Asian American Studies
Spring 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 0194-01 (AMER 0180-01) Seminar: Writing Asian American Diaspora ~ 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 0094-01 (AMER 0010-02) Human Rights in the U.S. ~ Tom Abowd
- AAST 0094-05 (AMER 0094-01) Internal American Migrations: Movement, Identity, and Change in American History and Culture ~ Darren Lone Fight
- AAST 0194-01 (AMER 0180-01) Seminar: Writing Asian American Diaspora ~ Jean Wu
- ANTH 0185-02 Anthropology of Race and Racism ~ Sarah Luna
- SOC 0094-02 Health, Policy & Inequality ~ Brett Nava-Coulter

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

- AAST 0094-05 (AMER 0094-01) Internal American Migrations: Movement, Identity, and Change in American History and Culture ~ Darren Lone Fight

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 0094-02 (AMER 0094-04) American Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd
- *AAST 0094-03/AAST 0194-03 (CST 0094-03) Colonialism & Culture in the Middle East ~ Tom Abowd
- ARB 0155-01 Visualizing Colonialism ~ Kamran Rastegar
- CH 0001-01 Community Health ~ Jennifer Allen
- CH 0188 Special Topics: Health and Human Rights ~ Fernando Ona
- ED 000-01 School and Society ~ Steve Cohen
- ED 0170-01 Critical Education Policy Studies ~ Shameeka Powell
- FR-0192 Mediterranean Crossings: Colonial and Postcolonial Migrations and Identities ~ Mona El Khoury
5. Capstone Project or Course.
Two options to complete this requirement:

a. 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 receive permission to enroll in AAST 0198 (Asian American Studies Capstone Project).

b. 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.

NOTE: The course list for Requirement #4 is not exhaustive. Students can petition to have a course count as an elective from the Program 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.
Course Descriptions

AAST 0094-01 (AMER 0010-02) Human Rights in the U.S. ~ Tom Abowd
T | 3:00-5:30pm
This course will explore a range of fascinating topics related to human rights and social justice in the United States. This journey will take us from the violence and inhumanity at the US-Mexico border, to racial and class oppression in the prison-industrial complex, to the gendered racialization of particular communities on Native American reservations. We will examine issues pertaining to racism, Islamophobia, class oppression, settler-colonialism, and myriad concerns around gender and sexuality. This class will also highlight multiple ways in which people resist and struggle against these expressions of domination and dehumanization. Participants in the course will read critical interventions on such subjects by scholars, activists, and journalists. In addition, we will screen a variety of powerful films and documentaries that will challenge taken-for-granted ideas about “security,” “freedom,” “choice” across a fractured, US landscape. Readings include works by: Angela Davis, Judith Butler, Aviva Chomsky, bell hooks, Howard Zinn, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Gloria Andzaldua, Winona LaDuke, Steven Salaita, and Malcolm X.

AAST 0094-02 (AMER 0094-04) American Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd
MW | 1:30-2:45pm
This interdisciplinary class will explore youth revolts, social movements, and rebellions over the course of US history. We will focus on struggles around issues of war and peace, gender and sexual liberation, class oppression, free speech, anti-racism/racial justice, and anti-colonial politics. Students, workers, artists, and activists have organized in ways that have transformed the worlds that governments, elite institutions, and parental/patriarchal authority have sought to impose on them. In this class we will examine the powerful ways in which young adults have waged battles for social justice, with an emphasis on more contemporary movements like Black Lives Matter, the revolts at Standing Rock, and activist and artistic projects around trans-liberation. The course will emphasize the need to see youth not as “problems” representing threats to “morality” or “law and order,” but instead as those with agency and the capacity to shape their own lives—indeed, as Marx said, “to write their own histories.” Readings include works by: bell hooks, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, Carlos Munoz, Cathy Cohen, C.J Pascoe, Sabina Vaught, and Freeden Oeur.
NOTE: This course may also be taken at the upper level (AAST 0194-02).

AAST 0094-03 (CST 0094-03) Colonialism and Culture in the Middle East ~ Tom Abowd
TR | 10:30am-11:45am
This class will explore colonialism and empire in the modern Middle East. We will chart the rise of colonial and imperial domination over the peoples of the region beginning in the early 19th Century and moving forward to the present through a range of anthropological, literary, and historical texts. De-colonization and resistance movements of various kinds will also be studied as we seek to more fully acknowledge agency and the capacity of individuals and movements to transform the world. Participants will examine vital themes related, among other things, to gender/sexuality, class, nationalism, urban studies, and racial politics. We shall delve into what is distinctive about colonial power and how the transformative forces that have comprised it have engendered not simply violence and sheer coercion but also a range of new cultural notions, technologies, and institutions relating to urban planning, law, agrarian regimes, and gender, racial, and class identities.
NOTE: This course may also be taken at the upper-level (AAST 0194-03).
AAST 0094-04 (AMER 0010-01) American Studies Methodologies: What is America? History, Literature, and Culture in the Long Twentieth Century ~ Kerri Greenidge and Darren Lone Fight
TR | 12:00-1:15pm
What is America? History, Literature, and Culture in the Long Twentieth Century
What does America mean – as a nation-state? As a concept? As an ideal whose promise has rarely been fulfilled? What role has America as a nation-state, as a concept, and as an unfulfilled ideal played in the expansion of the twentieth-century global south, and in enduring racial, political, and economic systems across the world? This course explores the idea of “American-ness,” beyond notions of exceptionalism and “progress,” as a way to introduce students to core concepts and methodologies in American, Africana, Latin@, and Asian American Studies within the broader discipline of race, colonialism, and diaspora studies. Special attention will be paid to how the contested notion of “American-ness” as an ideal and as a global force has been shaped through literature, history, and culture.

AAST 0094-05 (AMER 0094-01) Internal Migrations: Similarity and Difference in the American Character ~ Darren Lone Fight
TR | 1:30-2:45pm
John F. Kennedy famously supplied a quote in his book, A Nation of Immigrants, characterizing the United States as a “heterogeneous race but a homogenous nation.” That is, while American identity is something founded on the difference inherent in its interaction with external cultures and nations, they form a homogenous, unified whole. But the nature, experience, and effect of movement and the crossing of borders and boundaries internal to the nation are far more fragmented, complex, and problematic than this quote implies. People who move and live across internal borders and boundaries within the U.S. act as critical, frictive forces in the construction of American identity, and this movement is hardly unfettered. Encounters with varied boundaries and borders of both space and category inside the borders of the nation-state are critical sites of confrontation with imperial American ideologies of assimilation and difference.

This course will examine movements across internal borders and boundaries by looking at internal migratory movements central to the nation’s history and character. Our course will ground itself in concrete migratory movements such as the movement of tribal cultures in the Americas, the Great Northern Migration, the phenomenon of white flight, and Indigenous migrations from tribal-national spaces to U.S.-national spaces. Taking an interdisciplinary approach in our utilization of historical and contemporary archives of film, newspapers, literature, visual art, music, political speeches, testimony/interviews, etc., we will examine the ways these migrations have and continue to shape American identity. We will also examine how these historical events often intersect with regional cultural movements: rural and urban, southern and northern, and coastal and midwestern, while working at the intersections of political orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, and class constructions. Our questions will seek an understanding about similarity and difference extent within the American national project and provide a critical lens to look at the boundaries sometimes less seen but nevertheless deeply felt within the American character.

AAST 0194-01 (AMER 0180-01) Writing Asian American Diaspora ~ Jean Wu
R | 4:30-7:15pm
This course considers Asian American diaspora as a subjective condition born of colonialism and racialization and lived out in intergenerational experiences. Through a variety of Asian American diasporic creative genres including narratives, essays, films, poetry and literature, we explore how Asian American subjectivities are engendered by colonial wars and displacement, and how loss and memory impact the (un)making of critical identities and communities across diasporic generations. The course
will examine Asian American diasporic subjectivities as situated in different histories of Asian diasporic movement, while engaging in critical analysis and meaning making that explores what holds these diverse experiences together. Emphasis will be placed on critical reading and writing, with the opportunity to engage other creative projects. Prerequisite: prior coursework in Asian American history and consent of the instructor.

ARB 0155-01 Visualizing Colonialism ~ Kamran Rastegar
T | 1:30-2:45pm
An overview of the intersection between visual culture and the conditions of colonialism and postcoloniality. Readings and viewings on representations of the non-Western world in colonial-era painting and photography, leading to an examination of the history of colonial cinema, and to later postcolonial visualizations of the colonial period. The development of cinemas of anti-colonial resistance, and persisting effects of colonialism and empire in contemporary global visual cultures, including contemporary arts and new media. Materials drawn from a variety of regional contexts, with special emphasis on the Arab world. Secondary readings drawn from anti-colonial theorists and postcolonial studies. Cross-listed as ILVS 101, FMS 175, CST 10. This course is one of the 'Introductory survey" courses for the Colonialism Studies minor. Please see their website for more details. In English.

CH 0001-01 Community Health ~ Jennifer Allen
MW | 10:30-1145am
This introductory survey course in public health (designed for freshman and sophomores) examines the complex constellation of political, social, environmental, economic and biological factors that determine health outcomes across populations. We examine a variety of strategies to promote health, prevent disease and prolong life among populations and communities, including policy change, mass media approaches, and community-based interventions. Special attention will be given to the unequal distribution of health risks and outcomes across racial/ethnic groups, socio-economic levels, and geographic locations.

CH 0188 Special Topics: Health and Human Rights - Fernando Ona
M | 9:00-11:30
The right to health is a contested idea. Is there a right to health? Even if we do agree that health should be considered a human right, disagreements abound about what the human right to health might mean, who should bear the responsibility to protect it, how to protect it, and how we, as concerned citizens might work together to enable its protection far more widely.

This seminar aims to cultivate a serious discussion about some key problems that animate right to health discourse. We will discuss progress (or lack thereof) of advancing the right to health globally, and gain the perspectives of a wide variety of experts, scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and patients in an effort to better enable students to be able to contribute to the future of the right to health movement. We will then build a set of skill and a “right to health toolkit” that will enable students to analyze current policy, draft new policy proposals, and consider their role as citizen activists with a stake in the global health equity project.
Upper Level CH elective or Upper Level with Research. Pre-requisite: CH 1 and CH 2

ED 0001-01 School and Society ~ Steve Cohen
TR | 10:30-11:45am
Role and purpose of schooling in the United States. Focus on the desegregation and resegregation of schools in the last fifty years; proposals for school reform.
ED 0170-01 Critical Education Policy Studies ~ Shameeka Powell
W | 4:30-7:30pm
Explores a range of U.S. K-12 and interrelated policies through critical theoretical lenses. Considers how policies reflect, reproduce, and resist institutional and socio-cultural systems of powers. Attention paid to relationship between educational policy and materialities of race, gender, sexuality, sovereignty, immigration status, and language.

FR-0192 Mediterranean Crossings: Colonial and Postcolonial Migrations and Identities ~ Mona El Khoury
MW | 1:30-2:45pm
The Mediterranean has long been the locus of a turbulent history and of vast population movements. This course will focus specifically on the modern and contemporary periods, that is, since the beginning of the French colonization in North Africa in the nineteenth century until today. We will examine the (re-)presentation of several types of voluntary and forced migrations, spurred by colonialism, decolonization, civil wars, political strife, and economic hardship producing exiles, migrants, and refugees in record numbers. Through literary and critical texts and films, we will explore different Mediterranean spaces: European (France, Spain, Italy), North African (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia), Middle Eastern (Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Syria). Throughout, the class will address this question: how can artistic practices dealing with loss and desolation mediate political dilemmas that also concern the crossing of inner and outer borders on linguistic and cultural translation? Active class participation; regular response papers; three papers. Prerequisite: French 31 or 32 or 125, or consent.

SOC 0070-01 Immigration, Race, and American Society ~ STAFF
MW | 1:30-2:45pm
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.

SOC 0094-02 Health, Policy & Inequality ~ Brett Nava-Coulter
TR | 1:30-2:45pm
Using a sociological framework, this course will examine inequity in health with a focus on how policy can respond to the needs of underserved communities. It will investigate the role that social institutions play in perpetuating inequality and stigma, and look to attempts to counteract those dynamics. During the semester we will focus on defining and implementing cultural competency, the illness experience, and community formation and advocacy. Some of the topics covered will be LGBT health, immigrants and refugees, disability experience, and out-of-home youth, among others.