

University of California, Santa Barbara
AS AM 1: Introduction to Asian American History, 1850 – present

Winter 2022 Exam #2

- The goal of this exam is to assess your comprehension of course materials. In addition to the “correct” answer, I am looking for some indication of analytical depth. A strong answer should have a clearly articulated point or argument that is well supported.
- This is open book and open notes but, please work on this exam on your own and do not include outside materials.
- When quoting from reading, lecture, or film, cite using the following format: (Ngai, page #) or (lecture, date) or (film title).
- Please read each question carefully and keep your answer within the word limit.
- Do not waste precious space with an excessive introduction or superfluous conclusion. There is no need to describe the text or film since we have all seen/read it. Similarly, there is no need for a list of references or bibliography. Get to your point immediately and stay focused.
- Total points: 25.

Due February 15, 2022 at 2pm to your TA on Gauchospace. Format: PDF, double-space, Times New Roman, 12 point font.

1. According to Mae Ngai, how are ‘illegal aliens’ made? Following this logic, then, how are ‘illegal aliens’ ‘unmade’? Then, using course materials, discuss the particular conditions of alien citizenship for Filipinos, Chinese, and Mexican Americans during mid-century. Finally, what patterns do you see in the various conditions, and what implications would you conclude from these patterns? Provide specific examples to support your answer.

[500 words max; 9 points total]

2. According to Matthew Frye Jacobson (in lecture), the concept of ethnicity transformed our understanding of race. Explain what he meant by this. How do you think Asian Americans were affected by this transformation? Provide two different examples (one from lecture and one from Ngai’s book) to support your answer. Finally, using Estelle Ishigo’s experience in the film, *Days of Waiting*, how were categories of race and ethnicity enforced formally and informally?

[400 words max; 8 points total]

3. Use the letter below from the mayor of Roanoke, Virginia, to address this question. On Wednesday, November 18, 2015, Mayor David Bowers invoked the history of Japanese American internment in WWII to argue that governmental and non-governmental agencies in Roanoke must stop assistance to Syrian refugees until the threat of ISIS is under control. Using what you have learned in class, write a 300 word response to Bowers, outlining at least three different points from course materials. Remember to cite your sources; and Ngai’s book must be one of these sources. (FYI – Bowers is a Democrat.)

[300 words max; 8 points total]



DAVID A. BOWERS
Mayor

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STATEMENT OF MAYOR DAVID A. BOWERS

November 18, 2015

Roanoke is a welcoming city and America is the melting pot of the world, and right and successful we have been at both.

However, since the recent terrorist bombing of the Russian airliner, the attacks in Paris and now with the murderous threats to our nation's capital, I am convinced that it is presently imprudent to assist in the relocation of Syrian refugees to our part of Virginia.

Thus, today, I'm requesting that all Roanoke Valley governments and non-governmental agencies suspend and delay any further Syrian refugee assistance until these serious hostilities and atrocities end, or at the very least until regarded as under control by U.S. authorities, and normalcy is restored.

I'm reminded that President Franklin D. Roosevelt felt compelled to sequester Japanese foreign nationals after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and it appears that the threat of harm to America from Isis now is just as real and serious as that from our enemies then.

I further want to assure our citizens that Roanoke's law enforcement and public safety agencies are and will be prepared to the best of their ability to assure our citizens that everything is and will be done to protect Roanokers from harm and danger from this present scourge upon the earth.

In this regard, at least for awhile into the future, it seems to me to be better safe than sorry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "D. A. Bowers".

David A. Bowers
Mayor