

HIS/AMS 295-01: Asian American Activism, 1875-2010

Grinnell College, Fall 2016

Professor Joy Sales

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- Historical significance of the activist
- Biographical Information and historical context of the social justice issue the activist encountered
- What kind of activism your subject engaged in, where the campaign took place, what kinds of interventions were made, what kinds of outcomes were facilitated.
- Bibliography of sources. Use Chicago Style citations.

Your activist submission must include at least 2 images:

- A photograph of the activist or an action they organized/ participated in.
- A creative work based on the research you've done.

Your activist submission must be properly cited with 3 academic sources:

- **You cannot use wikipedia.** You can use the works cited at the end of a wiki entry.
- **You cannot use class texts.** You can use works cited within those texts.
- You can use written autobiographies, documentaries, and primary sources (ie - newspapers from the time of the action).

5. Final Presentation (10%) – In the last week of class, you will give a 5 minute presentation on your chosen Asian American activist. **Do not read** from your blog post. Points will be taken off if you do. Summarize the main points listed above, and in addition, discuss why you chose the activist, and how their activism connects to (or differs from) the activism we discussed in class.

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week One:

- August 26 - Where are the Asian American Activists?
 - YouTube Video of “Define American” debate on Asian American Activism (watch in class)
 - Kevin Cheng, “What Role do Asian Americans Have in Campus Protests?”
 - Sylvia Regan, “It’s About Time You Took an Asian American Studies Class.”
 - Optional: Glenn Omatsu, “The Four Prisons and the Movements of Liberation,” from *Asian American Studies Now: A Critical Reader*

Week Two:

- August 29 – Contesting Chinese Exclusion, 1880s-1900s
 - Lucy Salyer, *Laws Harsh as Tigers*, Part I “Judicial Justice”
 - Primary Source: United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898) from *The Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience*

- Optional: Erika Lee, “A history lesson for Donald Trump and his supporters”
- August 31 – Anti-Colonial Activism, 1920s
 - Seema Sohi’s “Repressing the “Hindu Menace”: Race, Anarchy, and Indian Anti-Colonialism”
 - Barbara Posadas’s “Transnationalism and Higher Education: Four Filipino Chicago Case Studies,” pp. 7-13
 - Primary Source:

- Sunaina Maira, “Cross Racial Alliances,” from *The 9/11 Generation: Youth, Rights, and Solidarity in the War on Terror*
- Sunaina Maira and Magid Shihade, “Meeting Asian/Arab American Studies: Thinking Race, Empire, and Zionism in the U.S.”
- **September 18 by 5pm – Final blog post due!**

Week Five:

- September 19: Final Presentations
- September 21: Final Presentations
- September 23: Remaining Final Presentations and Reflections

Citations

Historians use Chicago Style citations. You must use this style for your bibliography. For details on how to use Chicago Style, you can go to [Purdue OWL: Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition](#).