Learn about Asian American literature while receiving Writing Intensive credit.

Ethnic Studies 372/English 372 Asian American Literature

Summer session, May 27-July 3, M, T, W, Th, F, 10:30 -12:00

What is Asian American literature? Who are its authors? What stories do they tell? How is the literature in Hawai‘i distinct from what exists in the continental U.S.? What does the literary movement mean today?

ES372 exposes students to a wide range of texts – both written and visual -- that give voice to experiences and perspectives normally marginalized and therefore unknown. Students will study these works in their social and historical contexts while learning about the contribution Asian American literature has made to American culture and the arts.

Themes: identity and self; family and community; regional affiliations and nation; language and culture; groundbreaking literary practices and audience reception.

Class Work: reading, viewing, and analyzing a variety of creative works, including poetry, short story, plays, film, memoir, manga, and other expressive forms; role-playing when the spoken word needs to be heard; discussion, oral presentations; interpretive writing and formal papers.

Writing Intensive: Students will engage the writing process through prewriting exercises, drafting, peer review, revision, in-class workshop, and conferences with the instructor.

Goals/Outcomes: (1) realize the diversity of Asian American literature; (2) see how social and political forces in the U.S. and in Asia influence individual works; (3) recognize the critical role of the artist in society; (4) appreciate the impact this literary movement has on American culture; (5) discover how the work resonates with students in their lives today.

Instructor’s Background: A writer, creative consultant, and educator, Hiramine has taught literature and writing for twenty-four years. Having written for independent film and theater, her scripts have received awards and have been produced on-stage in New York and Los Angeles. In Hawai‘i, Hiramine’s fiction has appeared in the literary arts journal, Bamboo Ridge; she was also awarded first prize for her work in creative nonfiction from the O‘ahu Arts Center. Currently, she is writing a book about her family’s immigration from rural Japan, to the strawberry fields of Central California during America’s Cold War era.