

COURSE

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constructed Asian identity from the 1870s to the present," Aoki said. "Under American law, many different cases have tended to cast Asians as outsiders, as a threat."

Aoki said the most significant example of this was the Japanese internment of World War II, in which Japanese-American citizens living on the West Coast were placed in inland internment camps.

Another example, Aoki said, is the "model minority" myth, in which Asians are portrayed as a minority group that doesn't necessarily need assistance.

He said this prevents coalitions between different groups, for example, Asian-Americans and African-Americans.

"The point of the class is to find out how we can talk about race relations to build coalitions across ethnic lines," Aoki said.

To do this, he plans to study cases on topics including San Francisco's Chinese laundries of the 1870s, the Japanese internment and university admission limits on Asians.

In addition to the legal aspects of the class, Aoki plans to introduce a historical component as well with readings that include the Asian and non-Asian points of view.

His decision to teach the class came from a suggestion from Sumi Cho, an assistant professor currently on leave, and the critical race theory move-

ment, a way of looking at race and law that he said had considerable influence on his thinking.

"It's a criticism of the traditional legal view that says incidents of racism are aberrations," Aoki said, describing critical race theory.

He said, under this theory, racial incidents are part of a pattern of institutional practices that reproduce themselves.

"You have this microcosmic thing (a racial incident) happening," he said. "How does it fit into the big picture?"

Aoki said he may also use video images of Asians to illustrate changing stereotypes.

These stereotypes include figures like the benign Charlie Chan, compared to the more sinister Fu Manchu, who emerged in the 1930s, with increasing tension between the United States and China.

Economic tension with Japan in the 1980s led to movies like *Black Rain* and, more recently, *Rising Sun*, based on a book by Michael Crichton.

"He (Crichton) is playing with images deeply rooted in the American psyche," Aoki said. "When you feel threatened, you have this stereotype and people react to the stereotype and not the person."

Aoki said his class is intended not only for Asian-Americans, but for anyone interested in race relations in the 1990s.

"I'm not trying to discount the African-American experience," he said. "That's influenced every other group's experience. I'm trying to deepen that by tying in other groups."

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Academic Calendar

Fall Semester 1994

- ☛ August 18-19: Registration
- ☛ August 22: Classes begin
- ☛ September 5: Labor Day
- ☛ November 24 to 27: Thanksgiving vacation
- ☛ December 5 to 16: Finals
- ☛ December 16: Fall semester ends

Spring Semester 1995

- ☛ January 9: Registration
- ☛ January 10: Classes begin
- ☛ January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ☛ March 20 to 26: Spring vacation
- ☛ April 28 to May 10: Spring semester ends
- ☛ May 14: Commencement

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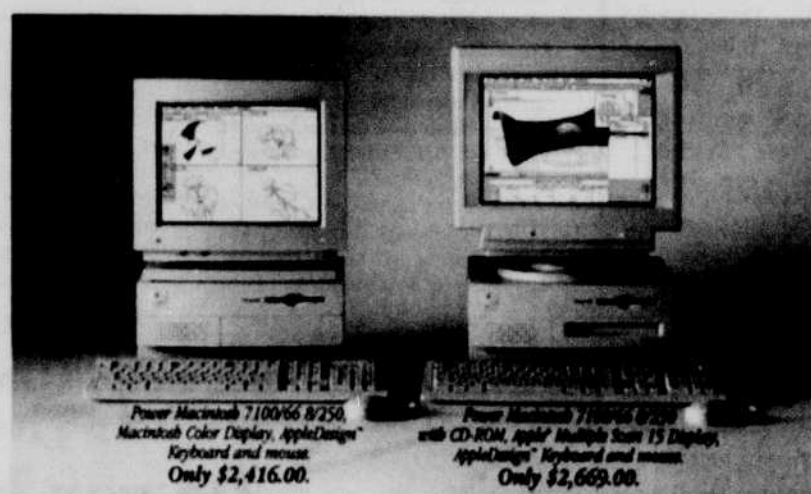
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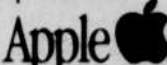


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