# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 142**

**Asian American Literature**

1. **Catalog Statement**

English 142 is a study of representative pieces of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction written by Asian American writers. The course examines ethnic context, artistic technique, and literary themes, providing a window to the rich cultures of Asia which underlie the perspective of Asian American minority groups in America. The course also makes connections between literature and art, as well as philosophy, of Asian American minority groups. Students develop sensitivity to and an understanding of cultural differences from a literary standpoint with attention paid to historical, psychological, and sociological enhancement.

#### Units – 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Prerequisite: Eligibility for English 101

1. **Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

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Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions
5. gather and organize information through library research
6. demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work as specified by the English 120 rubric.
7. **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. evaluate the literary contributions of Asian American writers and discuss their place in reflecting and shaping thought and behavior;
2. analyze cultural themes in Asian American writing;
3. identify major authors and important works of the cultures covered;
4. apply critical reading and writing skills to the analysis of a work of literature;
5. discuss literature using relevant support from the text;
6. do research pertaining to the text and synthesize this material in a written or oral project;
7. compare and contrast Asian and American cultural differences;
8. discuss the sociopolitical and cultural contributions of Asian Americans.

**IV**. **Course Content**

A. Foundations for Asian American Literature 6 hours

1. Asian American literary traditions
2. Literary identities
3. Role of history, religion, culture, and myth

B. Themes and Issues 6 hours

1. Formation of Asian American identities
2. Family and heritage
3. Memory and story
4. Myth and superstition
5. Gender and gender roles
6. Home, community, and society
7. Stereotypes and racism
8. Assimilation, conformity, and rebellion
9. Coming of Age
10. Class, consumerism, and economics
11. Marriage

C. Novel 12 hours

1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of novels
2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles
3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers

D. Short Story 7 hours

1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of short stories
2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles
3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers

E. Poetry 4 hours

1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of poems
2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles
3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers

F. Non-Fiction 7 hours

1. Analysis of historical, cultural, and social backgrounds of non-fiction writing
2. Critical analysis of literary themes, methods of development, and styles
3. Analysis, comparison and contrast of selected writers

G. Other topics 6 hours

1. Survey of Asian American history
2. Literary techniques and strategies
3. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture
2. discussion
3. audio-visual aids such as videos, maps, recordings, reproductions of historical documents, art and artifacts, clothing
4. on-line bulletin board and chat room as appropriate and available
5. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**
6. written essays which require a student to analyze and compare/contrast the major themes, styles, and methods of development of Asian American writers. Research may be required.
7. examinations which require a student to demonstrate how the Asian American writers’ themes, styles, and methods of development are related to the sociopolitical environment.
8. in-class discussion n which a student demonstrates critical evaluation of each work of literature and how it relates to its time, its author, its place, and its genre.
9. journal which annotates reading progress and includes analysis of assigned materials.
10. final essay exam.
11. **Textbooks**

Chin, F., Aiiieeee! An Anthology of Asian American Writers, 12th edition, 0452011760,Penguin, 1997

Chin, F., Donald Duk, 2nd edition, 0918273838, Coffee House Press, 1991

Jen, G., Typical American, 0307389227, Vintage,

Inada, L., Drawing the line, 1566890601, Coffee House Press, 1997

Kingston, M., China Men, 0679723285,Vintage 1989

Lee, C., Native Speaker, 1573220019, Riverhead Books, 1996

Lee, G., China Boy, 0452271584, Plume , 1994

Tan, A., The Kitchen God’s Wife, 0679748083, Vintage, 1993

Yamaguchi, Y., Face of a Stranger, 006092733X, Harper Collins, 1996

1. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. understand the development of Asian American Literature; identify the major elements and the cultural, social, and historical developments of Asian American Literature.
2. read critically in order to analyze literary works for themes and other literary elements.
3. write thesis-centered essays which analyze and interpret literary, cultural, social, and historical themes and other elements of Asian American Literature.