Asian American Studies
Fall 2019 Courses

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 0094-04 Transnational Asian American Studies ~ Stéphanie Khoury

Courses that Fulfill Requirement #2
At least one course focused on race in which Asian American experiences are addressed in a sociopolitical context.

- AAST 0094-04 Transnational Asian American Studies ~ Stéphanie Khoury

Courses that Fulfill Requirement #3
At least one course with full or partial focus on Asian American experiences beyond the foundation.

- AAST 0094-01 (AMER 0010-01) Racial Politics & Urban Space ~ Tom Abowd
- AAST 0094-04 Transnational Asian American Studies ~ Stéphanie Khoury

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 Track Director.

- AAST 0062-01 (CSHD 0062-01) Childhood Across Cultures ~ Jayanthi Mistry
- AAST 0094-02 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ STAFF
- AAST 0094-03 (SOC 0011-01) Sociology of Race and Ethnicity ~ Daanika Gordon
- AAST 0194-02 (AMER 0180-01) American Civil Rights ~ Kerri Greenidge
- AAST 0194-03 (HIST 0193) Research Seminar, North America: Family Histories and American Culture ~ Kendra Field
- AAST 0194-04 (SOC 0188-12) Seminar: Comparative Social Inequality ~ Felipe Diaz
- AAST 0194-05 (SOC 0113) Urban Sociology ~ Anjuli Fahlberg
- PSY 0013 Social Psychology ~ Keith Maddox
- PSY 0115 Social Identity, Stigma & Coping ~ Jessica Remedios

Requirements
The AAST minor requires six courses and must fulfill the following requirements:

1. One introductory survey/foundation course on Asian American experiences with at least a third of its content on Asian American history
2. At least one course focused on race in which Asian American experiences are addressed in a sociopolitical context.

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

4. Up to two elective courses that while they may not have direct Asian American content, must address topics relevant to the historical and/or contemporary experiences of Asian Americans. Examples include: immigration, educational access, bilingualism, health disparities, labor relations, environmental justice, media representations, cultural resistance productions, comparative race and ethnic studies. 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 Track Director.

**NOTE:** The course list for Requirement #4 is not exhaustive. Students can petition to have a course count as an elective from the Track Director before taking the class.

**Special Note on Languages:** Students may need to acquire proficiency in an Asian language in order to investigate research questions about the Asian American community. Therefore, a student who decides to pursue proficiency in an Asian language may count one course at the advanced level (e.g., JPN 21, CHNS 21 or above, or equivalent in another Asian language) towards one of the elective courses in the minor.

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 Track Director. To receive credit for the project, the student must enroll in AAST 0198 (Asian American Studies Capstone Project). Permission from the director is required.

ii. Take a sixth course from the one of the lists of approved courses above.

**Additional Information on Minor Requirements:**

Minors in Asian American Studies may:

- Take up to two courses as independent study
- Transfer up to two courses from other institutions
- Apply up to two courses from their major or the foundation requirements.

Courses with grades lower than C- will not be accepted towards the minor.
Course Descriptions

AAST 0062-01 (CSHD 0062-01) Childhood Across Cultures ~ Jayanthi Mistry
MW | 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 (AMER 0010-01) Racial Politics and Urban Space in the United States ~ Thomas Abowd
MW | 6:00-8:30PM
How can the history of racism in the United States be understood through the activism and struggles of urban-based social movements? How have policing technologies, forms of violence, and governing assumptions made racial segregation an enduring reality in America? As capitalist modernity began to make city life the majority experience in the US in the early 20th Century, a range of formidable forces intersected in the creation of these expanding metropolitan areas. 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. Participants will examine these shifting and fluid realms not simply as cartographic places frozen on maps but also as ideas and myths that have helped construct US nationalism, settler-colonialism, and helped bolster anti-racist visions. This course will feature examinations of Boston, Seattle, New York, Detroit, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and other cities.

AAST 0094-02 (SOC 0070-01) Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ STAFF
MW | 9:00-10:15AM
The United States 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; ability of the nation-state to control migration flows; assimilation and incorporation of foreign “outsiders” into American social life; ways that migrants build and sustain lives across international borders; and challenges to two traditional types of membership: race and ethnicity, and citizenship and national belonging.

AAST 0094-03 (SOC 0011-01) Sociology of Racial and Ethnicity ~ Daanika Gordon
TR | 3:00-4:15PM
This course provides an introduction to sociological perspectives on race, ethnicity, and racism. It will help you think critically about issues related to race and ethnicity in American society and globally. The course begins with theories of race and racism. Topics include the social construction of racial and ethnic categories; prejudice, discrimination, and racial domination; and racial ideologies. The course then examines racial inequalities in several institutional contexts, including neighborhoods, schools, the labor market, and the criminal justice system. Finally, the course explores racial progress, with particular attention to the role of social movements in constructing the meaning of race and fighting for racial justice.

AAST 0094-04 Transnational Asian American Studies ~ Stéphanie Khoury
R | 01:30-4:15PM
In today’s globalized world, large-scale flows of information, goods, capital, and people circulate across places and national territories. Within these phenomena, transnational networks offer a particular feeling of connection between people and places. This course brings Asian diasporas and homelands
into conversation with one another, with a focus on the place and role of Asian American communities and individuals within such networks. Relying on the experiences of East Asian political and economic migrants, Southeast Asian war refugees, South Asian migrant workers, and others, we will also consider how Asian American transnationalism fits into the broader conversation about immigration in the US in relation to cultural heritage, identity, and representation.

**AAST 0194-02 (AMER 0180-01) American Civil Rights ~ Kerri Greenidge**

**M | 1:30-4:00PM**
Examines the modern Civil Rights Movement in the United States and its impact on race relations, politics, society, and culture. Topics discussed during the semester include debates over non-violence vs. self-defense; integration vs. separatism; protest vs. politics; Martin Luther King vs. Malcolm X. The movement's geographic, racial, and ideological diversity will also be explored, as will the evolution from civil rights to Black Power.

**AAST 0194-03 (HIST 0193) Research Seminar, North America: Family Histories and American Culture ~ Kendra Field**

**M | 1:30-4:00PM**
Explores diverse experiences of family and kinship in U.S. history, especially in the context of racial slavery, Indian removal, and transnational migration. Contextualizes the recent groundswell in scholarly approaches to family history, as well as the popularization of DNA testing and genealogical research in American culture. Allows students to develop skills and perspective necessary for the production of scholarly research based on family histories, including their own. Readings will include family histories, micro-histories, and memoir.

**AAST 0194-04 (SOC 0188-12) Seminar: Comparative Social Inequality ~ Felipe Diaz**

**T | 9:00-11:30AM**
This course focuses on the causes and consequences of social inequality in cross-national perspective. A comparative and cross-national lens to the study of inequality provides the analytical tools to better understand how the political, institutional, and economic processes in different societies ultimately help create and perpetuate different forms of social inequality. The course will focus on the ways in which different social institutions, such as schools, labor markets, and governments play in generating social inequalities. We also examine the ways in which social inequality is expressed on the basis of race/ethnicity, gender, and class status. After assessing the institutional and social mechanisms associated with the reproduction of social inequality, we consider possible policy solutions and interventions in reducing inequality. Prerequisites: Junior standing, at least 2 previous courses in Sociology, OR permission of instructor.

**AAST 0194-05 (SOC 0113) Urban Sociology ~ Anjuli Fahlberg**

**TR | 10:30-11:45AM**
Did you know that over 80% of the US population lives in cities? These numbers are even higher for Latin America, while the percent of urban populations is growing steadily in Europe, Asia, and Africa. But what, after all, accounts for such dramatic global urbanization patterns? How does the concentration of diverse groups of people affect group relations, access to resources, and inhabitants’ overall quality of life? How do historic forms of inequality get (re)configured in urban areas? And, importantly, how can inequality and injustice be addressed in this context? This course aims to tackle these questions as we consider contemporary dynamics of inequality and social change in cities in the US and across the globe. We will examine how economic, political, social, and symbolic forms of inequality and exclusion have
helped to shape the lived realities of diverse urban populations and how governments and civic actors have attempted to address these. The course will draw heavily from ethnographic perspectives of the city, using the stories of individuals and communities to understand how broader social issues affect the urban experience. Students will also be asked to conduct their own small ethnographic research project in an organization in Boston or Somerville and use these observations to reflect on course readings and discussions. Prerequisite: SOC 001 OR SOC 010 OR permission of instructor.

**PSY 0013 Social Psychology ~ Keith Maddox**
**TR | 3:00-4:15PM**
Social psychology is the scientific study of the way people think, feel, and behave in social situations. It involves understanding how we influence, and are influenced by, other people and the social contexts around us. A primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the perspectives, research methods, and seminal findings of the field of social psychology. Equally important is the goal of allowing you to cultivate your skills for analyzing the social situations and events that you encounter in your everyday lives. Lectures will be supplemented by classroom demonstrations, discussion, and various assignments.

**PSY 0115 Social Identity, Stigma & Coping ~ Jessica Remedios**
**T | 9:00-11:30PM**
People who are targeted by stereotypes and prejudice experience the world in unique ways. This course investigates the psychological consequences of stereotypes for victims and examines how targets of prejudice actively cope with being members of devalued social groups. We will discuss short- and long-term outcomes for people who possess devalued social identities, including the development of strategies to protect well-being in the face of discrimination. In addition, we will discuss situational and interpersonal factors that facilitate versus undermine victims' efforts to speak out about discrimination. This course will place an emphasis on empirical research and on teaching students how to interpret and critique research in social psychology.