Asian-American Studies

The minor in Asian-American studies is designed to enrich critical understanding about both individual experiences and collective histories of Asian Americans in regional, national and transnational contexts. As an inter- and multidisciplinary program, it underlines transnational contexts and comparative perspectives for the study of Asian-American experiences. Through promoting knowledge and understanding of a wide range of Asian-American individuals and groups in teaching and research, the minor provides new classroom opportunities for undergraduate students to explore Asian-American experiences; enhances communication and collaboration among various cultural, ethnic and racial groups; and facilitates intellectual exchanges and broadens academic inquiries on the subjects of migration, ethnicity and race across different disciplines and programs at Washington University, including American Culture Studies; East Asian Studies and South Asian Studies; African and African-American Studies; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and American Indian Studies.

The minor in Asian-American studies can nicely complement a major in American culture studies; East Asian studies/East Asian languages and cultures; English; history; international and area studies; sociology and other fields. Because the questions that animate Asian-American studies span disciplinary boundaries, the minor will inspire students to draw on the methods and insights of multiple disciplines to engage complex, real-world problems that necessitate interdisciplinary thinking. Situated in the larger context of the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, the minor in Asian-American studies is an integral part of diversity and inclusion initiatives at Washington University for nurturing a culturally inclusive and academically stimulating environment.

An independent minor, Asian-American studies is administered by International and Area Studies.

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Majors

There is no major in Asian-American studies.

Minors

The Minor in Asian-American Studies

Total units required: 18 (at least 12 units must be at the 300 level or above)

Requirements:

• 3 credits of Introductory course work  
• 3 credits of Asian-American Focus course work  
• 6 credits of Multiethnic and Transnational Focus course work  
• 6 credits of Context course work

Regulations:

• In general, students should complete one introductory course prior to pursuing Asian-American Focus courses and Multiethnic and Transnational courses.
• All advanced units must be unique to the Asian-American studies minor (i.e., not counted toward any other major or minor).

**Introductory courses**

Choose one from this list; 3 credits, any level:

• Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: An Introduction to Asian-American Literature and Its Spatial Politics (L14 E Lit 302) (annually)
• Freedom, Citizenship and the Making of American Life (History 163) (annually)
• Freshman Seminar — Chinatown: Migration, Identity and Space (IAS 135) (annually)

**Asian-American Focus courses**

Choose one from this list; 3 credits, any level:

• Asian and Pacific Island America: Identity, Diversity, and Social Change (AMCS 250) (annually)
• Topics in American Literature: Imagining Multi-Racial Coalitions (E Lit 423) (every 1 or 2 years)
• "Model Minority": The Asian-American Experience (IAS 3512) (annually)

**Multiethnic and Transnational Focus courses**

Choose any two from these two lists; 6 credits, any level:

1. **Asian Americans in a Multiethnic/Multiracial Perspective**
   - Topics in English Literature: Growing Up “Different”: The Bildungsroman in a Diversifying America (E Lit 317) (annually)
   - Children of Immigrants: Identity and Acculturation (IAS 4036) (annually)

2. **Asian Diasporas in a Transnational Perspective**
   - Writing from the Periphery: The Question of Chineseness (Comp Lit 449) (unpredictable)
   - Topics in Comparative Literature I: The Trope of "China" in the Imagination of the Chinese Diaspora (East Asia 3751) (unpredictable)
   - The Chinese Diaspora to 1949 (History 3165) (every 2 years)

**Context courses**

Choose one from each category; 6 credits total, any level:

1. **Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity**
   - Rainbow Radicalisms!: Ethnic Nationalism(s), the 1960s and the Politics of the New Left (AFAS 401) (unpredictable)
   - The Immigrant Experience (AMCS 202) (every 1 to 2 years)

2. **East Asian Studies and South Asian Studies**
   - Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society (Anthro 3055) (unpredictable)
   - Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature (Chinese 342) (annually)
   - Topics in East Asian Studies: Sino-American Relations since 1949 (East Asia 3263) (every 2 years)
   - Freshman Seminar: The Meaning of Pakistan: History, Culture, Art (History 2157) (every 1 or 2 years)
   - Early Modern China: 1350-1800 (History 3162) (every 1 or 2 years)
   - 19th-Century China: Violence and Transformation (History 331) (every 2 years)
   - Modern China: 1890s to the Present (L22 History 316C, U16 Hist 3100) (annually)
   - Modern South Asia (History 3192) (every 2 years)
   - Japan Since 1868 (History 320C) (every 1 or 2 years)
   - Sophomore Seminar: Globalization and Its Discontents (IAS 270) (unpredictable)
   - From McDonald's to K-Pop: New Movements in East Asia (IAS 3822) (annually)
   - The Modern Voice in Japanese Literature (Japan 333C) (annually)
   - Topics in Politics: Modern South Asian Politics (Pol Sci 3292) (unpredictable)

*Discontinued courses*

The following courses offered in 2015 were discontinued. Their credits are equivalent to Introductory courses.

- Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: The Routes and Horizons of Asian-American Literature (L14 E Lit 461)
- Introduction to Asian-American History (L22 History 3059)
Courses

Please refer to the Minors section of this page.