

# Department of Asian American Studies

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## Julia H. Lee, Chair

3000 Humanities Gateway  
949-824-2376  
<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/>

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. program in Asian American Studies, a 4+1 B.A./M.A. program, 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 Gender and Sexuality 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.

- Asian American Studies, B.A.
- Asian American Studies, Graduate Emphasis
- Asian American Studies, M.A. (4+1)
- Asian American Studies, Minor

## Faculty

Dorothy B. Fujita-Rony, Ph.D. Yale University, *Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; History* (U.S. history, Asian American studies)

Claire J. Kim, Ph.D. Yale University, *Professor of Asian American Studies; Political Science*

James K. Lee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; English; Religious Studies* (Asian American literature and culture, contemporary U.S. literature, race and ethnic studies, urban studies, religious studies)

Julia Hyoun Joo Lee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Department Chair and Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; English* (Asian American literature and culture, African American literature and culture, ethnic literature, twentieth-century American literature.)

Isabela Seong Leong Quintana, Ph.D. University of Michigan, *Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies* (comparative and relational ethnic studies; Asian American history; Chicana/Latina history; race and gender; borderlands, diasporas, and empire)

Linda T. Vö, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, *Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; Sociology; Urban Planning and Public Policy* (race and ethnic relations, immigrants and refugees, gender relations, community and urban studies)

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Director of Humanities Center and Chancellor's Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory* (Asian American history; comparative racialization and immigration; empire and decolonization; gender and sexuality)

## Affiliate Faculty

Kei Akagi, B.A. International Christian University, *Professor of Music; Asian American Studies*

Anita Casavantes Bradford, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, *Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Asian American Studies; History* (20th century U.S., U.S. in the world, Cuba and the Caribbean; history of childhood; history of immigration, race and ethnicity; transnational and comparative Latina/o history; religion, politics and social movements)

Nahum D. Chandler, Ph.D. University of Chicago, *Professor of African American Studies; Asian American Studies; Comparative Literature; English; European Languages and Studies* (modern philosophy, intellectual history, history of the human sciences)

Yong Chen, Ph.D. Cornell University, *Associate Dean of Curriculum and Student Services and Professor of History; Asian American Studies; Religious Studies* (Asian American history and immigration, food and culture, U.S./China economic and cultural interactions)

Gilberto Q. Conchas, Ph.D. University of Michigan, *Professor of Education; Asian American Studies; Sociology* (urban education, sociology of education, comparative race and ethnicity)

Laura Enriquez, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Assistant Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies; Asian American Studies; Sociology* (undocumented 1.5 generation young adults, immigration, citizenship, Latino families)

Christopher Fan, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Assistant Professor of English; Asian American Studies* (transnational Asia American, 20th, and 21st century literature, speculative fiction, political economy)

Ann Hironaka, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Professor of Sociology; Asian American Studies* (political sociology, war and peace, environmental sociology, ethnic and racial conflict)

Suellen Hopfer, Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University, *Assistant Professor of Program in Public Health; Asian American Studies*

Joseph Jonghyun Jeon, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Professor of English; Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory* (Asian-American literature, film modernism)

Eleana Kim, Ph.D. New York University, *Associate Professor of Anthropology; Asian American Studies* (kinship, transnationalism, environment, Korea)

Kyung Hyun Kim, Ph.D. University of Southern California, *Professor of Korean Culture; Asian American Studies; Film and Media Studies; Visual Studies* (East Asian cinema, modern Korea, critical theory)

Young-Suk Kim, Ed.D. Harvard University, *Professor of Education; Asian American Studies*

Jerry Won Lee, Ph.D. University of Arizona, *Associate Professor of English; Anthropology; Asian American Studies; Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory*

Stephen Lee, J.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Professor of School of Law; Asian American Studies*

Daphne Pi-Wei Lei, Ph.D. Tufts University, *Head of Doctoral Studies and Professor of Drama; Asian American Studies* (Asian theatre, Asian American theatre, intercultural theatre, gender theory, performance theory)

Simon Leung, B.A. University of California, Los Angeles, *Professor of Art; Asian American Studies* (new genres, critical theory, contemporary art history, performance)

Sylvia Nam, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, *Assistant Professor of Anthropology; Biological Chemistry; Urban Planning and Public Policy* (urban studies, property, transnational expertise, Southeast Asia)

L. Song Richardson, J.D. Yale Law School, *Dean of the School of Law and Professor of School of Law; Asian American Studies*

Annie E. Ro, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, *Assistant Professor of Program in Public Health; Asian American Studies*

Tara Rodman, Ph.D. Northwestern University, *Assistant Professor of Drama; Asian American Studies* (modernist performance, Japanese theatre and dance, transnationalism, racial formation, global Asias)

Bert Winther-Tamaki, Ph.D. New York University, *Department Chair and Professor of Art History; Asian American Studies; Visual Studies* (modern Japanese art and visual culture, Asian American art, art and globalization)

Karna Wong, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, ; *Asian American Studies*

Bruce N. Yonemoto, M.F.A. Otis Art Institute, *Professor of Art; Asian American Studies* (video, experimental media, film theory)

## 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 HISTORY 15C, SOC SCI 78A.

**((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 Race . 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.

(Ib)

**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 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 130. Undocumented Immigrant Experiences. 4 Units.**

Examines the experiences of undocumented immigrants and the policies that structure their educational, economic, social, and political participation.

Same as CHC/LAT 164A, CRM/LAW C187, SOCIOL 177C.

(III and VII).

**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 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 142. Islam in America. 4 Units.**

Offers a critical academic study of Islam in America, focusing on the core tenets of belief, the diversity of practices, and historical transformations that have taken place since the arrival of Muslims in the United States.

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.

(VII)

**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 151C. Korean American Studies. 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. Vietnamese American Studies. 4 Units.**

Studies the resettlement of Vietnamese in the United States following their exodus from Southeast Asia. Topics 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. Japanese American Studies. 4 Units.**

Studies the settlement of Japanese in Hawaii and the continental United States since the late 19th century. Topics 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 Studies. 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 Majors have first consideration for enrollment. Social Policy/Public Service Majors have first consideration for enrollment.

**ASIANAM 151H. Southeast Asian American Studies. 4 Units.**

Analyzes experiences of refugees and immigrants from Southeast Asia, which may include those from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Examines political and economic factors for their exodus and how they reconstruct their identities, histories, and communities.

Same as SOC SCI 178H.

**ASIANAM 151J. Chinese American Studies. 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 Studies. 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 20th century. Topics include colonialism, nation, migration, gender, and culture.

Same as SOC SCI 178K.

**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 164. Topics in Intersectionality. 4 Units.**

Topics include intersectional analysis of various themes related to ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and race within Asian American communities.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

**ASIANAM 166. Race and Citizenship. 4 Units.**

Explores historical and contemporary patterns of racialization in relation to citizenship. Topics may include racial categorization, immigration, and comparative racialization.

**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 have first consideration for enrollment. Asian American Studies Majors have first consideration for enrollment.

**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 200C. Leadership and Social Change in Asian American Communities. 4 Units.**

Introduces students to models of community-engaged learning and leadership that are central to the field of Asian American studies. Designed to expose students to histories and models of organizing in Asian American communities and forms of community-based research.

Restriction: Graduate students only.

**ASIANAM 200D. Introduction to Asian American Studies Research. 4 Units.**

Introduces students to research topics and methods within the field of Asian American studies. Aims to expose students to core and affiliated faculty to help them identify possible advisors for master's research projects or members of doctoral committees.

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 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.