INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY
Day/Time: MW 2:00-3:20
Office Address: Crowe 1125
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Email Address: jkhtse@northwestern.edu
Maximum Enrollment: 45

COURSE DESCRIPTION: “Asian America” is often considered to be a composite of ethnic communities formed by migration from the region of “Asia,” and the study of “Asian American history” is usually taken to be concerned with the identities of these groups. However, I will propose that Asian American history matters regardless of personal identification because the writing of Asian American histories often revises the recounting of the global histories in which Asia and the Americas are located. Instead of a personal history of identity, such an approach considers Asian American history as an integral part of the history of “modernity,” a term we will also try to unpack through the texts we will read. We will study this by analyzing how historical accounts of Asian America have been generated (what we might call “Asian American historiography”) and reading about Asian America through primary source documents.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Americas, Asia/Middle East

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture and discussion

EVALUATION METHOD: 20% class participation, 40% final paper, 30% midterm paper, 10% papers

GRADING BASIS: ANC

TENTATIVE READING LIST:

NOTES: Attendance at first class mandatory, no P/N option

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Justin Tse is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Asian American Studies Program at Northwestern University. He served as lead editor of Theological Reflections on the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement (Palgrave, 2016) and is working on a book manuscript titled Religious Politics in Pacific Space: Grounding Cantonese Protestant Theologies in Secular Civil Societies. He teaches courses on Asian American history, religion, social movements, and ideologies.