

Course to help Asian Americans understand more of their background in the U.S. being offered; "Contemporary Issues in Asian American Studies" taught by James Lin

April 17, 1986

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE OFFERS NOTED GUEST LECTURERS

An unusual course aimed at helping Asian Americans understand more of their own background in the United States is being offered this quarter at the University of California, San Diego.

Taught by mathematics professor James Lin, "Contemporary Issues in Asian American Studies" features a series of guest lectures by prominent Asian Americans including authors, activists, a legislator, and a member of the UC Board of Regents.

"One of the goals of the course is to educate people about the history of Asian Americans in the United States," said Lin. "There were no courses on campus which discussed the accomplishments of Asians in this country."

The lineup of guest speakers includes UC Regent Yori Wada; Congressman Norman Mineta from San Jose; Laurence Yep, author of Asian American children's novels; Minoru Yasui, the first Japanese American to legally resist internment during World War II; Elaine Kim, chairwoman of Asian American Studies at UC Berkeley, and Lawson Inada, editor of the first major anthology of Asian American literature.

"Since 1970 there has been a blossoming of Asian American writers, and I think it is important that the class know about that," Lin said. "We're also going to discuss films. Most of the films that you see are stereotypical--the evil Fu Manchu or gangland films. We are going to bring three or four very important American-made films that portray Asians living in the U.S. We're also going to talk about Asians in higher education."

Lin feels that Asians who live in this country are often misunderstood by their fellow Americans.

"There is some prejudice against the Japanese because of the economy," he said. "And many Americans don't realize that the Vietnamese who live here are not the same people they fought in the war."

The public is welcome to attend the class which is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-5:20 p.m. in room 104 Peterson Hall. Those interested in attending should contact Professor Lin at 452-2646.

For more information contact: Paul Lowenberg, 452-3120

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