

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Asian American Studies is a Tri-College program that offers a minor at all three colleges. The interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to help students develop an understanding of Asian American experiences, histories, cultures, and art. While the program centers Asian American experiences and perspectives, it also contextualizes Asian American Studies within the broader field of critical race and ethnic studies, with a focus on how race operates in the United States and intergroup relations between Asian Americans with other racial and ethnic minority groups. Asian American Studies provides rich interdisciplinary training in complex social and cultural issues pertaining to the study of race, ethnicity, and identity; migration and acculturation; intergroup relations; power and privilege; stereotyping and discrimination; and globalization. Studying the experiences of Asian Americans helps students to learn more about themselves and their relationships in an increasingly multiracial, multiethnic, and multicultural nation. Students are engaged in thinking deeply about concepts and theory, and relating those in applied ways to contemporary issues and problems in Asian American communities.

Learning Goals

- Gain competence in the theories and methods of the interdisciplinary study of Asian Americans.
- Contextualize how history has shaped the lives and experiences of Asian Americans, with relevance for contemporary issues and problems.
- Study and participate in creative expressions of Asian American experiences through literature, music, and dance.
- Examine the experiences of Asian Americans in the broader context of how race operates in the United States and understand intergroup relations with other racial and ethnic minority groups within the United States.
- Explore perspectives on Asian Americans from outside the United States taking a transnational or global view.

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals> (<http://hav.to/learninggoals/>).

Curriculum

The Asian American Studies minor is a 6-credit minor and is composed of the following requirements: at least 3 core courses in Asian American Studies, at least 1 course in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, and no more than 1 course in Transnational and/or Global Connections with Asia. In lieu of specific required courses, the curriculum offers a balance of structure and rigor with reasonable flexibility in possible pathways for completing the minor. The Co-Directors of Asian American Studies will help students select courses that meet the requirements for the minor. Students' minor experience will culminate with an annual Tri-College Asian American Studies symposium where seniors will present their work in various forms (e.g., music performance, poster presentation), reflecting the highly interdisciplinary nature of the program.

Students interested in the Asian American Studies Minor should plan their course schedule in consultation with one of the Co-Directors of Asian American Studies (one located at Haverford/Bryn Mawr, one located at Swarthmore).

Minor Requirements

The 6-credit minor is composed of the following requirements:

- At least 3 "Core Courses" in Asian American Studies. These courses have a substantive focus on Asian American experiences, histories, and cultures. Please find a current list of approved courses on the Asian American Studies website.
- At least 1 Course in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies. These courses provide exposure to the experiences, histories, and cultures of other racial and ethnic groups in and of themselves, or in relation to other groups. Many courses that could meet this requirement are drawn from African and Africana Studies/Black Studies; Latin American, Iberian, and Latinx Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; and other departments. Students should discuss the course they wish to use for this requirement with one of the Co-Directors.
- 1 Course in Transnational or Global Connections with Asia. No more than one course that offers perspectives on Asian Americans from outside the United States with regard to history, literature, culture, or politics in order to explore transnational or global connections in a broader context. There are many non-language courses offered by East Asian Languages and Cultures/Asian Studies and other departments on Asian history, literature, culture, and politics from regional or global perspectives that could meet this requirement. Students should discuss the course they wish to use for this requirement with one of the Co-Directors.

Please note:

The six minor credits should cross over at least two divisions of the College (e.g., Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Independent Programs).

Senior thesis credit for an Asian American Studies topic may be counted towards the minor. Please discuss your senior thesis topic with one of the Co-Directors of Asian American Studies in advance.

No more than two credits from a single department can count towards the minor and no more than two of the six minor credits may double-count towards the student's major. We wish to encourage thoughtful and intentional selection of courses for the Asian American Studies minor that help to expand a student's academic exposure beyond what would have been gained through the major program of study as a matter of course.

ENGL B223 The Help: Asian American Literature & Care Work (1 Unit)

This course surveys Asian American literature and cultural productions that feature the work of care: jobs, whether official or unofficial (such as mothering, nursing, and nannying) that are essential, yet so often undercompensated and overlooked. We will examine how Asian American immigration history has led to the burgeoning of industries around care work. We will see how narrative and fiction portray the troubling entanglements between economic structures, race and gender roles, and personal feeling in the labor of care. This course operates under the premise that an attentiveness to how care unfolds is essential to creating a more just world. Collectively, we will not just talk about care as an abstract set of ideas but concretely practice it with one another in the space of our classroom.

ENGL B313 The Art of Minor Feelings: Asian American Emotional Lives (1 Unit)

In her essay collection *Minor Feelings* (2020), Cathy Park Hong argues that Asian Americans experience a “racialized range of emotions”—what she calls “minor feelings”—when their concerns about racial injustice are repeatedly dismissed as inconsequential. What do emotions have to do with Asian American history and identity? And how do we talk about emotions critically? This seminar revolves around the cultural history of affect for Asian Americans in a variety of contemporary literary works by Asian Americans since the 90s including essays, short stories, novels, and genre fiction. Over the course of the semester, we will learn to understand and critically analyze affect—or feelings and emotions—in ways that are not just psychic and personal but also embodied and socially, politically, and historically specific. We will examine different affective states (e.g., anger, disgust, and detachment but also the beautiful and joyous), considering how specific affects have contributed to the stereotyping of Asian Americans both as unassimilable foreign threats (the Yellow Peril) and as idealized, upwardly mobile American citizens (model minorities). More importantly, we will explore how Asian Americans themselves have used affects to challenge and exceed the categorizations that have been laid out for them

PSYC B354 Asian American Psychology (1 Unit)

This course will provide an overview of the nature and meaning of being Asian American in the United States. We will examine the history, struggle, and success of Asian Americans, drawing upon psychological theory and research, interdisciplinary ethnic studies scholarship, and memoirs. Students will also learn to evaluate the media portrayal of Asian Americans while examining issues affecting Asian American communities such as stereotypes, discrimination, family relationships, dating/marriage, education, and health disparities. Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology (Psych 105) is required, Research Methods and Statistics (Psych 205) is recommended..