Chinese Americans
- Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Guangzhou University
Consultant: Dr. Tracy Fessenden
Agenda

• Goals for the Module
• Desired Student Outcomes
• Advice to Teachers
• Required Readings
• Additional Texts
• Plans for Dissemination
Goals

• To give a snapshot of the history of Chinese Americans;

• To help students to explore the interrelations between race, ethnicity and cultural diversity in the field of Chinese American studies;

• To provide a multicultural perspective of the studies on the Chinese Americans, which is an integral part of both the American and the Chinese Society;

• To encourage comparative studies on immigration issues in the context of globalization;
Desired Student Outcomes

• Understand the evolution of Chinese Americans;

• Examine the reconfiguration of Chinese Americans from a multicultural perspective;

• Explore the identities of Chinese Americans that is at the centre of the clashes of two major civilizations;

• Develop critical thinking skills.
Advice to Teachers
Syllabus

• Week One: Orientation
• Week Two: Clash of Civilizations
• Week Three: History of Chinese Americans
• Week Four: Identities of Chinese Americans
• Week Five: Chinatown
• Week Six: The Joy Luck Club
• Week Seven: China Men
• Week Eight: Eat a Bowl of Tea
• Week Nine: Images of Chinese Men in Hollywood Films
• Week Ten: Images of Chinese Women in Hollywood Films
• Week Eleven: Review and Conclusion
Beginning Students

- **Give** the students an **overview** of the history of the Chinese immigrants in the United States;

- **Stimulate discussions** on the evolution of the cultural identities of Chinese Americans;

- **Provide theoretical tools** as to help the students to conduct further research on the topic.
Suggestions for texts

• Books:


Movie

1. Group Discussions;
2. Short Essays;
3. Story telling;
• Topics for Discussions:

1. Which story do you find most compelling?

2. What is traditional Chinese value conveyed in the book that you most relate to?

3. What are the particular strengths that enabled the four mothers to make this life-changing transition?

4. Is there an aspect of this novel that has changed your way of thinking about the experience of immigration?

5. Do you know anyone who has had the experience of adjusting to a different culture?
Further Discussions

Sharing of family stories
Advanced Students

- Encourage comparative studies on immigrants in the United States.
- Navigate contemporary immigration issues under the theoretical frameworks.
Images of Chinese Men in Hollywood Movies
Suggestions for Texts

Pedagogy

• Group Presentations
• Seminar Discussions
• Short Essays
• Critiques of the movies
Movies

• Fu-Manchu Series
• Charlie Chan Series
• Madam Butterfly
Topics for Discussions

“Unspeakable” Minorities

• Exoticness
• Marginalization
• Otherness
Required Readings


Additional Readings


Plans for Dissemination

Roll-out in the Five American Cultural Centers in Guangzhou.