COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

● Description:
  ○ Gary Okihiro started the AAS program in Fall 1999. In 2000, the program was incorporated into Columbia’s Center for Study of Race and Ethnicity (CSRE). From 2000 to 2010, Asian American Studies existed as a major and a minor. The last graduate was in 2012. Now CRSE only offers a major in Ethnicity and Race Studies. Columbia also offers the “East Asian Studies” and “Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies” as official majors.

● Courses:
  ○ **Asian Americans and the Psychology of Race**
    This seminar provides an introduction to mental health issues for Asian Americans. In particular, it focuses on the psychology of Asian Americans as racial/ethnic minorities in the United States by exploring a number of key concepts: immigration, racialization, prejudice, family, identity, pathology, and loss. We will examine the development of identity in relation to self, family, college, and society. Quantitative investigation, qualitative research, psychology theories of multiculturalism, and Asian American literature will also be integrated into the course.

  ○ **Latino and Asian Memoir**
    In this class, we will explore Latino and Asian American memoir, focusing on themes of immigration and duality. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote in The Souls of Black Folk: "It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others.... One ever feels his two-ness...; two souls, two thoughts, two un-reconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." How do we construct identity and homeland when we are 'multiple'? How do we define ourselves and how do others define us? By reading some of the most challenging and exciting memoirs by Latino and Asian Americans, we will attempt to answer these questions and/or at least try to understand these transnational and multicultural experiences. This class combines the critical with the creative—students have to read and critique memoirs as well as write a final 10-page nonfiction creative writing piece. *Students will also have the opportunity to speak to some Latino and Asian authors in class or via SKYPE. Students will be asked to prepare questions in advance for the author—whose work(s) we will have read and discussed. This usually arises interesting and thought-provoking conversations and debates. This 'Dialogue Series' within the class exposes students to a wide-range of voices and offers them a deeper understanding of the complexity of duality.

  ○ **Asian American Cinema**
    This seminar focuses on the critical analysis of Asian representation and participation in Hollywood by taking a look at how mainstream American cinema continues to essentialize the Asian and how Asian American filmmakers have responded to Orientalist stereotypes. We will analyze various issues confronting Asian American communities, including "yellowface"; white patriarchy; male and female stereotypes; the "model minority" myth; "Chinatowns" as spectacle; panethnicity; the changing political interpretations of the term "Asian American" throughout American history; gender and sexuality; and cultural hegemonies and privileging within the Asian community. Feature films and documentaries will be supplemented by a substantial amount of literature to provide a solid grounding on race theory and help students examine Asian [mis] representation in mainstream media; we will then view some examples of contemporary Asian American films and discuss how they challenge culturally embedded stereotypes.

  ○ **Introduction of Asian American Studies**
Introduction to the field of Asian American studies, including a history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S., the field's multiple pivots around race, gender, sexuality, class, and nation, and contemporary concerns of identities, community, culture, and location within the U.S. and world.

- **Asian American Genders/Sexualities**
  This course will cover such topics as Asian wartime sexual traumas, femininity and feminizations, feminist/women of color discourses, overseas and domestic sex industries and sex work, LGBTQ identities and movements, health and gender/sexuality, alternative masculinities, and intra-racial and inter-racial dating and miscegenation. This course will discuss social scientific, humanities, fiction, non-fiction, and public health literature, supplemented with film/video, in order to think about, and re-think, the racialized construction of sex, gender, erotics, and sexuality.

**Faculty:**
- Gary Okihiro, International and Public Affairs
- Eric Gamalinda, Center for Study of Race and Ethnicity
  [http://cser.columbia.edu/2012/01/14/eric-gamalinda/](http://cser.columbia.edu/2012/01/14/eric-gamalinda/)
- Shinhee Han, Psychotherapist, Psychology
  [http://cser.columbia.edu/2012/01/14/shinhee-han/](http://cser.columbia.edu/2012/01/14/shinhee-han/)
- Nathalie Handal, Arab Poet, Playwright
  [http://www.nathaliehandal.com/biography.htm](http://www.nathaliehandal.com/biography.htm)
- Sel J Hwahng, Public Health, LGBTQ Related Issues
  [http://cser.columbia.edu/2012/01/14/sel-hwahng/](http://cser.columbia.edu/2012/01/14/sel-hwahng/)

**Website:**

**Notes:**
- Columbia’s Asian American Alliance (of students) have a post on their website, pushing for the establishment of Asian American Studies @ Columbia. “Asian American Alliance Political Committee fights for the resources necessary to maintain a truly sustainable Asian American Studies program at Columbia University” ([http://www.columbia.edu/cu/aaa/pc.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/aaa/pc.html))

**CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

- **Description:** Founded in 1987, the Asian American Studies Program at Cornell was the first of its kind within the Ivy League. Cornell’s College of Arts and Sciences offers an undergraduate minor in Asian American Studies. The program does not offer a graduate course of study, but students can undertake graduate work in Asian American Studies within selected disciplines of the university.

- **Courses:**
  - **AAS 1100 Introduction to Asian American Studies**
    An Interdisciplinary, cross-cultural introduction to Asian American Studies focusing on historical and contemporary issues. Major themes include: Identity and stereotypes, gender, family, community, education, migration and labor, and anti-asianism. We will go beyond the U.S. mainland to include Asians in other parts of the Americas--Caribbean and Latin America. We will focus on Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans , South Asians and Southeast Asians in the Americas. The purpose of this course is four-fold: (1) to introduce students to the multifaceted experiences of Asians in the United States and other parts of the Americas; (2) to examine how a diverse group of people came to be identified as “Asian
Americans,” (3) to understand the role of difference -- gender, class, ethnic -- in the formation of “Asian American” identities; and (4) to link historical experiences with contemporary issues.

- **AAS 1120 Comparative Perspectives**
  This one credit course complements the core course of the Asian American Studies Program ’s curriculum, "Introduction to Asian American Studies", AAS 110. This course will introduce students to a wide range of topics related to race and comparison from a multi- and interdisciplinary perspective by requiring those registered to attend eight university-sponsored public lectures on topics pertaining to race and indigeneity. These lectures will be drawn from those sponsored annually by the Asian American Studies Program, as well as from the vast array of lecture series offered through other departments and programs. By efficiently using the resources that are already in place within the institution—the wealth of speakers that pass through this campus we hope to expose undergraduates to the methods, questions and concerns of comparative studies in race and indigeneity. In addition to these eight events featuring external speakers, students will also attend three other events featuring individual Cornell Asian American Studies faculty, who will be presenting their work.

- **AAS 2130 Asian American History**
  The purpose of this seminar is four-fold: (1) to introduce you to the major themes in Asian American history; (2) to question the conventional narrative of American history – a narrative that largely excludes Asian Americans; (3) to analyze past Asian American experiences within the context of complicity with and challenges to hierarchies of race, gender, and class; and (4) to examine the continuities and discontinuities between past experiences of Asian Americans and those of Asian Americans today.

- **AAS 2150 The Reel Asian America**
  This course examines the relationship between ethnicity, globalization and gender as they emerge from and produce Asian American identity in film. How do practices of stereotyping and gender mediate national belonging and migration? We will consider analysis driven by ethnic-based political commitments as well as the role of gender, sexuality, eroticism, masculinity, and kinship in the construction of identities as we view melodrama, martial arts, and Bollywood films such as The Joy Luck Club, I'm the One that I Want, Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle, and Saving Face.

- **AAS 2041 Asian American Communities**
  This seminar offers and in-depth analysis of Asian American communities. Ranging from the mid-19th century to late-20th century, this course uses the community study as a lens to explore the development of Asian America. It focuses on themes of collective strategies of resistance to discrimination as well as tensions within Asian American populations. The course also explores how race and racism, migration, family relations, gender, and ethnic and national identity have shaped different ideas of community.

- **AAS 2070 Asian American Workers and the Law**
  How does the legal construction of race/ethnicity influence how we see ourselves and how others perceive us in the workplace, and consequently, impact our career paths and career mobility? At once the model minority, the perpetual foreigner, the quiet American, and the math and science whiz, Asian Americans assume a unique but stereotypical position in our racial terrain. As such, studying the legal construction of this racial category will throw new light on our understanding of citizenship, identity, work, and above all, what it means to be an American worker. This course will draw heavily from critical race theory and case law to help us understand how the legal construction of race impacts the Asian American worker.
This course covers the following topics: alienage, citizenship, identity, immigration, internment, the right to work, exclusion, national security, foreign affairs, law and society, international and domestic political economy, race and ethnicity, gender, and class. Course materials will be drawn from casebook, case law, law review articles, and films.

○ AAS 2100 South Asian Diasporic Locations
This interdisciplinary course, with an emphasis on anthropology, introduces students to the multiple routes/roots, lived experiences, and imagined worlds of South Asians who have traveled to various lands - Fiji, South Africa, Mauritius, Britain, Malaysia, the United States, and Trinidad - as well as within South Asia itself, at different historical moments. The course begins with the labor migrations of the 1930s and continues to the present. We compare and contrast the varied expressions of the South Asian Diaspora to critically evaluate transnational identity.

This is a special seminar sponsored by the John S. Knight Institute Sophomore Seminars Program. Seminars offer discipline-specific study within an interdisciplinary context. While not restricted to sophomores, the seminars aim at initiating students into the disciplines' outlook, discourse community, modes of knowledge, and ways of articulating that knowledge. Enrollment limited to 15. Special emphasis is given to strong thinking and writing and to personalized instruction with top university professors.

○ AAS 2620 Introduction to Asian American Literature
This course will introduce both a variety of writings by Asian Americans and some critical issues concerning the production and the reception of Asian American texts. In reading through selected works of prose and drama, as well as viewing some films and documentaries by Asian American filmmakers, we will be asking questions about the historical formation of Asian American identities, about the forms of representation available to Asian American writers and artists, and the problem of defining an Asian American literary or cultural tradition.

○ AAS 2820 Popular Culture & Asian America
VOIDING THE POPULAR: ASIAN AMERICA AND THE POLITICS OF CULTURE To what extent can culture be a vehicle for political change? In what ways does culture become a way of securing the status quo? By looking at the presence of Asians and Asian Americans in American popular culture, from music to literature to films, this course will analyze and interrogate popular culture’s representation and circulation of Asian Americans as the objects of culture as well as its subjects, as images and ideas to be consumed as well as the creators of an identity circulated in and as this thing called pop culture. In particular, this course will ask what popularization entails and of what, as a socio-political category, “the popular” consists. Is there a single, homogeneous culture in America under which every apparent subcategory and subculture, whether ethnically- or socially-based, eventually becomes absorbed? Are there enclaves and zones of relative autonomy in which culture can be pluralized? If the term popular culture is to be respected, can one thus challenge the notion of the popular as a singular demographic category? These questions bear upon Asian Americans not only as ethnic minorities, but as a racialized group whose identity is marked by a history in which the status of “American” has been denied and the very “Asian-ness” of a given group circumscribed by both legal, political, and economic mechanisms of power and the representational apparatuses of culture. In what ways do certain representations of Asians and Asian Americans reinforce this history of racialization? Are there ways in which these representations challenge the norm of American culture, and in so doing reconfigure the concept of “the popular”—that is, the populace, the masses, the people, the citizenry—itself?
○ **AAS 3030 Asians in the Americas**
The common perception of ethnicity is that this is a “natural” and an inevitable consequence of cultural difference. “Asians” overseas, in particular, have won repute as a people who cling tenaciously to their culture and refuse to assimilate into their host societies and cultures. But, who are the “Asians”? On what basis can we label Asians an ethnic group? Although there is a significant Asian presence in the Caribbean, the category “Asian” itself does not exist in the Caribbean. What does this say about the nature of categories that label and demarcate groups of people on the basis of alleged cultural and phenotypical characteristics? This identity, namely ethnicity, by comparing and contrasting the multicultural experience of Asian populations in the Caribbean and the United States. Ethnographic case studies focus on the East Indian and Chinese experiences in the Caribbean and the Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, and Indian experiences in the U.S.

○ **AAS 3150 Asian American Activism**
**ASIAN AMERICA: VIOLENCE AND THE HORIZONS OF CROSS-ETHNIC SOLIDARITY**
Like any other ethnic marker, the identity called Asian American is unstable. It is also, much like its counterparts, subject and prone to the abuses of power, a term that is beset with a history of violence both specific to it and generalizable across ethnic and class lines. And yet, the identity of Asian American has also been a catalyst for social, political, educational, and economic transformation, most notably from the late sixties to the seventies, from the San Francisco State College Strike of 1968 – 1969 to establishment of the Red Guard Party. This course will focus on the history and problems of “Asian America” in order to understand the state of ethnically-based political and social activism today. More specifically, this course will ask a series of questions revolving around the following, central theme: the social and political consequences of identifying as—by calling oneself—Asian American. Through a variety of works in the fields of history and theory and in the media of novels and the visual and musical arts, we will move through the Japanese American internment of World War II to the wartime activism directed against the American invasion of Vietnam and end with the contemporary geopolitical situation, asking along the way what it means to “be” Asian American and what it means to “use” this identity as a foundation for activism both in the name of Asian Americans and in solidarity with other minority groups.

○ **AAS 3470 Asian American Women’s History**
This course examines the experiences and representations of Asian American women from the mid-19th century to the present. It explores the lives & contexts of immigrant women and of women both in the U.S. Questions of identity and power are at the heart of this course as we explore the intertwined nature of race, gender, and nation.

○ **AAS 3801 Asian American Urban Experience**
The seminar examines the histories and geographies of urban Asian American communities. We begin with an introduction to key geographical terms and spatial theories and then use them to analyze different Asian ethnic communities throughout North America. This includes an investigation of 19th and early 20th century segregated ethnic enclaves on the West Coast and the East Coast as well as an examination of postwar Asian American communities in suburbs.

○ **AAS 3901 Asian Americans Politics and Public Policy**
United States political institutions have shaped Asian American immigration, legal rights, community formation, and political expression. They have also influenced racial status and political identity. This course examines public policy and political issues that affect Asian Pacific Americans, including electoral politics, social justice/grassroots movements, affirmative action, and multiracial/interracial coalitions. We investigate the interaction
between state institutions and political movements and also how this interaction frames political issues and accommodates political challenges. Particular attention will be paid to different means of political organization and different strategies toward political empowerment. The course will be situated within the broader context of post civil-rights racial politics and postwar political economic restructuring.

- **AAS 3970 Asian Americans and the Third World Movements**
  This course examines the ideas, ideals, and political and social context that influenced the political mobilization of Asian Americans and other communities of color in US cities during the late 1960s and 1970s. It assesses the factors that encouraged and sustained their mobilization around social justice and anti-racism issues as well as the factors that created opportunities for multiracial alliance building. The course also addresses the social-spatial contexts out of which activists emerged and the kinds of communities they strove to build through their grassroots mobilization. We begin the course examining key theorists and ideas that influenced political mobilization, studying this in terms of social movement theory and in terms of the spatial linkages that activists were making between neighborhood issues, their campuses, and anti-colonial struggles throughout the Global South. Next we consider first person accounts of activists, considering why they became political engaged, what they accomplished, and what happened to them. Finally, we conclude with group projects investigating the state of ethnic studies today that will emphasize the development of qualitative research methods, including interviewing and archiving oral histories.

- **AAS 4000 Theories and Methods**
  This course is designed for seniors, especially those working on senior projects concerning race dynamics in the United States. The course will familiarize students with current theories and methods of research in the field of Asian American Studies. Students will be introduced to both the practice of interdisciplinary research as it has evolved within Asian American Studies and to comparative approaches to studies of race and ethnicity. In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore different modes of comparison and to examine how these various modes of comparison invite or decline particular kinds of analytical questions. Students will be required to attend a number of lectures on course-related topics by visiting speakers. The required number will vary depending on the availability of appropriate lectures in a given semester.

- **AAS 4140 Popular Culture and Visual Practice in Asian America**
  Through a variety of case studies, this course will examine the forms and practices of Asian American popular culture (including film, video, music and visual, decorative, and performance arts), within the historical, social, and economic contexts that have shaped their production. In this course, we will ask: What is the relationship of these popular forms to the histories of Asian American community arts? How have Asian Americans' engagements with "the popular" altered "traditional" modes of visual representation, artistic production, and cultural exchange? In this course we will also consider how the circulation of Asian popular culture in the U.S. (from anime to Bollywood and beyond) has informed the styles, fashions, and visual vocabularies of contemporary Asian American culture.

- **AAS 4170 Asian American Popular Culture**
  This course examines how Asian Americans have constituted and positioned their identities through various mediums of popular culture from the 1930s onward. While we will not ignore the legacy of Orientalism and Orientalist representational systems with which and against which Asian American cultural practices are often in dialogue, this course emphasizes Asian American-produced popular culture in order to centralize the agency of Asian Americans. Focusing on popular institutions like music, theater, fashion, television, film,
and the internet, we’ll examine the complex relationship between Asian American representational practices and their material experiences and sociopolitical locations. In addition, we will consider the multiple and differentiated interpretive strategies of Asian American consumers of popular culture. How are Asian American consumption and reception practices constituted differently across class, gender, and sexuality?

○ AAS 4950 Independent Study

○ AAS 4954 Yellowface
This seminar is a study of the cross-cultural flows between China and the West via literature, translation, and cinema. It focuses on yellowface as racial ventriloquism performed by writers, translators, actors, directors, and other cultural go-betweens. The most notable yellowface performance is obviously in Hollywood films (Charlie Chan, Fu Manchu, and David Carradine’s “Kung Fu” series), but it is also increasingly evident in the self-representations by contemporary Chinese filmmakers. We will also examine poetic translations, wisdom products (philosophy, aphorisms, and fortune cookies), and other areas of culture, high and low, elite and popular.

○ AAS 4970 Jim Crow & Exclusion Era America
This seminar examines America during the overlapping eras of segregation and immigration exclusion. We will begin with an exploration of the racial politics at the heart of Jim Crow systems and the push toward exclusionary legislation. Themes include the links between racial and economic oppression, legal and de facto restriction, difference within black and Asian American populations, everyday resistance, and struggles for equality. The course concludes with a discussion of new framings of comparative, intertwined, and transnational histories. In addition to examining the specific and discrete contexts and experiences that marked the Jim Crow South and Exclusion Era Asian America, throughout the semester we will consider the degree to which these histories that are usually treated separately might be comparable or connected. We will pay close attention to white supremacy and responses to its various manifestations.

● Faculty (4 Core Faculty):
  ○ Viranjini Munasinghe, Anthropology
    (http://anthropology.cornell.edu/faculty/Viranjini-Munasinghe.cfm)
  ○ Derek Chang, History
    (http://www.arts.cornell.edu/history/faculty-department-chang.php)
  ○ Shelley Wong, English
    (http://www.arts.cornell.edu/english/people/?id=65)
  ○ Minh-Ha Pham, History of Art and Visual Studies
    (http://www.arts.cornell.edu/histart/pham.html)

● Website:
  ○ The administration and actual program is housed in the Asian American Studies Resource Center (http://www.aasp.cornell.edu/facilities.php)
DARTMOUTH UNIVERSITY

- Description: Although there is an Asian American Studies website, the faculty are limited (only two), and the course offerings are also based in other departments. No major or minor is available for undergraduates or graduates. As of 2012, Professor Kim of History resigned and is no longer working with the program. Replacement will be an AA History senior.

- Not officially recognized program by the university, more like a research group, senior thesis can focus on AAS and work with tenured faculty (Sociology, English, History). Sociology has withered. Quite a lot of money -- lecture series, mini-conferences. Annual lecture series has been going on. Next year going to be little activity. Bahng sabbatical.

- Student led initiative -- pressured administrative. Late 90s, started in 2006. Remained interest but lack of action and movement. Terrified of majoring in AAS -- minimum is 5 in a class.

- Student organization leaders -- (staff hired through diversity office)

- Jim Kim was quite hostile uninterested in AAS is an identity politics, misinformed underinformed. 15% student body. Latin American studies, native american, african, "asian" studies -- hostile towards AAS. no ethnic studies. American studies exists. competing for the same money.

- responds well

- Courses:
  - English 44: Asian American Literature & Culture
  - English 72: Science, Fiction, and Empire
  - English 67.8: Contemporary Asian American Literature and Culture
  - History 6: Asian American Sexuality and Gender
  - History 32: Asians in the Americas to 1905
  - History 33: Asian Americans in the Twentieth Century
  - History 96: Race, Ethnicity, Immigration, and Empire: Asian Pacific American History
  - WGST 7: Asian American Women's Writing
  - COLT 57/INT ST 17: Women of the Asian Diaspora
  - Socy 49 A Sociological Introduction to the Asian American Experience
  - Socy 79 The Sociology of Asian America

- Faculty:
  - Aimee S. Bahng, English
    (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~asiam/faculty/bahng.html)
  - Jean J. Kim, History
    (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~asiam/faculty/kim.html)
    ■ Update 6/8/2012: Prof. Bahng said that Prof. Kim had been reassigned.

- Website: Dartmouth Asian American Studies (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~asiam/)

- Notes:
  - Both of their faculty are East Asian (Korean), and most courses do not provide SE or South Asian perspective.
  - They do offer Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.
  - Dartmouth offers a program called Transnational Asian/Asian Workgroup for its faculty. "This working group seeks to convene faculty interested in developing a scholarly conversation about "Asia" and "America." The faculty meet to 1) to plan the Asian American Lecture Series for 2012-2013, and 2) to discuss the future of Asian/American Studies at Dartmouth in relation to existing and emerging institutional structures.
    *(http://www.dartmouth.edu/~lhc/events/2012/asianamerican.html)*
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- **Description:** Harvard does not have an independent Asian American Studies department, but can focus on AAS within Ethnic Studies Secondary Field (minor). Note: AAS is not a set track, rather the minor allows students “pursue sustained, interdisciplinary study of issues related to ethnicity, migration, indigeneity, and human rights, particularly in Asian American/Transpacific, Native American/Indigenous, and US Latino/American hemispheric topics, with an American focus as well as a transnational one.” Ethnic Studies Committee was established in 1988, and its status as a Secondary Field (minor) was approved in 2009. There has also been a push for establishing AAS as a separate entity in the College and more coursework, especially around 2007.

- **Courses:**
  - **ENGL181a: Asian American Literature**
    This course is both a survey of Asian American literature and an introduction to ongoing debates about what constitutes Asian American literature. How do we determine that a literary work is "Asian American" when the term has been continuously revised and expanded since it came into common usage in the late 1960s? How important are considerations of a work's thematic concerns, its relationship to specific cultural forms and traditions, or its author's biography?

- **Faculty:**
  - Committee on Ethnic Studies: [http://www.ethnicstudies.fas.harvard.edu/home/People.html](http://www.ethnicstudies.fas.harvard.edu/home/People.html)

- **Website:**

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

- **Description:** Princeton University does not have an established Asian American Studies department or program. Their coursework is also limited to one or two courses in Asian American Studies per semester, within the American Studies department (no Ethnic Studies exists in Princeton, nor an Asian American Studies track). The students have led protests and sit-ins to establish a certificate program for Asian American Studies. As of April 2012, they were able to get a new Asian American Studies course (ENG224) through their protests.

- **Courses:**
  - **ENG 224/AMS 304: Asian American Law, Bodies and the Everyday**
    This course studies the relationship between law and literature by focusing on the roles that Asian Americans played in US constitutional history. We will examine cases involving Asian Americans that reflect on American policies on citizenship, immigration, civil rights, human rights, and foreign policy, and we will explore novels, plays, poems, and films that respond to these cases. We will also consider the invisible ways in which the law shapes our everyday lives: how it structures our feelings, bodies, spaces, and the sense of the quotidian.
  - **336/AAS 344: Global Asian America**
    This course explores the multiple ways Asian descended identity is embodied and lived inside and outside of America. Emphasis is placed on the cultural, historical and legal production of Asian identity through the intersection of race, class, nation and sexuality. Key concepts such as migration, empire and diaspora are investigated. Through what regional, national and global registers can we understand “Asian” and “Asian American” identity?

- **Faculty:**
Anne Cheng, English and Africana Studies
(http://www.princeton.edu/africanamericanstudies/people/faculty/anne-cheng/)

- Website:
  - American Studies http://www.princeton.edu/ams/

- Notes:
  - Most of the information in the description was gathered through news articles.
    (http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/2012/04/27/30790/)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Description: UPenn has an AAS program, which offers an AAS minor to undergraduate students. A small group of graduate students are also funded by the program to organize AAS-related events/speakers. AAS is not its own department. Vast majority are cross-listed by adjuncts, but also some courses are just AAS. director the program tenure. two rooms from sociology -- negotiated space. Tenure track -- adjuncts are teaching ONE course. enrollment/demand is the barrier. students wanting courses but dont take courses 123 are ah zam yearly. 96-97. 80s students pushed for it. students were pushing for it. senior tenured people pushed for it. no physical space. not that big. AmCiv dept. disbanded in mid 90s. Separate latino studies -- with latin america studies. no native american studies. pre-professional school. not central to their education for the future. requiremntne for cultural diversity in the U.S. everyone has to take a race/ethnicity/gender/sexuality.

- Courses (from Fall 2012 and Spring 2011):
  - **ASAM 001 Asian Americans in Contemporary Society**
    This course presents an overview of sociological research on Asian Americans in the U.S., framed around the evaluation of Asian Americans as "model minorities." We begin with a brief overview of popular images of Asian Americans as seen through recent portrayals in mainstream media (movies, television). We review general sociological frameworks used to understand racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. and move quickly to document the history of Asian immigration to the U.S. We explore how Asian Americans fare in educational attainment, labor market experiences, political organizations, urban experience, and Asian interracial marriage and biracials. We examine whether and how "Asian American" is a meaningful label.
  - **ASAM 002 Introduction to Asian American Literature**
    This course will explore the varieties of Asian American Experience by considering the literary forms they take. Our readings will range from poems carved into the walls of a detention center at the beginning of the century to experiments in literary form in the eighties and nineties. The course will consider literary representations of a broad range of Asian American experience: tales of migratory labor, Chinatown stories, the extraordinary case of Japanese internment, panethnic activist literature, and the different accounts that emerge when Asian America expands beyond East Asia to include South and Southeast Asian American experience. In each instance, we will read these forms within their historical moments, ultimately asking how these formal expressions map onto the conditions of Asian America.
  - **ASAM 006 Race & Ethnic Relations**
    The course will examine how social networks, neighborhood context, culture, and notions of race affect inequality and ethnic relations. The course reviews the studies of ethnic entrepreneurship, urban segregation, labor force participation, and assimilation processes. The course emphasizes how inequality affects ethnic relations as well as the economic and
social integration of different groups in society.

- **ASAM 160 South Asians in the US**
  This course investigates the everyday practices and customs of South Asians in America. Every immigrant group has its own history, customs, beliefs and values, making each unique while simultaneously a part of the "melting pot" or salad bowl" of American society. Yet how do people define themselves and their ethnicities living in a diasporic context? By taking into account the burgeoning South Asian American population as our model, this course will explore the basic themes surrounding the lives that immigrants are living in America, and more specifically the identity which the second generation, born and/or raised in America, is developing. South Asians in the U.S. will be divided thematically covering the topics of ethnicity, marriage, gender, religion, and pop culture. Reading and assignments will discuss a variety of issues and viewpoints that are a part of the fabric of South Asia, but will focus on the interpretation of such expressive culture in the United States.

- **ASAM 201 Ethnic Economies & Globalization**
  What drives different ethnic groups to open businesses and why are some more "successful" in entrepreneurship than others? How do different groups finance their businesses and does the U.S. government help some open firms? How is racial conflict over business competition related to global factors? This course bridges the topics and literatures of globalization, development, urban studies, the sociology of entrepreneurship and race, and Asian American studies to explore connections between ethnic entrepreneurship and globalization. We examine how US-located ethnic entrepreneurship is impacted by diplomatic ties, globalization of banking and telecommunications, foreign investment, trade, transnationalism, diasporic institutions, gentrification, deindustrialization, and immigration. In the process students become familiar with 1) examples of business patterns among ethnic groups; 2) relationship between entrepreneurship and employment opportunities; 3) differences between ethnic enclaves, ethnoburbs, and ethnic economies, and 4) data used by those studying and working in business, economic and urban development, finance, and immigration.

- **ASAM 294 Facing America**
  This course explores the visual history of race in the United States as both self-fashioning and cultural mythology by examining the ways that various representations of Native American, Latino, and Asian identity, alongside ideas of Blackness and Whiteness, have combined to create the various cultural ideologies of class, gender, and sexuality that remain evident in visual and material culture today.

- **ASAM 299 Independent Study**
  PERMISSION NEEDED FROM DEPARTMENT

- **ASAM 003 Intro to Asian American History**
  This course provides an introduction to the history of Asian/Pacific Americans, focusing on the wide diversity of migrant experiences, as well as the continuing legacies of racism on American-born APA's. Issues of class and gender as well as the impact of international politics on APA lives will also be examined.

- **ASAM 110 Asian American Activism**
  Often, discussion of the Asian American experience excludes activism for social justice. Throughout this seminar, students will examine a number of social movements affecting the status of Asian Americans. For instance, what happens when Asian Americans disrupt or complicate race, class, and gender hierarchies through social movement activism? Building on readings and film screenings, a combination of writing assignments, and
groupwork will help us to develop a deeper understanding of the Asian American Movement

- **ASAM 201 Immigrant Urban Labor in US**
  This course examines post-1965 immigrant labor in urban U.S. cities. Looking at several ethnic, national, and immigrant groups, we consider how 1) globalization as well as U.S. immigration and labor policies inform labor flows and placement; 2) the conditions under which immigrants work; 3) the impact of immigrant labor on employment patterns, wages, labor unions, and the national economy; 4) labor activism among immigrants (workers centers, independent labor organizations); 5) the impact of xenophobia, immigration enforcement, and the economic recession on immigrant laborers; and 6) how family and kin networks are affected by labor patterns. We look at examples from industries in which immigrants are concentrated or over-represented: garment work, taxi driving, nursing, domestic work, and restaurant work. In the process, we will also consider the feminization of, and the national, ethnic, and racial diversity among immigrant labor. This course will be of particular interest to students of urban development, work and labor, race relations, policy, and globalization and will familiarize all students with government and non-profit data, grassroots and transnational labor activism, and the contemporary debate on immigration reform.

- **ASAM 202 Asians in Hollywood**
  This seminar is an advanced-level topics-based version of Introduction to Asian American Literature. The intended audience is junior and senior English majors and advanced students in Asian studies, Asian American studies, contemporary U.S. and world history, ethnic studies, urban studies, etc. Typical versions of this seminar will include representations and images of Asians in contemporary U.S. novels and films; Asian American literature by women; Asian American film narrative and film aesthetics; studies in Asian American literature and visual art; Asian American literature and immigration; Asian American literature in the context of the literature of exile and journey; Asian American literature 1929-1945; Asian American literature, 1945 to the present; Anglophone/South Asian literature in England, 1970 to the present; Southeast Asia, Vietnam, and American literature, 1970-1990; etc. Students will typically present research projects and write several long essays.

- **ASAM 203 Topics in Asian American History: Japanese American Internment**
  This seminar examines various issues surrounding the wartime internment of Japanese Americans. Students will be familiarized with representative works on the topic, as well as its connections to and implications for larger Asian American concerns.

- **ASAM 205 Asian American Communities**
  Who is Asian American and where and how do we recognize Asian America? This interdisciplinary course explores the multiple factors that define Asian American identity and community. In order to provide a sketch of the multifaceted experience of this growing minority group, we will discuss a wide array of texts from scholarly, artistic, and popular (film, cinematic) sources that mark key moments in the cultural history of Asian America. The course will address major themes of community life including migration history, Asian American as model minority; race, class and transnational scope of Asian America. In combination with the readings, this class will foster and promote independent research based on site visits to various Asian American communities in Philadelphia and will host community leaders as guest lecturers.

- **ASAM 239 Migration & Middle East**
  This reading- and discussion-intensive seminar examines the phenomenon of migration into, out of, within, and across the Middle East and North Africa. We will focus on the
period from the late nineteenth century to the present, and will emphasize the cultural (rather than economic) consequences of migration. Along the way we will trace connections between the Middle East and other regions-- notably the Americas, sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Caucasus, and Western Europe. Readings are interdisciplinary and include works of history, anthropology, sociology, medical research, literature, political science, geography, and human rights advocacy. As students develop final projects on topics of their choice, we will spend time throughout the semester discussing tactics for research and writing.

- **Faculty:**
  - Grace Kao, Sociology, Education, and Asian American Studies
    ([link](https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/people/Kao))
  - Josephine Park, English and Asian American Studies (Director)
    ([link](https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/people/Park))
  - David Eng, English ([link](https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/people/eng))
  - Eiichiro Azuma, History ([link](https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/people/azuma))

- **Website:** [https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/](https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/)

**Yale University**

- **Description:**
  - Yale University does not have a department or specific program in Asian American Studies. However, they have a major named Ethnicity, Race, and Migration that may allow an Asian American sub-focus (not confirmed). The Asian American Culture Center holds “Asian American Studies” ([link](https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/)) which coordinates speakers and lectures about AAS as a part of an enrichment program. Coursework is also limited and faculty focusing on Asian American Studies is not compiled in one place. Yale has a student “Task Force” that has been pushing for greater Asian American professorship and course offerings since around 2007.

- **Courses:**
  - **HIST 183: Asian American History, 1800 to the Present**
    *A new perspective.* Taught by Professor Mary Lui, this class introduces some of the key topics in Asian-American history that were probably skimmed over in your other more “mainstream” American history classes. A variety of Asian cultures are covered, for a rich and eye-opening course.
  - **HIST 166J: Asian American Women and Gender, 1830 to the Present**
    *Not just for Asian women.* Also taught by Lui, this junior history seminar (sorry non-majors!) explores the challenges and accomplishments of Asian American women, providing a cultural and sociological perspective on a little-discussed topic.
  - **AMST 322: Gender, Family and Cultural Identity in Asia and the United States**
    *Bridge the culture gap.* WGSS department lecturer and international feminism expert Geetanjali Chanda teaches this class on identity formation in different Asian countries and U.S. perceptions of Asian culture. It will change the way you think.
  - **ENGL 339: American Literary Nationalisms**
    *The bookish type.* With African American Studies Professor GerShun Avilez, read works that highlight the influence of nationalist frameworks on modern American literature. Includes not just Asian American nationalism but also the Black Arts Movement and feminist and queer organizing, among others.
  - **AMST 695: Craft in Colonial and Independent India**
Trip to the museum. This graduate-level seminar looks at South Indian craft-making, from textiles to metalwork. Professor of American Decorative Arts Edward Cooke introduces both historical and contemporary contexts for the craftsmen's work, and relates them to prominent cultural issues in India.

- **Faculty:**
  - Mary Lui, American Studies and History [http://www.yale.edu/amstud/faculty/lui.html](http://www.yale.edu/amstud/faculty/lui.html)

- **Website:**
  - Yale Asian American Studies (not an actual concrete program, rather speaker/dinner program for greater AAS exposure) [http://aacc.yalecollege.yale.edu/asian-american-studies](http://aacc.yalecollege.yale.edu/asian-american-studies)
  - Yale Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration major [http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/ethnicity-race-and-migration-1](http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/ethnicity-race-and-migration-1)

- **Note:**
  - American Studies is available, but does not have an Asian American Studies specific track. More broader themes.
  - Graduate students do NOT have Asian American Studies program or courses either.