

Race and Public History
Amherst College: AmSt 372
Franklin Odo
Fall 2016

Contact info:

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Office hours: Morgan 111; Tuesdays 11am-1pm and by appointment

Wednesdays: 2-4:30pm.

Location: MCLS 230

This seminar focuses on two major events in nineteenth century United States history: the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and the US-supported overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893. We examine attitudes and actions leading to these momentous events, their impact on the target populations and the nation, as well as subsequent efforts to obtain apologies from the US government. Amazingly, these efforts succeeded in 2011-12 and 1993, respectively. Congress has issued apologies only five times in its entire history – the three others were for slavery, treatment of Native Americans and the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. Throughout, we analyze the memory-making involved, largely through the lens of federal public history venues, especially the Smithsonian, National Park Service, Library of Congress, and the National Archives but also other museums, memorials, documentaries, historic landmarks, and websites. Some familiarity with Asian American history will be useful.

Required texts:

Zia, Helen. Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People. NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History. Boston: Beacon, 1995.

Bustard, Bruce. Attachments: Faces and Stories from America's Gates. Washington: The Foundation for the National Archives, 2012.

Foote, Kenneth. Shadowed Ground: America's Landscape of Violence and Tragedy. Revised edition. Austin: University of Texas, 2003.

Silva, Noenoe. Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

Jung, Moon-kie. Reworking Race: The Making of Hawaii's Interracial Labor Movement. NY: Columbia University Press, 2006.

Reports online from National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, Library of Congress, National Archives; websites; documentaries.

Requirements:

1. **Active participation in seminar, including short papers and regular comments on assignments.**
2. **Final paper including formal presentation in class.**

Sept 7. Week One: AsAm Pacific Islander Studies and Public History.

Zia, Intro, ch. 1-7, Trouillot, Preface, ch. 1.

Sept 14. Week Two: Asian American History

Zia, ch. 8-12; Trouillot, ch. 2-3.

Sept 21. Week Three: Silences in Our Histories

Trouillot, ch. 4; Foote, ch.1, 9, Afterword; also, pp. 278-292.

In class, view: Felicia Lowe, "Carved in Silence"

Sept 28. Week Four: 1882 Chinese Exclusion Acts, Part One

Gold, Intro, Principals, ch. 1,2,5; website for Chinese Historical Society in SF.

Oct 5. Week Five: Exclusion Acts, Part Two

Gold, ch. 9,10; website for 1882 Foundation.

Oct 19. Week Six : Exclusion Acts and Apology

Gold, ch. 11, Epilogue; websites for 1882 Foundation, Angel Island Heritage Foundation, Chinese Historical Societies (3), OCA.

Oct 26. Week Seven: The Native Hawaiian Kingdom

McGregor, "Recognizing Native Hawaiians; Jung, ch. 1-3; Ka lei Ha`aheo, ch. 1; "Act of War" – documentary in class.

Nov 2. Week Eight – Overthrow of Hawaiian Kingdom

Jung, ch. 4-6.

Nov 9. Week Nine – Overthrow, Apology, and Sovereignty Movements

Silva, ch. 1-2.

Nov. 16. Week Ten – Overthrow, Apology and Sovereignty Movements

Silva, ch. 3-5; Blount report.

<http://libweb.hawaii.edu/digicoll/annexation/blount.html>

Nov 30. Week Eleven – – Keepers of American History

Bustard, entire; Trouillot, ch. 5, Epilogue; websites for Smithsonian APA Center, Library of Congress (esp. Asian Division/AAPI Collection), National Park Service AAPI .

Dec 7. Week Twelve – New Movements for New Histories

Smithsonian APA Center website; National Park Service AAPI Theme Study website; DOI Reconciliation Report: <http://www.doi.gov/ohr/library/upload/Mauka-to-Makai-Report-2.pdf>

Dec 14. Week Thirteen - Summary and Presentations