

Fall 2009 Course Descriptions

Asian American Studies Program

ASAM 101: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (GE III.C.2, V) - Dr. Kendahl Radcliffe

The perspective through which people of color have come to see themselves in terms of their own heroes, culture and contributions to societies in which they live and world society in general. (Same as Afro-Ethnic Studies 101 and Chicana/o Studies 101) Prerequisite: completion of General Education Category III.C.1.

ASAM 190.08: American History with Emphasis on Ethnic Minorities (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.

ASAM 300: Introduction to Asian American Studies (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*.

ASAM/WMST 308: Asian/Pacific Islander American Women (IV, V) - Dr. Jennifer 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.

GE Category	ASAM Course#
II.B.1	190
III.B.3	308
	320
	325
III.C.2	101
	300
	342
	344
	362A
IV	382
	308
V	101
	300
	308
	320
	325
	342
	344
362A	

ASAM 320: Asian American Creative Expressions (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 General Education Categories III.B.1 and 2.

(WEB) ASAM 320.50: Asian American Creative Expressions (III.B.3, V) - Dr. Eliza Noh

This is an online course that 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.

(WEB NURD) ASAM 320.55: Asian American Creative Expressions (III.B.3, V) - Mr. R. Jong

This online course is intended strictly for Nursing students. It explores Asian American life as portrayed through novels, short stories, plays, poetry, film, music, painting, dance, and other expressive forms. Prerequisite: completion of General Education Categories III.B.1 and 2.

ASAM 325: Asian American Film and Video (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 *Surname Viet, Given Name Nam*.

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

Did you know that Asian Pacific Americans encounter some serious health problems like cancer, heart disease, infectious diseases, obesity, and mental health challenges? 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 public health programs for Asian and Pacific American (APA) communities 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 and partner with a campus or community-based organization to come up with research questions to design, conduct, and evaluate a community-based participatory research project. Students are also encouraged, though not required, to take the follow-up course, ASAM 330B, in the spring semester, to learn more about the social activist implications of their work.

ASAM 342.03: Asian American Families (III.C.2, V) - Dr. Thomas Fujita-Rony

Families have been critically important to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. In this course, we will seek to understand the importance and impact of the social construction of “family” in the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at the cultural, group, and individual levels, and to explore the many ways that the concept of “family” has been used in efforts to attain freedom, justice, and human dignity for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

ASAM 344: Asian American Identities (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 General Education Category III.C.1.

ASAM 351: Asian American Education - Dr. Jennifer Yee

The purpose of the course is to provide critical perspectives on the context of Asian American and Pacific Islanders’ (AAPI) experiences in education in the United States at the primary, secondary, and particularly the college/university level. The course will focus on providing learning opportunities to develop a critical ability to understand, approach and alter policy and practice regarding AAPI students’ educational experiences and not so much providing a comprehensive amount of content about AAPI students’ education in the U.S. We will learn together by using enrolled students’ identities and personal experiences as springboards/lenses for examining issues. This course will benefit those interested in raising their consciousness about AAPI students’ educational experiences.

ASAM 362A: Filipina/o American Experience (III.C.2, V) - Dr. Eric Reyes

This survey course covers the Filipina/o American experience from the 1500s to the present. Topics include U.S. imperialism, second-generation identity, community and urban development, family and community, social justice, cultural representation, community-based organizations and political power. 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.

ASAM 382: World War II Japanese American Evacuation & Incarceration (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.

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