Look Ahead…

- **Monday (10/10)** elearning quiz 5.
- **Wednesday (10/12)** 5:45-7:15 PM
  at Library Annex 410
  out-of-class showing of film, Claiming Open Spaces
- **Friday (10/14)** Your second essay.
Leisure Patterns among Asian Americans

Objectives

- Understand the historical context surrounding the immigration of Asians into the U.S.
- Understand core cultural values of Asians groups
- Understand some general patterns of leisure among Asians (Chinese and Korean)
Person of Asian ancestry who was born in or as an immigrant to the U.S.

In the U.S., this term has widely supplanted the term "oriental" which was popularly used before the 1990s to describe East Asian peoples regardless of nationality, upbringing, or origin.
Demographic Trends

- The first large-scale immigration of Asians into the U.S. didn't happen until 1848. The Gold Rush was a pull factor and economic hardship and political upheaval were push factors that led many Chinese to come to the U.S. to find their fortune and return home rich and wealthy.
Demographic Trends

Roughly 3,000 Chinese were recruited to work on the Transcontinental Railroad project started at 1865’s.
Demographic Trends

- Since the 1980s, Asians have been the second fastest growing group in the U.S., including Texas.

- According to the 2010 Census, 14.8 million Americans considered themselves Asian or Asian in combination with another race.

- Asians constitutes 4.8% of U.S. population.
Demographics (cont.)

- The U.S. Asian/Pacific Islander population includes many groups that differ in language, culture, and length of time they have been in the U.S.
- Some of the Asian groups, such as the Chinese and Japanese, have been here for several generations
- Others, such as the Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians, are recent immigrants
Major Asian Groups

- India: 16%
- China: 23%
- Philippines: 18%
- Japan: 8%
- Korea: 11%
- Vietnam: 11%
- Other: 13%

Total: 100%
Geographic Distribution

- More than half of the Asian/Pacific Islander population lives in the western United States.
- California has the largest number of residents who consider themselves Asian.
- Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese Americans tend to cluster geographically in California and New York; although large populations have emerged in a handful of states, including Texas.
- What is the only state where Asian/Pacific Islanders are a numerical majority?
  - Hawaii -- 58 percent of Hawaiians are Asians/Pacific Islanders.
Figure 3.
Percent Asian Alone or In Combination: 2000

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf

People indicating one or more races including Asian as a percent of total population by state

- 58.0 (HI)
- 4.2 to 12.9
- 0.5 to 4.1

People indicating one or more races including Asian as a percent of total population by county

- 25.0 to 51.6
- 8.4 to 24.9
- 4.2 to 8.3
- 1.0 to 4.1
- 0.0 to 0.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. American FactFinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.
Employment and Income

- The median income of Asian/Pacific Islander households for 2009 reached $60,000, higher than any other racial group
  - Varies markedly by country of origin
- Asians/Pacific Islanders had a higher rate of employed persons in managerial and professional specialty positions than the total population (40% to 30%)
- Only 7.3% of Asians/Pacific Islanders were unemployed in 2009 (compared to the national total of 9.3%)
Education

The percentage of Asians, age 25 and over, who

- 50% have a bachelor’s degree or higher level of education.

- 85% are high school graduates.

- 20% have an advanced degree (e.g., master’s, Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.). The corresponding rate for all adults in the age group is 10 percent.
Political History of Asians in U.S.

- 1924 Immigration (National Origins) Act
  - Set limits on number of immigrants from any one country
  - Curtained immigration from Asia
  - Made Asian immigrant ineligible for citizenship
  - Goal was to prevent any major changes in racial/ethnic composition of the U.S.
  - Stayed in effect until the 1960s
Political History of Asians in U.S.

- **1952 Immigration and Nationality Act (better known as the McCarran-Walter Act)**
  - Made all races eligible for naturalization, thus eliminating race as a bar to immigration
  - Set strict quotas on the number of people from Asian countries allowed to immigrate into the U.S.
  - Gave preference to people with education, skills, or relatives living in the U.S.
  - Allowed government to deport immigrants or naturalized citizens engaged in subversive activities
Political History of Asians in U.S.

- 1965 Immigration and Nationality Services Act (Hart-Cellar Act)
  - Abolished the national-origins quota system
  - Created an annual quota equal to that of Europeans (particularly England, Ireland, and Germany)
  - Act let to huge increase in immigration from Asian countries
  - Continued to give preference to relatives of American citizens
Origin of Immigrants into the U.S. (1920-2000)
Ronald Takaki  
(April 12, 1939 - May 26, 2009)

Professor  
University of California, Berkeley

A HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS  
STRANGERS FROM A DIFFERENT SHORE  
RONALD TAKAKI  
AUTHOR OF A DIFFERENT MIRROR  
UPDATED AND REVISED  
“A GRAND HUMAN PANORAMA....IMPASSIONED AND PERCEPTIVE.” —NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW
Stereotypes

- Homogeneous physically and culturally
- Thought of as “foreigners” regardless of where they are born and extent of assimilation
- Regarded as fanatical—willing to die and do not value life
- Considered a “model” minority—image is they have succeeded and been unhindered by discrimination
The Myth of the Model Minority

Asian Americans Facing Racism

Rosalind S. Chou & Joe R. Feagin

Rosalind Chou

Joe Feagin

Texas A&M University
Cultural values

- Generally collectivistic
- Respect authority and the elderly
- Value social harmony
- Committed to familial responsibilities
- Strive in education
- Disciplined work ethic
Asian Americans’ Leisure

- Most of studies on Asian Americans’ leisure examined the relationship between level of assimilation and leisure pattern.
- Some leisure activities functioned as “cultural boundary maintenance” for Asian Americans.
- Some Asian Americans use leisure as a way of assimilation to Americans culture.
Asian Americans’ Leisure: Elderly Chinese Americans

- Selective acculturation
  - Some Chinese activities
  - Some American activities
Asian Americans’ Leisure: Korean Americans

- Content of activity is important
  - Content determines cultural function or relevance
  - Leisure activities can serve multiple functions
Questions?