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:

• First-Year Seminar: Easy Riders, Migrant Laborers: American Mobility in Literature and Film (E Lit 160) (unpredictable)
• Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: An Introduction to Asian American Literature and Its Spatial Politics (E Lit 302) (annually)
• Freedom, Citizenship and the Making of American Life (History 163) (annually)
• First-Year 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)
• Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: An Introduction to Asian American Literature and Its Spatial Politics (E Lit 302) (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

• Finding China: From Sojourners to Settlers in the Chinese Diaspora and Chinese American Literature (Comp Lit 375) (unpredictable)
• The Trope of “China” in the Imagination of the Chinese Diaspora (Comp Lit 375) (unpredictable)
• Writing from the Periphery: The Question of Chineseness (Comp Lit 449) (unpredictable)
• Chinese Diasporas: A Social History of Global Migration (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)
• Race & Ethnic Relations in the United States (AMCS 3296) (annually)
• Neighborhoods, Schools and Social Inequality (Educ 4289) (unpredictable)
• Visualizing Segregation: A History of St. Louis, Chicago and New Orleans (L22 History 306M, U16 InterD 306M) (unpredictable)
• Immigration Law (W74 Law 630) (every 1 to 2 years)
• Race and Ethnicity in American Politics (Pol Sci 3031) (unpredictable)
• The Roots of Ferguson: Understanding Racial Inequality in the Contemporary U.S. (SOC 2010) (every 1 to 2 years)
• Social Inequality in America (SOC 2110) (unpredictable)
• The Social Construction of Race (SOC 3212) (unpredictable)
• Sociology of Immigration (SOC 3710) (unpredictable)

(2) East Asian Studies and South Asian Studies

• Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society (Anthro 3055) (unpredictable)
• Introduction to Asian Art (Art-Arch 111) (annually)
• Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature (Chinese 342) (annually)
• Topics in East Asian Studies: Sino-American Relations since 1949 (East Asia 3263) (every 2 years)
• First-Year Seminar: The Meaning of Pakistan: History, Culture, Art (History 2157) (every 1 or 2 years)
• Early Modern China (History 3162) (every 1 or 2 years)
• Modern China: 1890s to the Present (L22 History 316C, U16 Hist 3100) (annually)
• Japan Since 1868 (L22 History 320C) (every 1 or 2 years)
• 19th-Century China: Violence and Transformation (History 331) (every 2 years)
• Globalization and its Discontents (History 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.