Course Description
In American society, we often talk in terms of race and ethnicity. But these terms are not as simple as they may sound. By examining relations between majority and minority groups within East Asian societies together with the experiences of East Asian diasporas, this course aims to gain a better understanding of what is meant by race and ethnicity and how individuals and groups negotiate their racial and ethnic identities.

The course is divided into three parts. Part I introduces the concepts of race and ethnicity. We will explore how race does not mean only apparent physical differences and how racial and ethnic identities change over time. Part II asks how majorities and minorities are made and marked across cultural, regional, and national boundaries. We will examine issues surrounding major minority groups in East Asia to identify the various ways in which racial, ethnic, and national identities are defined, institutionalized, and reproduced in East Asia. Part III will turn to the analysis of East Asians outside their home countries. We will look at how racial, ethnic and national identities – the sense of being Japanese, Korean, and Chinese – change in different social, political, and historical contexts.

Required Texts
All required readings are on reserve in the Starr East Asian Library. A course reading pack is available to purchase at Broadway Copy Center: 3062 Broadway (at 121st Street), Tel. 212-864-6501. All the reading materials are also on reserve in the Starr East Asian Library. The following books available at Labyrinth Books: 536 W, 112th Street (between Broadway and Amsterdam), Tel. 212-865-1588.


Requirements

Attendance / Participation / Weekly Memo
You are expected to do the assigned readings before class and to actively participate in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory. Excessive absence will result in a reduction of your final grade.

You will be asked to make at least one web-memo posting per week to the course website. Web-memo postings will not be individually graded but will count in the final grade. Class discussion will be based upon questions and ideas circulated as web-memos. Postings are due each Monday or Wednesday by 6:00 pm.

Presentation
Each student is expected to make one class presentation (no longer than 10 minutes). In your presentation, you are expected to react to the main issues and arguments of the assigned readings. You should also raise questions for the in-class discussion.

Midterm Exam
Essay questions will be distributed in class. Your midterm is due by 10:00 pm of the examination day (March 10). Email your answer to me (ks2303@columbia.edu) as an attachment (Microsoft Word).

Final Research Paper
Each student is required to write a final research paper that addresses any aspect of race and ethnic relations in East Asia or East Asian migrants. Students must make an appointment with the instructor to discuss their research topic no later than Week 10. Prior to that meeting, students must submit by e-mail a one-page research proposal with bibliography. The paper should be about 10 pages long (single-spaced with 1.5” left and right, 1” top and bottom margins), excluding tables, figures and bibliographies. The final paper is due by 1:00 pm on May 6. Submit a hard copy.

Grading

Class Participation and Weekly Memo  20%
Presentation  15%
Midterm Exam  20%
One-page Research Proposal  10%
Final Research Paper  35%

Important Deadlines

Weekly Web Memo  Monday or Wednesday by 6:00 pm
Appointment and 1-page Research Proposal  By Week 10
Midterm Exam  10:00 pm on March 10
Final Research Paper  1:00 pm on May 6
Course Schedule

I. Introduction: Terms and Concepts

WEEK 1

January 20  Course Overview
Distribution of Syllabus. Introduction to course themes and requirements.

WEEK 2

January 25  What is Race?  What is Ethnicity? –Terms and Concepts


January 27  The Changing Meanings of Race


WEEK 3

February 1  Race, Ethnicity, and Identity Construction (1)


Recommended Reading:

February 3  Race, Ethnicity, and Identity Construction (2)

II. Racial/Ethnic Formation of East Asia

WEEK 4

February 8  Migration and the Formation of Ethnic Minorities--Video viewing in class


February 10  Race, Ethnicity, and Colonialism


*Recommended Reading:*

WEEK 5

February 15  Defining Japaneseness


February 17  Prejudice against Minorities (1)


**WEEK 6**

February 22  **Prejudice against Minorities (2)**  


February 24  **Adaptation of Old-comer Immigrants**  

**WEEK 7**

March 1  **Adaptation of Newcomer Immigrants**  

March 3  **Migration and Deterritorialized Nationalism**  

**WEEK 8**

March 8  **Defining Koreanness**  


March 10  **Midterm Examination**  
*DEADLINE: 10:00 pm, by email.*
WEEK 9

Spring Break -- No class

DEADLINE: Appointment & 1-page Research Proposal

WEEK 10

March 22  Defining Chineseness


March 24  Minorities in China

III. East Asian Diasporas

WEEK 11

March 29  The Chinese Diaspora

March 31  Ethnic Identity and Citizenship


WEEK 12

April 5  The Korean Diaspora

April 7  Asians in the United States: Model Minority

WEEK 13

April 12 & 14  Negotiating Racial, Ethnic Identity (1) – Video viewing in class and discussion


WEEK 14

April 19  Negotiating Racial, Ethnic Identity (2)

April 21  Panethnicity


WEEK 15

April 26  Symbolic Ethnicity


April 28  Wrap-up: Toward Critical Thinking of Racial/ Ethnic Formation


May 6  **DEADLINE: Final Research Paper, 1:00 pm (submit a hard copy)**