

Contemporary Issues of Filipino-Americans: History, Identity, and Politics

Spring 2012

Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. @ B56 Hildebrand

Instruction begins on **January 31!**

Facilitators:

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I. Course Description:

As a backgrounder, Filipino-American history dates back to 1587, when Filipinos landed in Morro Bay, California. Since then, Filipinos have built and established communities in America and have developed a distinct culture—a Filipino-American culture. Filipinos are the second largest Asian minority group in California and yet, the stories of Filipino-Americans are not portrayed in mainstream media or readily available in history books. With this course in mind, students will be given an opportunity to learn about the contemporary Filipino-American experience and explore a variety of issues affecting Filipino-Americans today.

II. Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course to bring awareness of the contemporary issues Filipino-Americans face in society. Awareness is achieved through education, discussion, and finally by putting one's awareness into practice. By the end of this course, students will be able to 1) apply this knowledge to their communities and 2) inform and educate others about Filipino-American issues. Overall, this course hopes to foster dialogue and group discussion, while providing a safe space for students to learn about their history, explore their identities, and share their experiences.

III. Requirements:

In order to pass this class, students must complete all assignments with substantial effort (equivalent of a C- grade or higher). Grades will be determined by:

A. Attendance and Participation [30%]

Attendance is mandatory for each session. Students are allowed 3 excused absences. However, special circumstances such as religiously affiliated conflicts and personal emergencies can be taken into account. Participation includes actively contributing to group discussions and seeing the instructor during office hours.

B. Organizational Involvement [20%]

Students are required to attend at least one PASS event (e.g. general meeting, recruitment training, etc.) and submit a one-paragraph reflection. In addition, students must attend at least

one event that focuses on a contemporary issue or a community field trip (TBD), also followed-up by a one-paragraph reflection.

C. Reflections [15%]

Students are required to submit 3 one-paragraph reflections per unit: 1 on history, 1 on identity, and 1 on politics. Reflections can cover anything discussed during the unit. These reflections can be hand-written or typed, and must be submitted by the given due date.

D. Final Project [35%]

Students are to pick a topic/issue covered and demonstrate their awareness through any creative medium of their choice (e.g. poetry, visual art, performance, etc.). Projects will be graded by creativity, presentation, and content.

IV. Class Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Unit 1: History

Week 2: The Third World Liberation Front

Week 3: WWII Filipino Veterans

Week 4: The International Hotel

Unit 2: Identity

Week 5: The Model Minority Myth

Week 6: Colorism/Papaya Soap

Week 7: Queer Filipino-American Experience

Week 8: Filipino-American Writers, Artists, and Musicians

Unit 3: Politics

Week 9: Educational Policy

Week 10: Immigration

Week 11: Labor Rights

Week 12: Youth Involvement/Movement

Week 13: Presentations/Conclusion

