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 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, 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 with 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.

The Asian-American Studies minor is an independent minor administered by Global Studies.

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Affiliated Faculty

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PhD, Columbia University

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 Multicultural 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 (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 one or two years)
• First-Year Seminar: Chinatown: Migration, Identity, and Space (GS (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 two years)
• Topics in Asian-American Studies: Introduction to Asian-American and Pacific Islander Studies (AMCS 250) (annually)
• Topics in Literature: Asian American Fictions: Space, Place, and the Makings of Asian America (E Lit 313) (annually)
• Topics in Literature: Asian American Writings: Contesting American Constructions of the Alien Other (E Lit 313) (annually)
• Topics in Literature: Ocean, Island, Ghetto, Globe: An Introduction to Asian-American Literature and Its Spatial Politics (E Lit 313) (annually)
• Topics in American Literature: Imagining Multiracial Coalitions (E Lit 423) (every one or two years)
• "Model Minority": The Asian American Experience (GS (IAS) 3512) (annually)
• Techno-Orientalism: Race, Media & Society (AAS 450) (unpredictable)

Multiethnic and Transnational Courses

Choose any two from these two lists (6 credits total, any level):
(1) Asian Americans in a Multiethnic/Multiracial Perspective
• Sophomore Seminar: American Dreams, American Nightmares: US Ethnic Literatures of Post-War Disillusionment (E Lit 250) (unpredictable)
• Topics in English Literature: Growing Up "Different": The Bildungsroman in a Diversifying America (E Lit 317) (annually)
• The Multiethnic Graphic Novel in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century American Popular Culture (E Lit 3524) (unpredictable)
• Children of Immigrants: Identity and Acculturation (GS (IAS) 4036) (annually)
• Topics in Literature: Queer Youth: LGBTQ Narratives of Coming-of-Age and Coming Out in North America (E Lit 4621) (unpredictable)

(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 (History 3165) (every two years)
• Imperialism and Sexuality: India, South Asia and the World (WI) (History 39SC) (every one or two 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 one or two years)
• Race & Ethnic Relations in the United States (AMCS 3296) (annually)
• Neighborhoods, Schools and Social Inequality (Educ 4289) (unpredictable)
• Histories of Intelligence: Topics in Science and Society (IPH 3451) (unpredictable)
• Visualizing Segregation: A History of St. Louis, Chicago and New Orleans (INTER D 306M) (unpredictable)
• Immigration Law (Law 630) (every one or two 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 one or two years)
• Social Inequality in America (SOC 2110) (unpredictable)
• The Social Construction of Race (SOC 3212) (unpredictable)
• Sociology of Immigration (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: US-China Relations, from 1800 to the Present (East Asia 3263) (every two years)
• First-Year Seminar: The Meaning of Pakistan: History, Culture, Art (History 2157) (every one or two years)
• Globalization and Its Discontents (History 270) (unpredictable)
• Early Modern China (History 3162) (every one or two years)
• Modern China: 1890s to the Present (History 316C) (annually)
• Japan Since 1868 (History 320C) (every one or two years)
• 19th-Century China: Violence and Transformation (History 331) (every two years)
• Advanced Seminar: Incredible India! (History 49SC) (unpredictable)
• First-Year Seminar: The Vietnam Wars (GS (IAS) 111) (unpredictable)
• From McDonald's to K-pop: New Movements in East Asia (GS (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.