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.

Contact: Linling Gao-Miles  
Phone: 314-935-3163  
Email: llxu@wustl.edu

Faculty Coordinator  
Linling Gao-Miles  
Lecturer, International and Area Studies  
PhD, Nagoya University, Japan

Affiliated Faculty  
Iver Bernstein  
Professor, Department of History  
PhD, Yale University  
Shefali Chandra  
Associate Professor, Department of History  
PhD, University of Pennsylvania  
Letty Chen  
Associate Professor, Modern Chinese Language and Literature  
PhD, Columbia University  
Jordache Ellapan  
Postdoctoral Fellow, African and African-American Studies  
PhD, Indiana University  
Long Le-Khac  
Assistant Professor, Department of English  
PhD, Stanford University  
Linda Lindsey  
Lecturer, American Culture Studies  
PhD, Case Western Reserve University  
Steven Miles  
Associate Professor, Department of History  
PhD, University of Washington

Librarian  
Tony Chang  
East Asian Librarian

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:

- 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)
- Globalization and its Discontents (History 270) (unpredictable)
- From McDonald's to K-Pop: New Movements in East Asia (IAS 3822) (unpredictable)
- 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.