Asian American Studies
Spring 2020 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 0094-01 (SOC 0094-02) Sociology of Asian Americans ~ Adrian Cruz
- AAST 0094-02 Asian American Arts: Dynamics and Creativity ~ 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 0094-01 (SOC 0094-02) Sociology of Asian Americans ~ Adrian Cruz
- AAST 0094-02 Asian American Arts: Dynamics and Creativity ~ Stéphanie Khoury
- RCD 0050-01 Introduction to Race, Colonialism and Diaspora ~ Kerri Greenidge*
- ANTH 0185-02 Anthropology of Race and Racism ~ Sarah Luna

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

- AMER 0094-02 Race, Identity, and ‘Nature’ ~ Hossein Ayazi
- RCD 0050-01 Introduction to Race, Colonialism and Diaspora ~ Kerri Greenidge*

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 0094-03/AAST 0194-01 (AMER 0094-04/AMER 0194-04) Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd**
- ARB 0155-01 Visualizing Colonialism ~ Kamran Rastegar
- CH 0185 Health and Human Rights ~ Fernando Ona
- CH 0188 Race, Ethnicity, and Health ~ Cecilia A. Flores
- CST 0094-01 Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East ~ Tom Abowd
- SOC 0135 Social Movements ~ Brett Nava-Coulter
- TPS 0194-01 Doing Race, Race-ing Media and Performance ~ Olivia Michiko Gagnon

Standard Courses
- AAST 0193 Independent Study (Dept. Consent required) ~ Kendra Field
- AAST 0198 Capstone Project (Dept. consent required) ~ Kendra Field

*Required course for students who declare the minor spring 2020 and beyond.
**In the Course Descriptions, “Youth, Revolt, and Resistance” is only listed once as “AAST 0094-03/AAST 0194-01 Youth, Revolt, and Resistance ~ Tom Abowd”.

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 (SOC 0094-02) Sociology of Asian Americans ~ Adrian Cruz
MW | 9:00-10:15am
This course places Asian Americans at the center of sociological analysis of race, ethnicity, racism, immigration, and collective struggle. Sociological investigations of race, ethnicity and inequality have frequently overlooked Asian Americans and thus implicitly posed them as a group of people unscathed by discrimination. To correct this error, we will employ structural and micro level approaches that unpack how Asian Americans, historically and today, have negotiated a diverse set of intra-group identities and contested the mistreatment to which they have been subjected.

AAST 0094-02 Asian American Arts: Dynamics and Creativity ~ Stéphanie Khoury
R | 1:30-4:15pm
Alfred Gell saw art as a material invested with the ability to convey meaning and knowledge, and to make things happen. Art is a medium that channels one’s experience into a creative expression: identities can be performed, narratives told, experiences accounted, norms and stereotypes challenged. Furthermore, art can be a catalyst for change and empowerment regarding issues of social justice. This course addresses the creative initiatives through which Asian Americans have used visual arts, multimedia, music, dance, and creative literature (including zines and poetry) to assert cultural heritage, identity, history, and representation. Through specific artistic works and performances, we will consider how art is a medium that embodies struggles with and challenges to the American racial and social context, the reminiscence of colonial ideologies, as well as histories of migration and ongoing encounters with both belonging and displacement.

AAST 0094-03/AAST 0194-01 (AMER 0094-04) Youth, Revolt, and Revolution ~ Tom Abowd
MW | 3:00-4:15pm
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 Freedon Oeur.

AMER 0094-02 Race, Identity, and ‘Nature’ ~ Hossein Ayazi
R | 9:00-11:45am
What is “nature” and what is not “nature”? What can ideas of “nature” tell us about histories of race and colonialism? How have racialized and colonized peoples made sense of their experience and resisted through different ideas of “nature”? From 18th-century claims that climate determined character to the 21st-century proliferation of DNA tests underwriting claims to Indigenous ancestry, it is
clear that race, colonialism, identity, and “nature” operate as interconnected terrains of power. Anchored in the contexts of U.S. colonialisms, racialization, and accumulation, this course aims to expose students to the cultural politics of “nature” as a way of “doing” American Studies. This course interrogates historical foundations of dominant ideas, attitudes, and practices toward non-human natures; it analyzes how ideas of “nature” and “naturalness” mediate the ways in which colonial, racial, gender, and sexual categories and structures inform and are (re)produced by U.S. institutions and in public areas such as the law, public policy, and property; and it accounts for how racialized and colonized peoples’ visions, representations, and practices of liberation with regard to relations with nonhuman natures and the materiality of land precede, contend with, and exceed normative political, economic, and social categories of governance and systems of dispossession and exploitation.

**ANTH 185-02 Anthropology of Race and Racism ~ Sarah Luna**

**M | 6:30-9:00pm**

This upper-division seminar examines race and racism primarily from the perspectives of anthropologists who interrogate how race and racism shapes people’s everyday lives. We will focus especially upon intersections between the ways that race becomes socially meaningful and 1) gender and sexuality 2) violence 3) linguistic forms and 4) social space. We will look at how gender and racial ideologies become relevant to larger political, economic, and social projects and examine how they become differentially manifest in particular local contexts in places such as the United States, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, and Thailand. Topics addressed will include: anthropology’s relationship to racism, the meanings attached to whiteness in different contexts throughout the world, and the eroticization of perceived racial difference. We will also examine interdisciplinary work, including that of artists who interrogate some of these questions through their visual and performance practices. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar requirement and the Social Sciences distribution requirement. Recommendation: One course in anthropology or permission of instructor.

**ARB 0155-01 Visualizing Colonialism ~ Kamran Rastegar**

An overview of the intersection between world cinema and the conditions of colonialism and postcoloniality. Readings and viewings on representations of the non-Western world in early cinema, and an examination of the development of cinemas of resistance and in particular the articulation of Third Cinema in the context of the Cold War. Films will be drawn from African, American (North and South), European, Middle Eastern, and South Asian cinemas, with special emphasis on Arab cinemas. The emergence of postcolonial themes in cinema, examining the treatment of questions such as gender and identity, social subalterns, engaging with orientalism, diaspora identity, and a range of other issues. Central to the course is the question: what aesthetic innovations in cinema may be related to the engagement with postcolonial issues? In English. Cross-listed as ARB 155, FMS 175-01 and CST 10-01. This course satisfies an IR requirement. Please see their website for more details.

Please see [department website](mailto:departmentwebsite) for more information.

**CH 0185 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. Junior, senior standing

CH 0188 Race, Ethnicity, and Health ~ Cecilia A. Flores
R | 1:30-4:00pm
Despite advances in medicine, education, and technology, racial and ethnic minorities in the United States carry an unequal burden of chronic disease and have higher mortality rates compared to their white counterparts. The causes of these inequities are thought to reflect a complex interaction of social, situational, and structural influences. This course is designed to review theories and research that describe the multiple pathways by which race and ethnicity influence health and produce disparate health outcomes. During the course of the semester, students will critically examine the health status of major racial/ethnic minority groups in the United States. Attention will be focused on the patterned ways in which the health of these groups is embedded in the social, cultural, political, and economic contexts and arrangements of U.S. society. Students will also explore community based approaches for addressing health inequity, including health care inequities. Topics covered include the meaning and measurement of race/ethnicity, the historic uses of minorities in medical research, the ways in which socioecological factors currently influence health and healthcare, how acculturation and migration affect health, and an examination of the ideas for reducing health disparities among racial/ethnic minorities. CH 1; sophomore standing.

CST 0094-01 Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East ~ Tom Abowd
W | 6:00-8:30pm
This course will provide students with insights into the fascinating but often misunderstood realms of gender and sexuality in the Middle East. It will explore the diverse cultural and political realities of women and men, boys and girls in a region made and re-made over the last 200 years by revolution, social movements, war, and colonial power and anti-colonial resistance. How do these broader realities, traumas, conflicts, and expressions of solidarity impact the lives of men and women in the Middle East? Participants in the class will be introduced to foundational theoretical literature on gender and sexuality and will use those insights to better analyze and detail the shifting and changing experiences of Middle Easterners and the multiple communities of which they are a part. These explorations will be pursued largely through a range of fascinating literary and visual sources. Students will read three or four different works of fiction as well as poetry and creative non-fiction.

RCD 0050-01 Introduction to Race, Colonialism and Diaspora ~ Kerri Greenidge
TR | 12:00 - 1:15pm
What is meant by the terms “race,” “colonialism,” and “diaspora”? How are these terms shaped by historical and cultural context? How do scholars across American, Africana, Asian American, Latinx, Colonialism, and Native American and Indigenous Studies use these terms as the basis for intellectual inquiry? Introduction to Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora is designed to familiarize students with interdisciplinary scholarship across the new Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora. The course is designed to expose students to a broad range of relevant scholarship in preparation for future engagement in one of the six tracks in the department of Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora. Each class meeting will pair a work of literature and cultural production - novels, short stories, and film - with the historical moment or site under study. The final project allows students to apply the methods, scholarship, and skills that they have acquired to specific topics and modes of inquiry relevant to their
particular research interests. NOTE: Required course for students who declare the minor spring 2020 and beyond.

**SOC 0135 Social Movements ~ Brett Nava-Coulter**

**MW | 4:30-5:45pm**

This course will study various social movements (from Abolitionists to Occupy Wall Street) and the elements that combine to spark such movements. We will also discuss what constitutes a movement: is it a protest, rally or riot, or a series of all? What motivates people to organize into action? How are movements buoyed or repressed? Do social movements actually work, or are they all for naught? How is (or isn’t) the movement of the group controlled? How do you measure a movement’s success and its effect on society as a whole?

**TPS 0194-01 Doing Race, Race-ing Media and Performance ~ Olivia Michiko Gagnon**

**T | 9:00-11:30am**

This course takes race and ethnicity as its lens through which to consider performance—theorized in an expanded multimedia sense—and vice-versa, asking: what might race and ethnicity do to our study of performance and what might performance (studies) do to our understanding of race and ethnicity? How have race and ethnicity historically been deployed in and as performance? How might they be understood as both performed and performative? Using an intersectional feminist, queer, and anti-racist theoretical lens, this course mines theater, performance art, dance, performances of everyday life, visual art, new media, fiction, poetry, music, music videos, film, video, and performative/experimental writing for the many ways in which race and ethnicity are enacted, sensed, felt, embodied, sounded, choreographed, textualized, listened to/for, and danced.