

Tentative Syllabus for Japanese American

We will explore the history of the Japanese immigrant to America over five weeks. I will supplement the lectures with videos as we discuss the highlights of the Japanese experience. Each week, we will discuss a book that is relevant to those events.

Week 1: Why did the men immigrate to America? What were Picture Brides? What were the jobs the Japanese did? We will look at the racism they encountered. Please read *The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka for the first class.

Week 2: Why were the Japanese rounded up and placed in relocation (concentration) camps? What was life like in these camps? Read *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston.

Week 3: Many of the young people were given jobs outside the camps. The men became soldiers, fighting for America! The women were relocated to many cities away from their families and homes on the West Coast. What was their life like? Read *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara.

Week 4: We will look at the resistance by some and the consequences of that resistance. We will look at the law suits filed and the Supreme Court decisions rendered. Possibly read *No-No Boy* by John Okada.

Week 5: What was life like after the War ended? What was the long-term effects on the Japanese Americans and how were they treated after the War? Possibly read *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford.