplinary action. You may refer to GVSU Student Code Section 223.01 for GVSU's policy. All of the following would constitute plagiarism:

- Using someone else's idea without citing the source where you found that idea.
- Using someone else's structure or organizing strategy without citing it. This often occurs when a writer takes a paragraph out of a source and simply paraphrases each sentence while leaving the original author's structure intact.
- A verbatim (copied directly) phrase/passage that is not quoted

You avoid plagiarism by properly citing your sources. You should use a citation when you directly quote another source or paraphrase someone else's ideas. **Remember, the purpose of citations is to give credit to another's work.** When you use direct quotes or paraphrases, you are not using your original thoughts.

Resources

I strive to create a fully inclusive classroom, thus I welcome individual students to approach me about distinctive learning needs. Students with disabilities should contact me and provide documentation from [Disability Support Resources](#) (616-331-2490). If you require writing assistance, please visit [The Fred Meijer Center for Writing](#) (616-331-2922). For questions about citations, please visit sites such as EasyBib.com or Purdue OWL. You may also utilize [the GVSU Library resources concerning citation tools.](#)

Grade Distribution

A = 100-93	A- = 92-90
B+ = 89-87	B = 86-83
B- = 82-80	C+ = 79-77
C = 76-73	C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-67	D = 66-60
F = 59-0	

Course Plan

Information on this course schedule is an outline and is subject to change either due to professor or collective class decisions. Students will be told in advance of the change and an updated syllabus will be posted to Blackboard.

Due Date	Reading/Activity Due
Week 1 (9/2/15)	Introductions and Overview: Why Study Pop Culture
Week 2 (9/9/15)	Leong, <i>The China Mystique: Pearl S. Buck, Anna May Wong, Mayling Soong, and the Transformation of American Orientalism</i> (2005, University of California Press) – Chapter 1 (Available via Blackboard)
Week 3 (9/16/15)	Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapter 1
Week 4 (9/23/15)	Leong, <i>The China Mystique</i> – Chapter 3 (Available via Blackboard)
Week 5 (9/30/15)	Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapter 3
Week 6 (10/7/15)	NO CLASS, OFFICE HOURS CANCELED
Week 7 (10/14/15)	Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapters 4 and 5 (Please use the time from having no class on October 7 to complete the two chapters).
Week 8 (10/21/15)	American Involvement in Vietnam (Available via Blackboard) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter Five from Kim, Jodi (2010) <i>The Ends of Empire: Asian American Critique and Cold War</i>. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota.
Week 9 (10/28/15)	The Impact of <i>Miss Saigon</i> (Available via Blackboard) Op-Ed on Miss Saigon Guidelines Provided in Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapter 2 Bao Phi, “War Before Memory: a Vietnamese American protest organizer’s history against Miss Saigon” (http://18millionrising.org/blog/2013/sep/16/war-before-memory/) David Mura, “The Problem(s) with Miss Saigon (or, how many stereotypes can you cram into one Broadway musical)” (http://opineseason.com/2013/09/11/david-mura-the-problems-with-miss-saigon-ordway/)
Week 10 (11/4/15)	Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapter 6
Week 11 (11/11/15)	Begin in-class screening of <i>Seeking Asian Female</i> (2013) Op-Ed on Miss Saigon Due at the Beginning of Class
Week 12 (11/18/15)	Finish in-class screening of <i>Seeking Asian Female</i> (2013) Final Paper – Documentary Analysis Guidelines Provided in Class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wong, Kristina Sheryl. (2001) “A Big Bad Prank: Broadening the Definition of Asian American Feminist Activism” in Vickie Nam (Ed.) <i>YELL-OH Girls!: Emerging Vpoces Explore Culture, Identity, and Growing up Asian American</i>. New York: Harper Collins, pp. 278-282.
Week 13 (11/25/15)	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break
Week 14 (12/2/15)	Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapter 7
Week 15 (12/9/15)	Parreñas Shimizu, <i>The Hypersexuality of Race</i> – Chapters 8
Week 16	Final Paper – Documentary Analysis Due at 11:59 PM EST VIA EMAIL mckeeki@gvsu.edu