Department of Asian American Studies

Judy Wu, Chair
3000 Humanities Gateway
949-824-2376
http://www.humanities.uci.edu/aas/

Overview

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.

Undergraduate Program

Requirements for the B.A. in Asian American Studies

All students must meet the University Requirements.

All students must meet the School Requirements.

Department Requirements for the Major in Asian American Studies

A. Three introductory Asian American Studies core courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASIANAM 50 or ASIANAM 51</th>
<th>Asian American Histories or Asian American Communities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>and ASIANAM 52 or ASIANAM 53</td>
<td>Asian American Communities or Asian Americans and Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 54 or ASIANAM 55</td>
<td>Asian American Stories or Asian Americans and the Media</td>
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</table>

B. Complete the following:

| ASIANAM 100W | Research Methodologies for Asian American Studies |

C. Select one course from each of the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Humanities/Arts: Asian American Studies 110–129</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Science/Social Ecology: Asian American Studies 130–149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American Sub-groups: Asian American Studies 151–160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic/Race/Gender Relations: Asian American Studies 161–170</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

Additional Information

Career Opportunities

Many career opportunities exist for students who graduate with a B.A. 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 Minor in Asian American Studies

Requirements for the Minor

A. Three introductory Asian American Studies core courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 50</td>
<td>Asian American Histories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ASIANAM 51</td>
<td>The U.S. and Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and ASIANAM 52</td>
<td>Asian American Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ASIANAM 53</td>
<td>Asian Americans and Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and ASIANAM 54</td>
<td>Asian American Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ASIANAM 55</td>
<td>Asian Americans and the Media</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Four upper-division courses selected from ASIANAM 100W–169, ASIANAM 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.

4+1 Program in Asian American Studies

The combined B.A. and M.A. in Asian American Studies is designed for students looking to engage in the most critical issues at the forefront of the field. At the conclusion of the program, graduates are trained in interdisciplinary theories and methods for social justice-driven research and have developed an understanding of issues facing local, national, and global Asian American communities through first-hand interaction and engagement.

Admissions

All students wishing to participate in the program should first meet with the Director of Graduate Study to discuss eligibility and coursework opportunities. In order to be considered admissible, at minimum, students must meet the following criteria:

- Current UCI undergraduate student status
- Cumulative 3.0 GPA
- Cumulative 3.3 GPA in all Asian American Studies coursework
- Two Asian American Studies courses: one selected from ASIANAM 50, 51, 52, 53, or 54, and one other lower- or upper-division course in Asian American Studies

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis during the final year of undergraduate study. The process to apply is as follows:

- Set up an advising appointment with the Humanities Graduate Counselor.
- Complete an online graduate application through UCI Graduate Division.
- Submit the following supplemental application materials: official transcripts of all post-secondary work, one letter of recommendation from an Asian American Studies core or affiliate faculty member, and a 10-page writing sample.

Course Requirements

All students at the graduate level of the B.A./M.A. program must complete a total of nine courses (36 units) for the degree.

A. Complete the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 200A</td>
<td>Theory and Methods in Asian American Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 200B</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Asian American Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 200C</td>
<td>Leadership and Social Change in Asian American Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 200D</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian American Studies Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 201</td>
<td>Graduate Topics in Asian American Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ASIANAM 250</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Asian American Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Complete three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIANAM 290</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
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</table>

C. Select one graduate level elective
Language Requirement
Students must complete college-level coursework equivalent to UCI’s sixth quarter of study (2C level, or for Latin or Greek, one 103 and one 104, or two 103s or 104s) in a language other than English or equivalent competence. The final course must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or better.

Degree Conferral
M.A. students may complete one of the following options as their degree capstone. Regardless of capstone track, all students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and complete a defense open to the public to earn the degree.

Plan I – Thesis: The thesis, approximately 25 to 35 pages in length, is a piece of independent research reviewed and approved by the faculty advisor and the thesis committee.

Plan II – Comprehensive Exam: At the end of the final quarter, the M.A. candidate must pass a comprehensive exam that illustrates mastery of key concepts and methods of inquiry in Asian American Studies. The final format of the exam is determined in consultation with the faculty advisor, but can take various forms, including a creative work or a policy report. A written evaluation of said work, approximately 10 to 15 pages in length, is also be submitted for review. The exam is administered by the faculty advisor and an exam committee comprised of at least two additional Asian American Studies faculty members.

Time to Degree
Students complete all degree requirements and the Master’s thesis/comprehensive exam within one year (three quarters) once they have transitioned to graduate student status. Maximum time to degree is two years after the Bachelor’s degree.

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.

Requirements
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.

Faculty
Christine Bacareza Balance, Ph.D. New York University, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; Gender and Sexuality Studies (Performance studies, popular music, critical race and ethnic studies, Filipino/Filipino American studies, queer & feminist theory)

Julie G. Cho, M.F.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer of Asian American Studies; Asian American Studies

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

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

Ngoc-Tram Le-Huynh, M.A., University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer of Asian American Studies

James K. Lee, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory; 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, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies; Culture and Theory (Asian American literature and culture, African American literature and culture, ethnic literature, twentieth-century American literature.)

John M. Liu, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer Emeritus of Asian American Studies

Beheroze F. Shroff, M.F.A. University of California, Los Angeles, Lecturer of Asian American Studies

Linda T. Võ, Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, Professor of Asian American Studies; Planning, Policy, and Design; Sociology (race and ethnic relations, immigrants and refugees, gender relations, community and urban studies)
Judy Wu, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Department Chair and 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*

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)

Julie G. Cho, M.F.A. University of California, Los Angeles, *Lecturer of Asian American Studies; Asian American Studies*

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)

Jennifer Lee, Ph.D. Columbia University, *UCI Chancellor's Fellow and Professor of Sociology; Asian American Studies* (immigration, race/ethnicity, social inequality, culture, Asian American studies)

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)

Sanjoy Mazumdar, Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, *Professor of Planning, Policy, and Design; Asian American Studies; Religious Studies*

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