Emily Balch Seminar: Asian American Popular Culture

Paper Two: Comparative Paper (10 points total)
Length: 3-4 pages (please observe the page limit)
DUE: Friday, 10/22 uploaded to Moodle by midnight

This second short paper asks you to continue the work of close reading by either writing a **comparative analysis** or by writing a paper that engages with a **secondary source.** Note: while it is okay to revisit passages and conversations we have covered in our class, please keep in mind that your own paper must offer a unique angle, rather than simply repeating our class discussions.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: Choose two short passages either from one of the texts we read/watched/listened to AFTER Paisley Rekdal, OR from two separate works after Rekdal. You should make an argument based on a comparative analysis of the passages in which you examine their similarities and differences. In setting up your paper, you may consider:

1. Choosing one passage each from two different works that offer contrasting depictions of a similar subject. What is the significance of the differences that you identify? Rather than arguing that one is somehow a "better" representation than the other, consider how they complicate each other and/or our understanding of the topic.
2. Choose two passages from one work that track an important transformation or development. What changes between these passages, and why? How do these passages trace this shift? Why is this change important?

SECONDARY SOURCE: Write a close reading that incorporates Edward Said's "Orientalism" or Marianne Hirsch's "postmemory."

Paper format:

- Double-spaced
- 12-point font
- 1-inch margins
- MLA parenthetical text citations:
  https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_quotations.html

Resources:

Should you need additional help composing your essay, you are encouraged to make appointments with Bryn Mawr's Writing Center: https://brynmawr.mywconline.com/

Paper guidelines:

SCOPE

- ☐ Does not just summarize or describe
- ☐ Avoids generalizations (e.g. "In this work, nature is cruel")
- ☐ Has stakes for how we interpret the text as a whole

EVIDENCE

- ☐ The paper provides an appropriate distribution of direct quotations from the text(s) that are supported by original commentary

ORGANIZATION

- ☐ The paper is structured logically (introduction, body paragraphs, concluding thoughts)
- ☐ The paper has clear topic sentences
- ☐ The paper avoids repeating itself

STYLE

- ☐ The paper has an absence of grammatical and mechanical errors
- ☐ The paper follows all formatting instructions