Department of Asian American Studies

3000 Humanities Gateway; (949) 824-4523
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/
James Kyung-Jin Lee, Chair

The Department of Asian American Studies examines the historical and contemporary experiences of Asians in the United States and in a global context. The curriculum seeks to provide an analysis of the cultural, political, and economical organization of Asian American communities. Students are invited to participate and partake in broadening their understanding of multicultural perspectives within U.S. society. The Department offers a B.A. degree program in Asian American Studies, a minor, and a graduate emphasis.

The Department also contributes to the Culture and Theory Ph.D. program, which uses the strengths of interdisciplinary programs and departments, particularly African American Studies, Chicano/Latino Studies, Asian American Studies, Critical Theory, and Women's Studies. This degree uses a problem-oriented rather than a disciplinary approach to issues of race, gender, and sexuality in relation to diasporas, transnational, and postcolonial contexts, all of which are broadly based in the humanities, social sciences, and arts.

Scholarship Opportunities. The Ching-Suei Su Endowed Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to sophomores or juniors who are majoring in Asian American Studies, East Asian Languages and Literatures, or Linguistics (with an emphasis on an East Asian language) and who demonstrate academic excellence and campus or community service.

Undergraduate Program

Career Opportunities

Many career opportunities exist for students who graduate with a B.A. degree in Asian American Studies, such as service with national and international organizations which seek knowledge of American multicultural society in general, and of Asian American peoples and cultures in particular; positions as area specialists with state and federal government agencies; careers in the private sector with corporations or private organizations which have a significant portion of their activities in the U.S. and the Pacific Rim; and positions of service and leadership within Asian American communities. Students may also continue their education and pursue professional or graduate degrees.

Requirements for the B.A. Degree in Asian American Studies

All students must meet the University Requirements (catalogue.uci.edu/previouseditions/2013-14/informationforadmittedstudents/requirementsforabachelorsdegree)

All students must meet the School Requirements (catalogue.uci.edu/previouseditions/2013-14/schoolofhumanities/#undergraduateprogramtext)

Department Requirements for the Major

A. Three introductory Asian American Studies core courses:
   ASIANAM 50  Asian American Histories
   or ASIANAM 51  The U.S. and Asia
   and
   ASIANAM 52  Asian American Communities
   or ASIANAM 53  Asian Americans and Comparative Race Relations
   and
   ASIANAM 54  Asian American Stories
   or ASIANAM 55  Asian Americans and the Media

B. Complete:
   ASIANAM 100W  Research Methodologies for Asian American Studies

C. Select one course from each of the following areas:
   Humanities/Arts: Asian American Studies 110–129
   Social Science/Social Ecology: Asian American Studies 130–149
   Asian American Sub-groups: Asian American Studies 151–160
   Ethnic/Race/Gender Relations: Asian American Studies 161–170

D. Select four additional upper-division elective Asian American Studies courses. Students may request, by petition, one lower-division course to count as an elective. This course must be primarily focused on issues relevant to Asian American Studies.

Residence Requirement for the Major: A minimum of five upper-division courses required for the major must be completed successfully at UCI.

Requirements for the Minor in Asian American Studies

A. Three introductory Asian American Studies core courses:
   ASIANAM 50  Asian American Histories
   or ASIANAM 51  The U.S. and Asia
   and
   ASIANAM 52  Asian American Communities
   or ASIANAM 53  Asian Americans and Comparative Race Relations
   and
   ASIANAM 54  Asian American Stories
   or ASIANAM 55  Asian Americans and the Media

B. Four upper-division courses selected from Asian American Studies 100W–169, 199.

Residence Requirement for the Minor: Four upper-division courses required for the minor must be completed successfully at UCI. Two of the
four may be taken through the UC Education Abroad Program, provided course content is approved in advance by the Department.

**Graduate Emphasis in Asian American Studies**

The Department of Asian American Studies offers a graduate emphasis in Asian American Studies, which is available in conjunction with selected departmental graduate programs. Students in the graduate emphasis complete a minimum of four courses, including ASIANAM 200A and ASIANAM 200B (offered every other year), and two electives, one of which is selected from the student's own department or area of interest, and the other from a discipline outside that department or area.

Subject to the requirements of participating academic units, Ph.D. students in the emphasis should have at least one Asian American Studies core faculty member on their qualifying examination and dissertation committees. With the approval of the Asian American Studies Graduate Committee, affiliated faculty members can sit in place of the core faculty. (There are no requirements concerning qualifying examinations or theses for master's students.)

Applicants to the emphasis must be admitted to a participating UCI graduate program. For complete information about application policies and procedures, as well as the requirements of the emphasis, see one of the Asian American Studies faculty members.

**Core Faculty**

Christine B. Balance, Ph.D. New York University, Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies (Filipino American studies, performance studies, Asian American popular culture, and queer/feminist theory)

Dorothy Fujita-Rony, Ph.D. Yale University, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies (U.S. history, Asian American studies)

Claire Jean Kim, Ph.D. Yale University, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and Political Science (racial and ethnic politics, protest and social movements, immigration, intersectionality)

James Kyung-Jin Lee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Director of the Graduate Program in Culture and Theory, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, and Associate Professor of English (Asian American literature, urban studies, modern social movements, U.S. political economy, religious studies, illness and disability studies)

John M. Liu, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Senior Lecturer with Security of Employment Emeritus, Asian American Studies (race/ethnic/minority relations; economy and society)

Linda Trinh Vô, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies (race and ethnic relations, immigrants and refugees, gender relations, and community and urban studies)

**Affiliated Faculty**

Kei Akagi, B.A. International Christian University, UCI Chancellor's Professor of Music

Yong Chen, Ph.D. Cornell University, Associate Professor of History (Asian American history)

Laura H. Y. Kang, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, Associate Professor of Women's Studies, Comparative Literature, and English

Kyung Hyun Kim, Ph.D. University of Southern California, Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures

Jennifer Lee, Ph.D. Columbia University, Professor of Sociology

Stephen Lee, J.D. University of California, Berkeley, Assistant Professor of Law

Daphne Pi-Wei Lei, Ph.D. Tufts University, Professor of Drama

Simon Leung, B.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Professor of Art

Sanjoy Mazumdar, Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design and Social Ecology

Glen Mimura, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, Associate Dean of Graduate Study and Research and Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies

Yong Soon Min, M.F.A. University of California, Berkeley, Professor of Art

Bert Winther-Tamaki, Ph.D. Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, Department Chair and Professor of Art History

**Courses**

**ASIANAM 50. Asian American Histories. 4 Units.**

Examines and compares diverse experiences of major Asian American groups since the mid-nineteenth century. Topics include origins of emigration; the formation and transformation of community; gender and family life; changing roles of Asian Americans in American society. Formerly ASIANAM 60A.

Same as SOC SCI 78A, HISTORY 15C.

((III or IV) and VII ).

**ASIANAM 51. The U.S. and Asia. 4 Units.**

Explores the historical and contemporary transnational linkages between the U.S. and regions in Asia and their resultant flows of people, goods, and ideas. Attention given to the role of militarism and processes of globalization, and the histories of cultural contact/conflict.

((III or IV) and VIII ).

**ASIANAM 52. Asian American Communities. 4 Units.**

Examines the renewal of Asian immigration following World War II. Explores contemporary Asian American populations and communities in the U.S., and the impact of contemporary Asian immigration on the U.S. political economy and social order.

Same as SOC SCI 78B.

((III, VII)
ASIANAM 53. Asian Americans and Comparative Race Relations. 4 Units.
Analyzes the Asian American experience in comparative perspective, which includes comparisons of different ethnic and racial groups, and across gender and class. Possible topics include labor, economy, politics, migration, nation, popular culture, gender, family, sexuality, and multiraciality.

Same as SOC SCI 78C.

(III, VII)

ASIANAM 54. Asian American Stories. 4 Units.
Examines stories from Asian American communities through literary texts and other media. Selected themes may include the following: dislocation/relocation, finding/inventing a usable past, poetics/politics in language, identities/ethnicities.

(IV, VII)

ASIANAM 55. Asian Americans and the Media. 4 Units.
Investigates popular representations of and cultural productions by Asian Pacific Americans and Asians in the Americas from the late-nineteenth century to the present. Cultural media may include political cartoons, film/television, popular music, visual art, blogs/Web sites, and performance.

(IV, VII)

ASIANAM 100W. Research Methodologies for Asian American Studies. 4 Units.
Explores various research methodologies for Asian American Studies combining theoretical knowledge with field research. Goals: conduct field research about immigrants and refugees from Asia. Topics vary: migration and labor, assimilation and cultural preservation, cultural expressions in the diaspora.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of the Lower-Division Writing requirement.

(lb)

ASIANAM 110. Asian American Writers. 4 Units.
Literary analysis of Asian American writers’ representations of issues of identity, class, history among others. Variety of literary forms—novel, poem, drama, essay—included in a study of a variety of Asian American ethnic groups.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 111. Asian American History. 4 Units.
Introduction to important themes in the history of people of Asian ancestry in the United States from the nineteenth century to the present.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 112. Asian American Art History. 4 Units.
Investigation of Asian American experience expressed by art and visual culture throughout the twentieth century. Art by Asian Americans of diverse backgrounds as well as the history of cultural visualization of Asian identities in American art/visual culture.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 114. Asian American Film and Video. 4 Units.
Topics include histories of Asian American film and video, including documentaries, experimental, short subjects, feature-length independent film, and other forms of cinematic expression. Explores issues of identity (national, racial, gendered, among others).

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 115. Asian American Media and Arts. 4 Units.
Includes the study of Asian American history and society through the analysis of a variety of media forms such as painting, music, cinema, video, and other artistic representations.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 116. Asian Americans and Popular Culture. 4 Units.
Focuses on Asian Americans’ relationship to popular culture as both producers and consumers. Topics include consumer cultures and subcultures, cyberspace and public space, popular music, indy comics and other print media.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 117. Sexuality in Asian and Asian American Film and Video. 4 Units.
Analyzes sexuality and gender roles in specific social, historical, and political contexts represented in selected Asian and Asian American films and videos, in terms of feminine/masculine constructions, the body, family roles.

ASIANAM 118. Asian American Performance and Writing. 4 Units.
Intensive performing workshop producing work inspired by community, personal experience, international issues. Focuses on new ways of understanding ethnicity, class, and gender issues through performance.

ASIANAM 131. Asian American Politics. 4 Units.
Provides various overviews of politics within Asian American communities. May compare with African American and/or Latino politics.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 132. Comparative Minority Politics. 4 Units.
Examines the political experiences of Blacks, Latinos, and Asian Americans in the United States from roughly 1950 to the present. Focuses on how each group has pursued political empowerment via both conventional political channels and social movements.

Same as AFAM 151, CHC/LAT 147, POL SCI 124C.

ASIANAM 134. Asian American Community Public Health. 4 Units.
Focuses on major issues and concepts of community health and their application to public health programs for Asian American populations. Analyzes individual, institutional, community, and policy factors that influence a person’s health status within a larger environmental context.

Same as PUBHLTH 134.

ASIANAM 135. Special Topics in Asian American Social Sciences and Social Ecology. 4 Units.
Explores a broad range of issues in Asian American social sciences and social ecology.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.
ASIANAM 137. Asian American Labor. 4 Units.
Explores history of Asian Americans and work from the nineteenth century to the present. Areas of study include migration, colonialism, family, social organization, and work culture.
Same as HISTORY 152A.

ASIANAM 138. Race and Urban Space. 4 Units.
Examines how ethnic and racial processes shape and structure interactions in urban settings, such as schools, housing, employment, and public spaces, with attention to the international impact of globalization and postcolonial forces.

ASIANAM 139. Asian Americans and Education. 4 Units.
Introduces students to the major issues facing Asian Americans in K-16 education and schooling experiences through scientific, historical, and interdisciplinary approaches, in both mainstream and minority education.

ASIANAM 141. Asian American Psychology. 4 Units.
Examines the social and psychological concerns of Asian Americans; e.g., coping with racial prejudice, maintaining bicultural identities, dealing with cross-cultural conflicts in interracial relationships, and trying to reconcile generational differences between immigrant parents and their American-born children.
Same as PSYCH 174A.

ASIANAM 142. Muslim Identities in North America. 4 Units.
Explores multiple identities of Muslims in North America, including indigenous Muslims and immigrants of many national origins. Explores religious, political, cultural, ethnic, class differences among American Muslims, turning to Islamic institutions or events near UCI to conduct fieldwork projects.
Same as ANTHRO 125Z.

ASIANAM 143. Religious Traditions of Asian Americans. 4 Units.
Studies the religious traditions of Asian Americans, focusing on the transplantation of religious institutions, establishment of sacred spaces, celebration of religious holidays, socialization of children, as well as birth, marriage, gender relations, death, family.
Same as SOCIOL 136.

ASIANAM 144. The Politics of Protest. 4 Units.
Examines the Civil Rights, Black Power, and women’s movements in relationship to the Asian American movement. Uses social movement theories to illuminate the cases, and the cases to critique and revise the theories.
Same as POL SCI 124A.

ASIANAM 150. Special Topics in Asian American Studies. 4 Units.
Analyzes a variety of themes in Asian American Studies—identity, history, culture—from various interdisciplinary perspectives in humanities, arts, social sciences.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 151. Asian American Ethnic Groups. 4 Units.
Topics include study of the history, culture, and social formations of diverse Asian American subgroups such as Pacific Islanders, Hmong, Thai, Indonesian, Indian subcontinental, among others.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 151C. The Korean American Experience. 4 Units.
Explores the factors that have distinctly shaped the Korean American experience, including patterns of racial domination, the profile of immigrant flow, immigrant roles in the urban political economy, politics in Korea, and the role of the church.
Same as SOC SCI 178C.

ASIANAM 151D. The Vietnamese American Experience. 4 Units.
Studies the resettlement of Vietnamese in the United States following their exodus from Southeast Asia. Topics discussed include the Vietnam War, the 1975 evacuation, boat and land refugees, the shaping of Vietnamese communities, and Vietnamese American literature.
Same as SOC SCI 178D.

ASIANAM 151E. The Japanese American Experience. 4 Units.
Studies the settlement of Japanese in Hawaii and the continental United States since the late nineteenth century. Topics covered include sugar plantations, development of rural Japanese America, World War II internment, post-War community development, and persistence of Japanese American identity.
Same as SOC SCI 178E.

ASIANAM 151F. South Asian American Experience. 4 Units.
Examines and compares the experiences of South Asian immigrants in the U.S. over time. Looks at the economic, political, and social positions of the immigrants, with special emphasis on religious changes and the changes in the second and later generations.
Same as SOC SCI 178F.
Restriction: Asian American Studies and Social Policy and Public Service majors have first consideration for enrollment.

ASIANAM 151J. Chinese American Experience. 4 Units.
Analyzes the experiences of Chinese in the United States. Immigration, Chinese exclusion, racial and gender identity. Historical overview and contemporary issues covered.
Same as SOC SCI 178J.

ASIANAM 151K. Filipina/Filipino American Experience. 4 Units.
Explores the experience of Filipina/Filipino Americans from the era of Spanish colonization of the Philippines to present-day community formations in the United States, with special emphasis on the twentieth century. Topics include colonialism, nation, migration, gender, and culture.
Same as SOC SCI 178K.

ASIANAM 161. Ethnic and Racial Communities. 4 Units.
Examines various theoretical analyses of race and ethnicity, particularly as they apply to Asian Americans. Also explores the relationship of Asian Americans to other racialized minorities in the U.S.
Same as SOC SCI 175B.
ASIANAM 162. Asian American Women. 4 Units.
Examines the representations and experiences of Asian American women from diverse perspectives. Explores the commonalities and differences among various groups of Asian American women, with particular focus on history, culture, values, and family roles.
Same as SOC SCI 177B.

ASIANAM 163. Asian American Women’s Film. 4 Units.
Explores the significance of film and video made by Asian American women in relation to race, representation, and social change. These film and video makers use media to raise complex issues of class, politics, and race interacting with gender.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 164. Special Topics in Ethnicity, Gender, and Race. 4 Units.
Topics include analysis and comparison of various themes related to ethnicity, gender, and race within Asian American communities.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

ASIANAM 166. Asian Americans and Race Relations. 4 Units.
Analyzes Asian American race relations and racialized interconnections, as well as Asian Americans in racial hierarchy. Topics include racial categorization, citizenship, immigration, equity.
Same as AFAM 117, HISTORY 152B.

ASIANAM 167. Asian American and African American Relations. 4 Units.
Addresses relationships of Asian American and African American communities in the United States. Topics include race, class, gender, labor, economic systems, political mobilization, community, civil rights, activism, cultural expression.
Same as AFAM 117, HISTORY 152B.

ASIANAM 168. Politics of Animal Rights. 4 Units.
Examines animal rights/welfare movement’s efforts to transform moral, practical, and legal standing of nonhuman animals in contemporary U.S. Explores intersection of racism, sexism, and speciesism informed by theories of race and ethnicity, including Asian American Studies.
Same as POL SCI 126F.
Restriction: Political Science majors and Asian American Studies majors have first consideration for enrollment.

ASIANAM 171A. Comparative International Migration. 4 Units.
Examines the migration patterns to the three largest nations that receive immigrants (i.e., permanent settlers): Australia, Canada, and the United States.
Same as SOCIOL 175D, INTL ST 117B.

ASIANAM 199. Independent Study. 1-4 Units.
Directed reading and research in consultation with a faculty member. Substantial written work required.
Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

ASIANAM 200A. Theory and Methods in Asian American Studies. 4 Units.
Introduction to the intersection of the social sciences, humanities, and other fields that constitute the theory and methodology of Asian American Studies. Focuses on the interventions and contestations within Asian American Studies that have transformed the discipline in recent years.
Restriction: Graduate students only.

ASIANAM 200B. Contemporary Issues in Asian American Studies. 4 Units.
Examines the interrelations between history, theory, and race in the aftermath of the twentieth-century decolonial movements, offering an account of race through postcolonial and postnationalist approaches in comparative contexts. Considers the interventions made by transnational feminist and racialized queer critiques.
Restriction: Graduate students only.

ASIANAM 201. Graduate Topics in Asian American Studies. 4 Units.
Seminars on various topics in Asian American Studies.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.
Restriction: Graduate students only.

ASIANAM 202. Immigration and Globalization. 4 Units.
Examines immigration to three leading immigrant-receiving nations: the United States, Canada, and Australia, as both cause and consequence of globalization. Specific attention to Asian migration, as well as assimilation and its relationship to multiculturalism.
Same as SOCIOL 266.
Restriction: Graduate students only.

ASIANAM 250. Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies. 4 Units.
Seminar covering various areas of research within Asian American Studies as an interdisciplinary field. Recommended for advanced graduate students.
Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.
Restriction: Graduate students only.

ASIANAM 290. Directed Research. 4-12 Units.
Directed graduate study/research in Asian American Studies.
Repeatability: May be taken for credit for 24 units.
Restriction: Graduate students only.

ASIANAM 291. Directed Reading. 4 Units.
Readings focused on specialized topics in consultation with, and with the consent of, a faculty member.
Repeatability: May be taken for credit for 12 units.
Restriction: Graduate students only.
ASIANAM 399. University Teaching. 4 Units.
Limited to teaching assistants.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

Restriction: Emphasis in Asian American Studies graduate students only.