

# Asian American Studies

## Fall 2017 Courses

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### Courses that Fulfill Requirement #1

One introductory survey/foundation course on Asian American experiences with at least a third of its content on Asian American history.

- AAST 00194-02 (AMER 0182-01) Asian America ~ Jean Wu

### Courses that Fulfill Requirement #2

At least one course focused on race in which Asian American experiences are addressed in a sociopolitical context.

- AAST 0094-02 (AMER 0012- 01) Race In America ~ Jean Y Wu
- AAST 0094-03 (SOC 0011-01) Racial And Ethnic Minorities ~ Orly Clerge
- AAST 0094-05 (AMER 0010-01) Racial Politics & Urban Space ~ Tom Abowd
- AAST 0194-02 (AMER 0182-01) Asian America ~ Jean Wu
- AAST 0094-07 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ Michelle Holliday-Stocking

### Courses that Fulfill Requirement #3

At least one course with full or partial focus on Asian American experiences beyond the foundation.

- AAST 0094-02 (AMER 0012- 01) Race In America ~ Jean Y Wu
- AAST 0094-03 (SOC 0011-01) Racial And Ethnic Minorities ~ Orly Clerge
- AAST 0094-05 (AMER 0010-01) Racial Politics & Urban Space ~ Tom Abowd
- AAST 0194-02 (AMER 0182-01) Asian America ~ Jean Wu
- AAST 0094-07 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ Michelle Holliday-Stocking

### Courses that Fulfill Requirement #4

Students wishing to count these courses towards the minor in Asian American Studies must consult with the course instructor for permission to focus independent work (e.g. a paper) on an appropriate topic AND must get the course approved by the Asian American Studies director before taking the course. To do so, send a copy of the syllabus and short summary of the planned independent project to the Program Director.

- AAST 0062-01 (CSHD 0062-01) Childhood Across Cultures ~ Jayanthi Mistry
- AAST 0094-01 (HIST 0022-01) The Changing American Nation ~ Reed T Ueda
- AAST 0094-04 (REL 0042-01) Religion & Politics in American History ~ Heather D Curtis
- AAST 0194-05 (ENG 0191-02) Queer Diasporas ~ Christina Sharpe
- AAST 0194-07 (SOC 0113) Urban Sociology ~ Orly Clerge

## 5. Capstone Project or Course.

Two options to complete this requirement:

- i. Complete a capstone project under the guidance of an affiliated Asian American Studies faculty. The capstone project must be approved by the Program Director. To receive credit for the project, the student must enroll in AAST 0198 (Asian American Studies Capstone Project) and complete a one-on-one course form.
- ii. Take a sixth course from the one of the lists of approved courses above.

### **AAST 0193 Independent Study ~ Staff**

Students wishing to do an independent study must contact the director of the program for permission to enroll in the course.

# Course Descriptions

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## **AAST 0062-01 (CSHD 0062-01) Childhood Across Cultures ~ Jayanthi Mistry**

**TR | 10:30AM-11:45AM**

Intermediate-level study of child development, with emphasis on cultural perspectives integrating psychological and anthropological theory. Children's development examined across cultures and in the context of the various social institutions and settings within which they live.

## **AAST 0094-01 (HIST 0022-01) The Changing American Nation ~ Reed T Ueda**

**M | 09:00AM-11:30AM**

Population, society, and politics in U.S. History. Evolution from a former colony in the Atlantic World to a trans-continental industrialized urban nation - a globalized country on the Pacific Rim.

## **AAST 0094-02 (AMER 0012-01) Race in America ~ Jean Wu**

**R | 4:30-7:15PM**

"In 1903, the famous African American scholar and activist W.E.B. DuBois said, "The problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line." Many people today believe that race will continue to be "the" issue of the 21st century. In this course, we will examine the meanings of race in modern America, analyze the root causes and consequences of racist ideologies, and discuss current and future activist approaches to the issues raised by racist theories and practices. Our study will be multicultural in focus, with attention being given to Asian American, Native American, African American, European American, and Latino/a perspectives. Questions we will ask will include: How is race defined in the USA? Who defines it? How is it experienced? Who experiences it? What is its role in our lives as individuals, members of groups and of society at large? The course will be interdisciplinary, emphasizing in particular social science and arts/humanities approaches; and active student participation will be an important component. *Note: This course is high-demand AMER majors have priority; please contact Professor Wu at Jean.Wu@tufts.edu to be added to the roster.*

## **AAST 0094-03 (SOC 0011-01) Racial and Ethnic Minorities ~ Orly Clerge**

**MW | 01:30PM-02:45PM**

This course provides an introduction to theoretical, historical and contemporary sociological perspectives on race, racism and ethnicity. The course will help you think critically about issues related to race and ethnicity in American society and globally. These issues include racial and ethnic inequality, discrimination, racial stereotyping, racial identity, assimilation, multiculturalism and postracialism. There is a special focus on the history and current situation of white-black relations, social movements such as the Civil Rights Movement and #BlackLivesMatter, and recent public policy debates. No prerequisites.

## **AAST 0094-04 (REL 0042-01) Religion & Politics in American History ~ Heather D Curtis**

**MW | 10:30AM-11:45AM**

"In God we Trust," "One Nation Under God," "God Bless America," phrases like these alert us to the on-going influence of religion in American public life. This course explores the role of religion in shaping American civic engagement and political activity from the 17th century to the present, aiming to put contemporary events in broader historical context. Key topics and themes include: the relationship between church and state in the colonial period; faith and the founders; religion and social activism in the antebellum era (especially anti-slavery and 3 women's rights); religion, race and civil rights; religious "outsiders" and American politics (particularly Mormons, Catholics, and Muslims); spirituality and social

protest in the 20th century (pacifism; feminism; and economic reform); the rise of the religious right; religion and American politics post-9/11; and the upcoming presidential election. This course counts toward the Humanities or Social Sciences distribution requirement.

**AAST 0094-05 (AMER 0010-01) Racial Politics and Urban Space in the United States ~ Thomas Abowd  
MW | 01:30PM-02:45PM**

This course will highlight the radical changes that US urban centers have undergone historically and the role that race, racism, and racial politics have played in these transformations. As global and national economic trends and capitalist modernity began to make city life the majority experience in the US in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, a range of formidable forces intersected in the construction of these expanding places. Participants will examine these shifting and fluid racial and racialized realms not simply as cartographic places frozen on maps but also as ideas and myths that have helped construct US nationalism. How can the history of racism in this country be understood through both the actions of urban-based social movements as well as policing technologies and governing assumptions that have made racial segregation and racial violence possible? This course will feature examinations of Boston, New York, Detroit, Chicago, and Los Angeles, to name but a few.

**AAST 0094-07 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ Michelle Holliday-Stocking**

The United States in this course is used as a lens for understanding the movement of people across nation-state boundaries and their settlement in various receiving societies. Why people migrate across international borders; the ability of the nation-state to control migration flows; assimilation and incorporation of foreign-born "outsiders" into American social life; ways that migrants build and sustain lives across international borders; and intersections with and challenges to two traditional types of membership: race and ethnicity, and citizenship and national belonging, will be explored.

**AAST 0194-01 (AMER 0182-01) Asian America ~ Jean Y Wu  
T | 04:30-7:15PM**

What is Asian America? Where did the term come from? What is Asian America's relationship to America? Who is considered an Asian American? Who gets to decide? What is Asian American history, identity, culture, and politics? This multidisciplinary course explores the definition of Asian America, its history, and some of its contemporary issues. We will examine the reasons for why Asians are in America; the role of Asian Americans in the development of American society; their responses to America's reception of them; their relationship to American foreign policy regarding Asia; their position in the context of American race relations; current Asian immigration and settlement; the process of developing Asian American identities and cultures; the status of contemporary Asian American communities; and some critical Asian American issues. Though Asian Americans have a long history in America and also are one of the fastest growing racial minority groups in the country, why do Asians in America continue to be perceived as "foreigners," "aliens," and the inassimilable "yellow peril"? Then again, why do these "potentially dangerous aliens" continue to be held up as the "model minority" to the rest of society? What can we learn about America itself by studying the Asian experience within it? *Note: This course is high-demand; please contact Professor Wu at [Jean.Wu@tufts.edu](mailto:Jean.Wu@tufts.edu) to be added to the roster.*

**AAST 0194-05 (ENG 0191-02) Queer Diasporas ~ Christina Sharpe  
M | 1:30-4:00PM**

In 2000 David Eng published an article on Deann Borshay Liem's First Person Plural (2000) her documentary on her transracial, transnational adoption. Eng argued that it might be useful to think through diasporas "not in conventional terms of ethnic dispersion, filiation, and biological traceability,

but rather in terms of queerness, affiliation, and social contingency.” In this course we will do both: we will trace out new forms of contingent kinships and we will think through racial diasporas and the ways that some racialized groups have been positioned as always already queer in the spaces—through diasporic dispersal—that they have come to occupy. We may read and view work by Lorraine Hansberry, David Eng, Monique Truong, Piri Thomas, Cherrie Moraga, James Baldwin, Isaac Julien, W. E. B. DuBois, Dionne Brand, Jose Munoz, Cathy Cohen, Lisa Lowe, Jacqueline Goldsby, Robert Reid-Pharr, Gertrude Stein, Toni Morrison, Shane Vogel, Nella Larsen, Fae Myenne Ng, Omise’eke Natasha Tinsley, Claude McKay, & James Weldon Johnson. This course fulfills the post-1860 requirement.

**AAST 0194-07 (SOC 0113) Urban Sociology – Orly Clerge**  
**MW | 3:00PM-4:15PM**

Recent patterns in economic restructuring, the concentration of poverty and crime, and ethnoracial conflict in cities highlights the growth of individual and structural divisions in urban America. The recent social protests stemming from the police killings of young black men in Ferguson, Missouri, Cleveland, Ohio and Staten Island, New York have shed light, once again, on the racial and economic tensions present in American cities and suburbs. This course will focus on these historical and contemporary social problems in cities. By social problems, we are referring to the unequal spatial distribution of people across urban neighborhoods, segregation and ethnoracial conflict, the impact of economic crisis on communities, hyper-policing of poor and minority neighborhoods and how city residents create, negotiate, undermine or support these processes. As we make sense of these inter-related research and policy issues together, this course will provide students with important sociological perspectives on the past, present and future of urban America. HBO's acclaimed show *The Wire* will be used as a key sociological text for the course. Recommendations: SOC 1 or 10 or consent of instructor.