Asian American Studies

The minor in Asian American Studies is designed to enrich students’ critical understanding of both the individual experiences and collective histories of Asian Americans in regional, national and transnational contexts. As an inter- and multi-disciplinary 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 Languages and Cultures; African and African-American Studies; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and more.

The minor in Asian American Studies can nicely complement a major in American Culture Studies, East Asian Languages and Cultures, English, Global Studies, History, 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 the diversity and inclusion initiatives at Washington University that nurture a culturally and academically stimulating environment.

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Faculty

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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 advisor 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 (L14 E Lit 160) (unpredictable offerings)
- Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: An Introduction to Asian American Literature and its Spatial Politics (E Lit 313) (offered annually)
- First-Year Seminar: Chinatown: Migration, Identity, and Space (GS 135) (offered annually)
- Freedom, Citizenship and the Making of American Life (History 163) (offered annually)
- First-Year Seminar: The Meaning of Pakistan: History, Culture, Art (History 2157) (offered every one or two years)
- First-Year Seminar: Beyond the Melting Pot: Life in Immigrant America (SOC 2710) (unpredictable offerings)

**Asian American Focus Courses**

Choose one from this list (3 credits, any level):

- Doctors and Terrorists: The Fictions of South Asian Americans (AAS 200) (offered every two years)
- Techno-Orientalism: Race, Media & Society (AAS 450) (unpredictable offerings)
- Topics in Asian American Studies: Introduction to Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies (L98 AMCS 250) (offered annually)
- Topics in Asian American Studies: Asian American Racial Scripts: Relational Concepts and Theories (AMCS 3520) (unpredictable offerings)
- Topics in Literature: Asian American Fictions: Space, Place, and the Makings of Asian America (E Lit 313) (offered annually)
- Topics in Literature: Asian American Writings: Contesting American Constructions of the Alien Other (E Lit 313) (offered annually)
- Topics in Literature: Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: An Introduction to Asian American Literature and Its Spatial Politics (E Lit 313) (offered annually)

• Topics in American Literature: Imagining Multiracial Coalitions (E Lit 423) (offered every one or two years)
• "Model Minority": The Asian American Experience (GS 3512) (offered annually)

**Multiethnic and Transnational Courses**

Choose any two from these two lists (6 credits total, 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) (offered annually)
- The Multiethnic Graphic Novel in 20th- and 21st-Century American Popular Culture (E Lit 3524) (unpredictable offerings)
- Topics in Literature: Queer Youth: LGBTQ Narratives of Coming-of-Age and Coming Out in North America (E Lit 4621) (unpredictable offerings)
- Children of Immigrants: Identity and Acculturation (GS 4036) (offered annually)

(2) **Global Asia and Asian Diasporas in a Transnational Perspective**

- Collecting Art/Excluding People: The Contradictions of Chinese Art in U.S. Museums (Art-Arch 144) (offered every two to three years)
- Finding China: From Sojourners to Settlers in the Chinese Diaspora and Chinese American Literature (Comp Lit 375) (unpredictable offerings)
- Topics in Comparative Literature I: The Trope of "China" in the Imagination of the Chinese Diaspora (Comp Lit 375) (unpredictable offerings)
- Writing From the Periphery: The Question of Chineseness (Comp Lit 449) (unpredictable offerings)
- Chinese Diasporas (History 3165) (offered every two years)
- Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia and the World (WI) (History 395C) (offered every one or two years)
- Caste: Globalization, Sexuality and Race (WGSS 366) (unpredictable offerings)

**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 (L90 AFAS 4121) (unpredictable offerings)
- The Immigrant Experience (AMCS 202) (offered every one or two years)
- Global Circuits: Religion, Race, Empire (AMCS 3148) (unpredictable offerings)
Courses

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