Course Facilitators:
Morgan Fong (fong.morgan@berkeley.edu)

Time and Location
● TBD

Course Purpose
As a result of taking this course, students will learn the history behind the art of taiko (traditional Japanese drumming) in North America, as well as learning basic stance and hitting technique, multiple styles of playing, and the oral traditions of song learning/teaching. In addition, they will learn of the historical roots of taiko in Japan. This study of taiko’s history will compare and contrast the experiences of its Japanese and Japanese American practitioners, and examine taiko’s role in each respective culture.

Grading Rubric
Student grades will be broken down as follows:
● 50% Attendance - 2 unexcused absences allowed
● 20% Final Performance - preparedness, participation
● 20% 3 Papers
● 10% Weekly Homework
As this is a P/NP course, any student achieving a final grade of at least 70% will receive a passing grade.

Lesson Structure
Classes will generally consist of about 45 minutes of discussion and around 1 hour of practice learning taiko drumming.

Readings
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/17</td>
<td>First week of instruction - no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/24</td>
<td>Infosession</td>
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| 3    | 1/31 | Playing: Introduction to upright form - stance, basic hitting technique, kuchishouka  
Discussion: History of Taiko in Japan, Introduction to Ensemble Taiko  
Homework: Read *Taiko Boom* Chap. 5 and fill out reading response |
| 4    | 2/7  | Playing: Practice upright form, Drill 1 (kuchishouka call and response); kiai  
Discussion: Discussion of roots of Kodo/Ensemble Taiko, definitions of "genre," "tradition," "folk"  
Homework: Read *Taiko Boom* Chap. 6 and fill out reading response |
| 5    | 2/14 | Playing: Drill 2 (Basic Form Drill), practice kiai, endurance  
Begin “Renshuu Daiko”  
Discussion: Discussion of women in taiko in the context of Japan  
Homework: Read *Taiko Boom* Chap. 7 and fill out reading response |
| 6    | 2/21 | Playing: Review upright form  
Continue “Renshuu Daiko”  
Discussion: Discussion of history/context of taiko in Japan.  
Paper #1: Pick one of the papers/chapters discussed in class so far and relate the author’s point to the bigger picture/implications. |
| 7    | 2/28 | Playing: Review “Renshuu Daiko”  
Introduce soloing and improvisation, soloing to different backbeats  
Introduce song composition  
Discussion: History of Taiko in America  
Homework: Look up San Jose Taiko and think of questions to ask Roy and PJ |
| 8    | 3/7  | Playing: Small group songwriting  
Discussion: Presentation with Roy and PJ  
Homework: Read “She’s Really Become Japanese Now!” and fill out reading response |
| 9    | 3/14 | Playing: Continue writing songs in small groups  
Discussion: Discuss Asian American identity and role of taiko in identity  
Homework: Read “Asian Masculinities” (before parodies) and fill out reading response  
Post-reading - Reaction to reading |
<p>| 10   | 3/21 | Playing: Practice songs, and perform to each other |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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| 4/4  | Playing: Introduce slant form: stance, hitting  
Discussion: None  
Homework: Read “Asian Masculinities” (parody section) and fill out reading response |
| 4/11 | Playing: Review slant form, Introduce “Matsuri”  
Discussion: Discuss reading, Introduce collegiate taiko  
Paper #2: Pick one of the papers/chapters discussed in class so far and relate the author’s point to the bigger picture/implications. |
| 4/18 | Playing: Continue “Matsuri,” work on solos  
Discussion: Discuss collegiate taiko and implications from all readings so far  
Homework: Review song material |
| 4/25 | Playing: Prepare for final recital, run through “Renshuu Daiko” and “Matsuri”  
Discussion: None  
Homework: Practice songs for performance  
Paper #3: Compare/contrast taiko in Japan vs. North America in terms of historical roots, use in identity (gender and race implications), definition of genre/tradition |
| 5/2  | Final class - recital for friends (final project) |