Asian-American Studies

The minor in Asian-American Studies is designed to enrich critical understanding of both the individual experiences and collective histories of Asian Americans in regional, national and transnational contexts. As an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary program, it underlines transnational contexts and comparative perspectives for the study of Asian-American experiences. By promoting knowledge and understanding of a wide range of Asian-American individuals and groups through teaching and research, the minor aims to provide new classroom opportunities for undergraduate students to explore Asian-American experiences. It intends to enhance communication and collaboration among various cultural, ethnic and racial groups; to facilitate intellectual exchanges; and to broaden academic inquiries on the subjects of migration, ethnicity and race across different disciplines and programs at Washington University. Involved departments include 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 with complex real-world problems that necessitate interdisciplinary thinking. The minor in Asian-American Studies is situated within the larger context of the university’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, so it is an integral part of the diversity and inclusion initiatives at Washington University that nurture a culturally and academically stimulating environment.

The Asian-American Studies minor is an independent minor 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 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).
- All courses counting toward the Asian-American Studies minor must be taken for a letter grade, and students must receive a grade of C+ or higher.
- Students may use a study abroad course on any subject in Asian Studies to fulfill the “Asian Studies” category requirement. Such courses must be approved by the study abroad adviser for the Asian-American Studies 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 313) (annually)
- Freedom, Citizenship and the Making of American Life (History 163) (annually)
- First-Year Seminar: The Meaning of Pakistan: History, Culture, Art (History 2157) (every 1 or 2 years)
- First-Year Seminar: Chinatown: Migration, Identity, and Space (IAS 135) (annually)
- First-Year Seminar: Beyond the Melting Pot: Life in Immigrant America (SOC 2710) (unpredictable)

Asian-American Focus Courses

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

- Doctors and Terrorists: The Fictions of South Asian Americans (AAS 200) (every 2 years)
- 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 313) (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 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) Global Asia and Asian Diasporas in a Transnational Perspective

- Finding China: From Sojourners to Settlers in the Chinese Diaspora and Chinese American Literature (Comp Lit 375) (unpredictable)
- Topics in Comparative Literature I: 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)
- Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia and the World (WI) (History 39SC) (every 1 or 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 4121) (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 (INTER D 306M) (unpredictable)
- Immigration Law (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 2110) (every 1 to 2 years)
- Social Inequality in America (SOC 3212) (unpredictable)
- The Social Construction of Race (SOC 3710) (unpredictable)

(2) Asian Studies

- Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society (Anthro 3055) (unpredictable)
- Introduction to Asian Art (Art-Arch 111) (annually)
- Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art (Art-Arch 3426) (unpredictable)
- The Three Emperors: Redefining Chinese Art in the Golden Age (Art-Arch 4489) (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)
• First-Year Seminar: The Meaning of Pakistan: History, Culture, Art (History 2157) (every 1 or 2 years)
• Globalization and Its Discontents (History 270) (unpredictable)
• Early Modern China (History 3162) (every 1 or 2 years)
• Modern China: 1890s to the Present (History 316C) (annually)
• Japan Since 1868 (History 320C) (every 1 or 2 years)
• 19th-Century China: Violence and Transformation (History 331) (every 2 years)
• Advanced Seminar: Incredible India! (History 49SC) (unpredictable)
• First-Year Seminar: The Vietnam Wars (IAS 111) (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)

Courses

Please refer to the Minors (p. 1) section of this page.