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:


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 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”

   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.

   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.

   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

Dec 14. Week Thirteen - Summary and Presentations