

# Spring 2010 Course Descriptions

## Asian American Studies Program

### ASAM 101.02: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (GE D.5, Z; formerly III.C.2, V) - Dr. Eric Reyes

The course introduces central debates in Ethnic Studies. Topics may include: affirmative action, stereotypes in mass media, gender and sexuality, job discrimination, housing accessibility, health care equity, educational access, historical authenticity, psychological trauma, cultural representation and community politics. Through class debates and discussions, the course foregrounds student's experiences as a vital source of understanding and insight into the complexity of contemporary multicultural and transnational communities. (Same as AFRO/CHIC 101) Prerequisite: completion of GE Category D1; formerly III.C.1.

### ASAM 190.08: Survey of American History with Emphasis on Ethnic Minorities (GE D.1; formerly II.B.1) – Dr. Thomas Fujita-Rony

This course examines how democratic ideals and constitutional principles have and have not been applied in the case of ethnic minority Americans and to be able to apply the knowledge gained in the course to present-day situations involving questions of justice, equality and human dignity. Special attention will be paid to the efforts of those considered "outside" the bounds of "true" American society, and their allies. Textbook: Takaki, *A Different Mirror*, plus films and other materials. (Same as HIST/AFRO/CHIC 190)

### ASAM 201: History of Asian Americans (GE D.5, Z; formerly III.C.2, V) – Dr. Thomas Fujita-Rony

Pacific Islander communities predate the founding of the United States by centuries, and permanent settlement by Asian Americans also occurred before 1776. ASAM 201 explores this little-known history, traversing the ethnic groups and their struggles to make a life for themselves and their kin in these United States. Civil rights and other issues will be explored, and the important changes in immigration law, legal (and extra-legal) segregation, and educational access will also be topics covered. Textbooks will be Chan, *Asian Americans*, Chan, *Hmong Means Free*; plus a course packet, films, and other materials. (Same as HIST 201)

### ASAM 300: Introduction to Asian Pacific American Studies (GE D.5, Z; formerly III.C.2, V) - Dr. Tu-Uyen Nguyen

This is a fun and interactive introductory course to the broad and growing subject of Asian American Studies. This course will engage you in examining the demographic, social, and economic trends and issues confronting contemporary Asian Pacific American Communities. This course is designed to raise our critical awareness and consciousness about the experiences and struggles of Asian Pacific American communities in contributing to the multicultural story of the United States. Course content will include interactive lectures, discussions, guest speakers, films/videos, and a group project whereby students will research, participate in, and present a sociocultural tour of an APA community of their choice. You are encouraged to apply the lessons learned from this class to empower yourselves, get involved, and take action to create a more just and equitable society. Textbook: Fong, *The Contemporary Asian American Experience: Beyond the Model Minority*. Prerequisite: completion of GE Category D.1; formerly III.C.1.

GE Category	ASAM Course#
D.1 (II.B.1)	190
C.3 (III.B.3)	320 325
D.5 (III.C.2)	101 201 300 344 360 382
E (IV)	308
Z (V)	101 201 300 308 320 325 344 360

### **ASAM 307: Research and Writing in Ethnic Studies (formerly 400) – Dr. Eric Reyes**

The course focuses on research and writing in ethnic studies. Topics may include: current research in Ethnic Studies, quantitative and qualitative analysis, critical ethnography, new technologies, archival research, oral history, participant observation, spatial analysis, research-in-practice, and community-based participatory research. Extensive writing. A grade of “C” (2.0) or better is required to satisfy the upper-division writing requirement. (Same as AFRO/CHIC 307)

### **ASAM 308.01-.03: Asian American Women (GE E, Z; formerly IV, V) - Dr. Jennifer A. Yee**

In this highly interactive class, we will develop a community of learners and, together, try to understand how the context and life paths of APIA women leaders may empower us personally and professionally. The course goal is to create consciousness about: 1) how “leadership” is constructed in our society and 2) how APIA women have negotiated, struggled with, and succeeded in carving spaces for themselves and the practice of leadership. The course progresses through the semester by first understanding our own and APIA women’s context and identities, how we use our voices, and how we exercise power. Students will read from pieces by and about APIA women, including *Yell-Oh Girls!*, *Warrior Lessons*, and *Making More Waves*. We will also engage in role plays, spoken word, case discussions and small and large group discussion. (Same as WMST 308) Prerequisite: junior or senior standing.

### **(WEB) ASAM 308.50: Asian American Women (GE E, Z; formerly IV, V) - Dr. Eliza Noh**

In this online course, we will examine works by and about Asian American women from multiple disciplines, in order to elucidate how Asian American women have been represented and treated as the objects of history and culture, as well as how Asian American women in turn shape these forces. By exploring areas of immigration and settlement, social stereotyping, identity construction, family, community, labor, organized resistance, and cultural production, we will attempt to answer questions such as: Who are “Asian American women”? What are the commonalities and differences of racialization, gender, class, sexuality, language and culture that delineate this category? How do Asian American women help shape their positions within this category, and how do they push its boundaries? Students should be familiar with using Blackboard in order to participate in this online course. Students will be expected to read assigned articles and view media files hyperlinked through Blackboard or on library reserve. (Same as WMST 308) Prerequisite: junior or senior standing.

### **ASAM 320.01: Asian American Creative Expression (GE C.3, Z; formerly III.B.3, V) - Dr. Eric Reyes**

This course explores the diversity of Asian American & Pacific Islander culture. By examining a range of cultural forms and representations, we will discuss how communities and cultural representations are intricately linked to create challenges and opportunities for communities. The course examines a range of cultural forms including novels, film, videos, music, visual art, and other expressive forms in both historical and contemporary contexts. The class format is discussion-based with periodic lectures. Course readings, in-class screenings, lectures, student questions and insights will drive the significant class and small group discussions. Prerequisite: completion of GE Categories C.1 and C.2; formerly III.B.1 and 2.

### **(WEB) ASAM 320.50: Asian American Creative Expression (GE C.3, Z; formerly III.B.3, V) - Dr. Eliza Noh**

This online course introduces students to the diverse forms of Asian American cultural production, studied within their unique respective social and historical contexts. Asian American aesthetics and themes will be examined through poetry, cinema, visual art, hip hop, performance, internet culture, and other creative forms. Some of the concepts and contextual themes we will examine include immigration, racism, identity, politics, gender and sexuality. Students should be familiar with using Blackboard in order to participate in this online course. Students will be expected to read assigned articles and view media files hyperlinked through Blackboard or on library reserve. Prerequisite: completion of GE Categories C.1 and C.2; formerly III.B.1 and 2.

**ASAM 325: Asian American Film and Video (GE C.3, Z; formerly III.B.3, V) - Dr. Eliza Noh**

The course will introduce students to major themes in Asian American film and video history and criticism. Asian American experiences and perspectives will be examined as the subject matter of films and video, but also in the production of these media. Therefore, Asian American aesthetics, history and politics will be examined in areas of film and video direction, production, writing and acting. The course will be divided into four units: 1) introduction to Asian American film and video history and criticism; 2) mainstream or crossover film/video; 3) documentaries; and 4) independent and experimental film/video. Some films we will cover include *Flower Drum Song*, *Mississippi Masala*, *Better Luck Tomorrow*, *Monkey Dance*, and *Charlotte Sometimes*. Prerequisite: completion of GE Categories C.1 and C.2; formerly III.B.1 and 2.

**ASAM 330B: Asian American Community Health - Dr. Tu-Uyen Nguyen**

In this fun and interactive class, students will be actively engaged in learning about the major issues and concepts of community health and their application to programs for Asian and Pacific American (APA) communities (especially AAPI women's sexual health and reproductive justice issues) in the United States. Through class lectures, assigned readings, films, papers, exams, and active discussion and presentation of key ideas, students will increase their understanding of major public health issues concerning Asian and Pacific Islander American communities and learn about ways they can apply community-based participatory research principles to improve the health of diverse communities. Students will also work in groups to design, conduct, and evaluate a community-based participatory research project on campus in order to learn more about the social activist implications of their work.

**ASAM 344: Asian Pacific American Identities (GE D.5, Z; formerly III.C.2, V) - Dr. Eric Reyes**

The course covers interdisciplinary explorations into the ways that individuals with Pacific Islander, Southeast, South and East Asian heritage have met the challenges of becoming American. This section will focus on issues of queer gender and sexuality in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Topics include coming out, family issues, gay marriage, relationships, community politics, and cultural representations of AAPI queers. The class format is discussion-based with periodic lectures. Course readings, in-class screenings, lectures, student questions and insights will drive the significant class and small group discussions. Prerequisite: completion of GE Category D.1; formerly III.C.1.

**ASAM 360: Mixed Heritage Asian Americans (GE D.5, Z; formerly III.C.2, V) - Dr. Jennifer A. Yee**

In this lecture-and-discussion course, we will critically examine "Mixed (Multiple) Heritage Asian American and Pacific Islanders" as an identity that represents an intersection of: 1) the historical, social, political and economic construction of race in the United States and 2) the construction of cultural and national heritage among AAPIs. Toward this end, all learners will engage with the text, with video and with one another through face-to-face and on-line discussions. Assignments include course readings, student-initiated group facilitation, exams, and independent and group projects. Prerequisite: completion of GE Category D.1; formerly III.C.1.

**ASAM 382: World War II Japanese American Evacuation (GE D.5; formerly III.C.2) - Dr. Thomas Fujita-Rony**

This course will examine the history of Japanese Americans, centering on their exclusion and incarceration during World War II. It will traverse the history of the group from early immigration to the present day, highlighting the many and various ways Japanese Americans have struggled to make real the promise of democracy and freedom offered by the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Pledge of Allegiance. (Same as HIST 382)