
ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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The Asian American Studies Program (AASP) was established on the initiative of students and faculty in 1993. The AASP offers a range of courses to the entire Hunter College community, a minor in Asian American studies and extracurricular programs and events. The AASP contributes to the growing scholarship in the vital field of Asian American studies and serves as a resource for New York City's Asian communities and community-based organizations. Long before the modern age, Asian ports and cities were vital international crossroads. Today, we are witnessing an unprecedented circulation of Asian peoples and cultures throughout the world. What was formally called the Orient still struggles with the legacy of centuries of imperialism.

Asia today also grapples with the impact of globalization and growing inequities in economic and human development. Yet, the nations and cultures of Asia are in the process of transformation through the struggles of democratic movements, a proliferation of creativity and ideas, emigration, immigration and exchange at every level. As a result, Asia is global. Here in the U.S., Asian immigrants have become part of the history of the United States, redefining American culture and reconstituting American society.

The AASP at Hunter College benefits from its location in a global city with unmatched cultural and intellectual resources and a diverse and dynamic Asian population. Faculty and students are ideally positioned to become actively involved in a field at the forefront of contemporary research and scholarship and to contribute to the growth and development of Asian communities.

The AASP offers a minor in Asian American studies. The program draws its faculty and course offerings from traditional disciplines such as history, sociology, anthropology, political science, education and literature, as well as interdisciplinary fields such as Asian area studies, American ethnic studies, women's and gender studies, gay and lesbian studies, postcolonial studies, international human rights and policy studies. The AASP grounds its curriculum and extracurricular programs in the firm belief that the question of Asia can most adequately be addressed through an alliance of these areas and methods of study.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Minor

Students may minor in Asian American studies in consultation with their major advisers. A minor consists of 12 credits in Asian American studies. Contact the AASP office for a list of qualifying courses. An Asian American studies minor will enhance the degree and career of students. It provides them with special competence in the histories of diverse communities of Asia and Asian diasporas and the critical skills with which to understand complex social issues and rapid change. The AASP prepares students for careers in education, government and community organizations; for entrance to professional schools in areas such as law, social work and urban planning; and for graduate study and research in the social sciences and humanities.

Students majoring in nursing or the health sciences, psychology, political science, sociology, history, business, literature, art and many other areas would find Asian American studies useful, particularly when their interests include activities within Asian communities or issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans.



COURSE LISTINGS

INTRODUCTORY COURSE

ASIAN 210 Asians in the United States PD/B

This survey course studies the Asian American experience of discrimination and exclusion in the context of American historical racial, labor and foreign policy developments and the impact of the current rapid expansion of Asian American communities on America's social and political order.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

LITERATURE COURSES

ASIAN 220.01 Gender and Genre in Asian American Literature PD/B or C

Examines Asian American literary representations of gender and the bearing of national, class, sexual, generational and religious formations upon these representations.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

ASIAN 320.01 Nation, Self and Asian Identity PD/B

Literature of the Asian diaspora, including works of authors in the U.S., England, Canada, Brazil, Korea and the Caribbean.

prereq: ENGL 220

3 hrs, 3 cr.

SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

ASIAN 330.01 Chinese in the U.S. PD/B

History of the Chinese in the U.S. from the mid-19th century to the present examined in the context of American domestic political and economic changes, U.S.-China relations and the history of modern China.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

ASIAN 330.02 Korean Americans PD/B

Traces the historical development of Korean Americans in the U.S. through the examination of demographic and community characteristics, including family, religion, education and economy.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

ASIAN 330.03 South Asian Communities in the U.S. PD/B

Examines sociohistorical patterns in the spread of migration from the South Asian region — comprising countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — to communities in the U.S. and New York City in particular.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

ASIAN 330.04 Japanese in the United States PD/B

Analyzes issues pertinent to the lives and work of Japanese Americans, including emigration in the late 19th century; Issei immigrants and the formation of permanent ethnic communities in North America and in Hawaii; the WW II watershed era; postwar conditions and identity concerns of fifth-generation Japanese Americans.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

MEDIA COURSE

ASIAN 340.01 Asian Pacific American Media PD/B

Addresses Asian Pacific American experiences of assimilation, displacement, marginalization, multiculturalism and resistance to the cultural "norm" within Asian Pacific communities through screening a wide range of films and videos and reviewing critical and fictional writing. Guest artists may also lecture.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

HISTORY COURSE

ASIAN 351 Asian American History of Labor and Politics

This seminar explores the interconnected issues of race, class and nationality through the study of the history of Asian immigrant labor in the U.S. in the context of American economic needs and political environment.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

SEMINAR AND SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

ASIAN 390.01 International Migration PD/B

This interdisciplinary course examines the origins and processes of migration and settlement, past and present. Includes a series of lectures by leading scholars from a variety of academic fields and immigrant communities. Topics include: immigration and labor; race and gender; social and cultural identity; immigration policy and political action; transnationalization of education and family life.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

ASIAN 390.02 Asian American Civil Rights and the Law PD/B

Surveys major immigration and civil rights laws and Supreme Court cases which have affected Asians.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

ASIAN 491 Asian American Movement and Community Organizations

An analysis of the development of pan-ethnic Asian American consciousness and institutions since late 1960s, with a focus on this movement's impact on community organizations of Asian national sub-groups examined in the context of larger American racial and ethnic politics.

3 hrs, 3 cr.

Note: In addition to the courses listed, recently offered special topics courses include: Southeast Asians in Contemporary U.S. (ASIAN 330.07), Arab American Literature (ASIAN 220.04), Chinese North American Literature (ASIAN 320.04), Filipino American Literature (ASIAN 220.06), Asian American Family (ASIAN 241.00), Muslim Diasporas (ASIAN 330.08), Globalization and Gender (ASIAN 230.01), Asian American Feminism (ASIAN 390.11), Anthropology of Asian Diaspora (ASIAN 390.09), The English Language in South Asian Literature (ASIAN 390.10), among many others.