

**Writing Assignment #1: The Immigrant Experience: Assimilation and Memory**  
**Allan Hancock College: English/ES 150, Professor Chellis Ying Hood**

**Writing Prompt:** Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* braids talk- stories from China with life in the U.S., balancing the delicate relationship between the desire to assimilate and accept cultural lineage. Utilizing this theme common among Asian American literature, compare and contrast this with other sources read in this course. How do the protagonists in these stories accept dual realities and identities?

Sources:

1. Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*
2. Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
3. Frank Chin, Jeffery Paul Chan, Lawson Fusao Inada and Shaw Wong, *Aiiieeeee! An Anthology of Asian-American Writers*
4. Gus Lee, *China Boy*
5. Bharati Mukherjee, *Jasmine*
6. Andrew X. Pham, *Catfish and Mandala: A Two-Wheeled Voyage Through the Landscape and Memory of Vietnam*
7. Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*
8. Yi Yun Li, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*

**Writing Assignment #2: Intersectionality: The Evolving Identity**  
**Allan Hancock College: English/ES 150, Professor Chellis Ying Hood**

**Writing Prompt:** Intersectionality refers to the experience in which Asian American marginalization or oppression is intensified when an individual identifies with an additional category of difference that is also marginalized, such as gender, sexuality, social class, or disability. Asian women, for example, standing at the "intersection" of gender and race, have suffered oppression and marginalization through multiple dimensions, and experience complex social inequalities.

In this essay you will analyze two of the assigned readings that represent Asian American intersectionality. You will clearly state what intersectionality is represented in each text, and make a claim—by way of a thesis statement—about how those intersections function similarly or differently in the two texts.

Sources:

1. Adrian Tomine, *Shortcomings*
2. Ye Chun, *Hao*
3. Celeste Ng, *Little Fires Everywhere*
4. Jenny Zhang, *Sour Heart*
5. Jean Kwok, *Girl in Translation*

**Writing Assignment #3: The Model Minority Stereotype: Anti-Racist and Equity Struggles**  
**Allan Hancock College: English/ES 150, Professor Chellis Ying Hood**

**Writing Prompt:** Utilizing the personal narratives and scholarly journals read in this class, analyze how focusing on the financial and academic success of Asians immigrants in America is a way for the white majority to discredit the struggles of Hispanics and African Americans. How has the “Model Minority” stereotype altered societal expectations of Asian Americans? How does this single-story stereotype contribute to political divisiveness and an increase in AAPI hate crimes?

Sources:

1. Cathy Park Hong, *Minor Feelings*
2. Amy Chua, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mom*
3. Scholarly publications, editorials and ethnographies on the subject

**Writing Assignment #4: Racial Validation: The Use of Fantasy and Comedy  
to Dilute Racial Trauma**

**Allan Hancock College: English/ES 150, Professor Chellis Ying Hood**

**Writing Prompt:** In *Minor Feelings*, Cathy Park Hong defines “minor feelings” as “the racialized range of emotions that are negative, dysphoria, and therefore untelegenic, built from the sediments of everyday racial experience and the irritant of having one’s perspective of reality constantly questioned or dismissed” (Hong 55). Hong makes the argument that due to a societal disregard of the Asian American struggle, writers create stories focused on a white audience. Utilizing Charles Yu’s *Interior Chinatown* and Gene Luen Yang’s *American Born Chinese*, analyze: In what ways did the protagonist in these stories use fantasy and comedy in order to dilute racial trauma? Why did these Chinese American protagonists believe that their oppression is less warranted? How is Kung Fu used as a literary device that represents a source of cultural pride and a stereotype Asian American males are oppressed by?

Sources:

1. Cathy Park Hong, *Minor Feelings*
2. Charles Yu, *Interior Chinatown*
3. Gene Luen Yang, *American Born Chinese*

**Writing Assignment #5: Dominant Perspectives of Asian Bodies: Fetishization,  
Hypersexualization and Otherness**

**Allan Hancock College: English/ES 150, Professor Chellis Ying Hood**

**Writing Prompt:** We learned from our assigned readings that for over 100 years Asian bodies have been fetishized in popular western culture. Historically, American and European men fighting wars in Asia spiked demand for Asian sex workers, which gave rise to the trope of the hypersexual but docile Asian woman who is the object of white men's desire.

The damaging effects of this trope are salient today. In 2021 Robert Aaron Long, a white 21-year-old gunman, killed eight people in Atlanta, six of whom were Asian women. He told the police the spas where the women worked were a "temptation he wanted to eliminate" because of his sex addiction. This recent example demonstrates how the individual, unique, and invaluable human lives of Asian women were reduced to objects of desire that needed to be "eliminate[d]."

Less overt but pervasive examples of modern fetishization are found in Korean Pop or "K-pop." Popular music videos such as "Gangnam Style" by Korean artist, Psy, have led western audiences to generalize and fetishize Korean identity based on popular representations. The assumption that all Korean men are like Psy has a dehumanizing effect and strips Asian men of individuality.

Choosing either Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, Lysley Tenorio's *Monstress: Stories* or Patricia Park's "The Madame Butterfly Effect: Tracing the History of a Fetish," compare the fetishization, hypersexualization or otherness of Asian bodies in one of these texts to another, real-life example of the fetishization, hypersexualization or otherness of minority bodies you have identified. Describe how both serve as examples, and answer the following: What is achieved by those who are fetishizing, hypersexualizing or othering people groups? What are the consequences for those on the receiving end? What do you propose can be done to combat the fetishization, hypersexualization or othering of minorities?

Sources:

1. Ocean Vuong, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*
2. Lysley Tenorio, *Monstress: Stories*
3. Patricia Park's "The Madame Butterfly Effect: Tracing the History of a Fetish"