National Multicultural Interpreter Project
Asian American/Pacific Islander
Curriculum Modules:
General Cultural Knowledge and Sensitivity
Interpreting Skill Development
Decision-Making

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Asian American/Pacific Islander Consumer/Interpreting Input Forums:
1997 Asian Deaf Conference, March 23, 1997 - Los Angeles, CA
Pacific Rim Disability Conference and Kapiolani Community College,
February 7-12, 1998 - Honolulu, Hawaii
Bay Area Deaf Association, January 9, 1999 - Ohlone College, Fremont, CA
Asian Deaf Association of New England - August, 1999
National Asian Deaf Congress - March 29-April 2, 2000 - Arlington, VA

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or policies of El Paso Community College or the Department of Education.
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Module Title: Asian American/Pacific Islander - Cultural Knowledge and Sensitivity

Module Description

This module introduces the participants to general demographics, cultural knowledge, terminology, and demographics from the Asian American/Pacific Islander cultural perspective. It also presents the diversity encompassed by the term Asian American/Pacific Islander by exploring each of the cultural communities including: Chinese/Chinese - American, Filipino/Filipino - American, Japanese/Japanese - American, Korean/Korean - American, Southeast Asian/Southeast Asian - American, and Asian Indian/Asian Indian - American. The module introduces the cultural values, identity, group norms, roles of social interaction, and traditions commonly held by members of various Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. It identifies the patterns of language usage prevalent within the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. It provides an overview of several significant historical, educational, and other contemporary issues that affect the context of interpreting within these Asian communities. The participants will develop cross-cultural competencies and behaviors that will enhance communication and interpreting interactions.

Participants' Prerequisites

This module assumes that the participants are familiar with the concepts of human diversity theory introduced in the General Multicultural Modules on Knowledge and Sensitivity.

Instructor Qualifications

The instructor should possess:

- A high level of comfort addressing racial, ethnic, cultural, and other issues of diversity related to Asian American/Pacific Islander groups and guiding participants through the process of presenting fair and unbiased classroom discussions.

- A strong working cultural knowledge and background in both interpersonal and interpreting experiences within the Asian American/Pacific Islander communities both Deaf and Hearing.

- An ability to recruit and develop a diverse pool of community resources, instructional materials, and presenters to represent both Deaf and Hearing issues from within these diverse communities.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify and explore the diversity of cultural communities and identities encompassed by the terms Asian American and Pacific Islander.

2. Explore the processes of identity development of acculturation, enculturation, assimilation, and group bonding for Asian American/Pacific Islander D/deaf and hearing individuals and groups.

3. Recognize how historical context of the events of the past can influence the present, including the roots of stereotypes and discriminatory behaviors.

4. List the implications and impacts of demographics and geographic locations of Asian American/Pacific Islander communities in general and what is known regarding the percentage of D/deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind in those communities.

5. Identify and appreciate the positive contributions made by Asian American/Pacific Islanders both
6. Assess critically the stereotypes and broad generalizations of Asian Americans that lead to racism; and the impact that dominant United States culture has on individuals and groups.

7. Identify the impact of the core philosophies and practices of Eastern cultures and religions on individual behavior.

8. Explore the impact of Eastern philosophy on the world view and cultural attitudes, values, and behaviors that can affect interpreting situations.

9. Recognize and comprehend patterns of language usage, and culturally specific terminologies, including the highly denotative and connotative emotional content of specific cultural vocabularies.

10. Recognize, respect, and attend to common cultural norms, cognitive styles, social protocols, and cultural taboos that can affect communication in interpreting situations.

11. Recognize the implications of traditional and contemporary gender roles, class, and status in community life.

12. Compare and contrast traditional healing and medical practices from an Eastern perspective to a Western perspective of medical and mental health services.

13. Identify some of the common culturally specific attire, food, celebrations, holidays, events and the expected appropriate social behaviors for participation in these events.

14. Identify educational, social, legal, and political trends in the United States that effect Asian American/Pacific Islanders and their individual and collective access to services.

15. Demonstrate appropriate cultural and linguistic adjustment behaviors for establishing rapport, and participation at a variety of Asian American/Pacific Islander private and public events.
# Topic Outline

## I. Asian American/Pacific Islander Cultural Terminology

A. Diversity and complexity of identity and labels for Asian American and Pacific Islanders  
B. Preferred usage of terms for Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the United States  
C. Pejorative terms and disrespectful usage of words  
D. Frequently used terms and acronyms

## II. Asian American/Pacific Islander Historical Perspectives and Demographics

A. Key immigration laws - “antimiscegenation laws”  
B. Generational cohorts and acculturation - 6th generation vs. recent immigrants  
C. Differences in educational and class status between immigrant groups  
D. Voluntary immigration versus refugees status  
E. Asian/Pacific Islander patterns of immigration and United States relationships  
   1. Pacific Island  
   2. Japanese  
   3. Chinese  
   4. Korean  
   5. Filipino  
   6. Southeast Asian  
   7. Cambodians and Mien  
   8. Thai

## III. Current Demographics of Asian American/Pacific Islander Communities

A. Current 1990 demographics of Asian American/Pacific Islander communities  
B. Projected 2000 demographics of Asian American/Pacific Islander communities  
C. Impact on the interpreting field

## IV. Positive Contributions of Asian American/Pacific Islander Communities

A. Sources of negative portrayal and stereotypes - “Myth of the Model Minority”  
B. Positive contributions of Asian American/Pacific Islander communities  
C. Regional contributions - research locally  
D. Local contributions - research locally  
E. Asian American/Pacific Islander role models  
F. Asian American/Pacific Islander Deaf role models  
G. Prominent Asian Deaf community members  
H. Asian American and Pacific Islander Deaf community organizations

## V. Traditional Asian/Pacific Islander Spiritual Practices

A. Asian philosophies and religions  
   1. Taoism  
   2. Confucianism  
   3. Buddhism  
   4. Zen Buddhism  
   5. Shintoism  
   6. Hinduism  
   7. Animism  
   8. Islam  
   9. Influences of Christianity
B. Asian countries and their patterns of practice

VI. Eastern World View and Cultural Values

A. Eastern views contrasted to western world views and orientations
B. Common Asian attitudes, values, and beliefs
   1. Concepts of harmony, silence, and indirectness
   2. Concepts of fatalism and destiny - what can and cannot be changed
   3. Self abnegation and group loyalty
   4. Respect for parents and authority
   5. Concept of reciprocity
   6. National and ethnic culturally specific behaviors

VII. Asian American/Pacific Islander Language Use and Cultural Vocabularies

A. Asian American/Pacific Islander language use and discourse patterns
B. Asian American/Pacific Islander discourse patterns
C. Asian cultural communication patterns
   1. Indirect communication
   2. Silence
   3. Harmonious relationships
   4. Non-verbal behaviors and gestures
D. Oral and written traditions
E. Connotation and denotation of specific English vocabulary items
F. Specific cultural vocabularies, ASL vocabularies and signs
G. Asian American and Pacific Islander Deaf native sign languages
   1. Japanese Sign Language (JSL)
   2. British Sign Language (BSL)
   3. Chinese Sign Languages - Taiwanese (TSL), Mandarin, Cantonese
   4. Korean Sign Language - KSL
   5. Use of SEE based systems
   6. Other signed and written languages used by Asian American/Pacific Islanders

VIII. Cultural Social Norms and Cultural Taboos

A. Formality and informality - social distance is valued as a sign of respect
B. Use of space
   1. Indication of status and authority
   2. Personal living space
C. Cultural thinking styles
D. Decision making, problem solving, and work styles
E. Social behaviors, protocols, and taboos
F. Physical touch

IX. Traditional Asian/Pacific Island Identity, Roles, and Status in Community Life

A. Contemporary trends of assimilation and enculturation
B. Individual versus group cultural variables
   1. National origin of individual or family
   2. Ethnicity and cultural affiliation
   3. Degrees of assimilation and numbers of generations in the United States
   4. Religious affiliations
   5. Immigration factors - voluntary immigrant or refugee status
   6. Individual personality, abilities, and cultural upbringing
C. Description of traditional family hierarchy
   1. View of ancestors and grandparents
   2. Role of father
   3. Role of mother
   4. Hierarchy and birth order of children
D. Respect for authority and age
E. Expectations for “bestowing of honor” and expectations
F. Economic and class identification status
G. Interactions with non-Asians

X. Traditional Asian/Pacific Island Medical Healing Practices
   A. Chinese traditional medicines
   B. Herbal medicines
   C. Acupuncture
   D. Ayurvedic medicine

XI. Asian American/Pacific Islander Education Values and Trends
   A. Traditional cultural value of education and teachers
   B. Traditional compared to United States practices and classroom interactions
   C. Education of Asian American/Pacific Islander Deaf individuals
   D. English acquisition by foreign born persons

XII. Asian American/Pacific Islander Ceremonies and Community Events
    A. Importance of ethnic cuisines
    B. Celebrations and cultural events
    C. Participation at Asian cultural events

XIII. Contemporary Asian American/Pacific Islander Patterns and Issues in the United States
    A. Contemporary patterns of acculturation and assimilation
    B. Peoples of Hawaii and Pacific Islanders as “indigenous” people
    C. Interracial and intermarriage issues among Asian peoples
    D. Contemporary and changing roles for women
    E. Social Issues
       1. Social, counseling and mental health issues of Southeast refugees
       2. Housing problems in urban areas
       3. Personal stress and conflict
    F. Adoptions of Asian children by non-Asians
    G. Current issues

Lecture Notes and Materials - See Attached

Handout Materials and Quotes - See Attached
Suggested Learning Activities

1. Invite Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders both Deaf and/or Hearing to be guest lecturers to discuss specific topics from the outline.

2. Show videotapes of Asian American and Pacific Islander Deaf from NMIP and other sources and have a moderated discussion to identify cultural and linguistic features.

3. Invite a panel of Asian American and/or Pacific Islander participants and/or Asian Deaf Community members.

4. Have a field trip to a local or regional Asian American or Pacific Islander cultural center or event.

5. Attend an Asian Community’s New Year’s Celebration.

6. Teach a unit on Japanese (JSL), or other sign Language; or conduct a sign language research documentation project with a local Deaf student.

7. Establish cultural relationships and mentorships between Asian American or Pacific Islander groups and students to include both student and community organizations, Deaf and Hearing groups. This will assist individuals to create opportunities to attend Asian community events; to develop access to cultural informants, and/or to develop team interpreter opportunities.

8. Create a connection to the National Asian Deaf Congress or other urban organizational group. Research their web site, read their newsletter, and attend local planning meetings, regional and/or national conferences. Contact NADC to see if any NADC members live in your area.

9. Read books/authors related to the selected topics. Keep a reflection diary or journal, record cultural insights, values expressed, and new vocabulary and cultural concepts.

10. Critique a “Hollywood” movie to identify stereotypes and cultural inaccuracies; compare to an Asian directed or produced film or documentary.

11. Write a paper focusing on Asian American/Pacific Islander issues. Compare and contrast the Asian Deaf Community to mainstream American Deaf Culture. Example compare and contrast “Asian group” behavior and loyalty to “Deaf” community connections and loyalties.

12. Research and create a resource guide of organizations, cultural centers, newsletters, web sites of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and groups in your community, state or region.

Instructor Curriculum Resources

Books


Hmong Youth Cultural Awareness Project (1994). *A free people: Our stories, our voices, our dreams*. The Hmong Youth Cultural Awareness Project.


**Articles**


Chang, D. Saying Yes (Poem). Source Unknown.


Hong, T. 100 most influential Asian Americans of the decade. 10th Anniversary Issue. A Magazine.


**Instructional Videotapes and Films**

**NMIP Videotapes**

El Paso Community College (1996). We Are Here - Focusing on Solutions [Videotape]. El Paso, TX: El Paso Community College. (ASL/English with English voiceover)


Other Available Videotapes


Commercial Movies

“Come See Paradise”
“Double Happiness”
“Joy Luck Club”
“Pushing Hands”
“Rising Sun”
“Shall We Dance”
“The Funeral”

Books - Non Fiction

Barry, Dave, *Dave Barry Does Japan*
Houston, Jeanne, *Farewell to Manzanar*
Kessler, Lauren, *Stubborn Twig*
Kitano, Harry, *Japanese Americans: the Evolution of a Subculture*
Lee, Joann, Faung Jean, *Asian Americans [oral histories]*
Mura, David, *Turning Japanese, Memoirs of a Sansei*
Spence, Jonathan, *History of Modern China*
Takaki, Ronald, *Strangers from a Different Shore*
Wong, Maria, *Growing up Asian American*
Books - Fiction

Yep, Lawrence, *American Dragons*

Clavell, James, *Gaijin*
Guterson, David, *Snow Falling on Cedar*
Hersey, John R., *Hiroshima*
Rae-Lee, Chang, *A Gesture Life*
Rae-Lee, Chang, *Native Speaker*
Steele, Danielle, *Silent Honor*
Tan, Amy, *Hundred Secret Senses*
Tan, Amy, *Joy Luck Club*
Tan, Amy, *Kitchen God’s Wife*
Wong, Shawn, *American Knees*
Yep, Lawrence, *Dragon Wings*

Other Resources

Organizational and Community Cultural Resources

Interpreter Training Program:
Kapi‘olani Community College
4303 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
1101 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #601
Washington, DC 20036

East West Cultural Center
University of San Diego

National Asian Organizations

Asian and Pacific Americans in Higher Education
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
Japanese Americans League
Korean American Coalition
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics
National Association for the Education and Advancement of Cambodian, Laotian & Vietnamese Americans
National Federation of Filipino American Associations
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
Native Hawaiian Community Based Educational Learning Centers & Native Hawaiian Vocational Education Project
Organization of Chinese Americans

National Deaf Asian Organizations

National Asian Deaf Congress
C/o NADC Treasurer
Post Office Box 78
Dekalb, Ill. 60115
Website - [www.nadc-usa.org](http://www.nadc-usa.org)
2000 President - Cynthia Plue, PhD
See NADC Website for NADC Chapters and Up to Date Contact Information:

BAADA - Bay Area Asian Deaf Association
CADA - Chicagoland Asian Deaf Association
DPR - Deaf of the Pacific Rim
GWADA - Greater Washington Asian Deaf Association
LADHC - Los Angeles Asian Deaf and Hard of Hearing Chapter

NADC Affiliates:

Asian Deaf Club - NTID/Rochester Institute of Technology
Asian Pacific Association - Gallaudet University

ADANE - Asian Deaf Association of New England

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.
327 East Second Street
Suite 226
Los Angeles, California 90012-4210
Phone: 213-485-1422
FAX: 213-485-0050
Email: leap90012@aol.com

Publications

A. Magazine, produced by "new generation" Asians, California

NADC Newsletter

Journal of GWAADA - Newsletter
Post Office Box 23813
Washington, D. C. 20026-3813

Trikone Magazine - Sankrit for “triangle” a gay/lesbian/bisexual and transgendered community magazine for people of Southeast Asian heritage
www.trikone.org

The Empty Vessel - A Journal of Contemporary Taoism
E-Mail solala@abodetao.com

Web Sites

www.nadc-usa.org - National Asian Deaf Congress
www.askasia.org - An educators resource site
www.jacl.org - Japanese American Citizens League
www.ocanatl.org - Organization of Chinese Americans
www.gapa.org - Gay Asian Pacific Islander Association
www.deaflibrary.org - Deaf resource library with links to Asian Deaf groups