Asian American Studies, Bachelor of Arts

College of Letters & Science

The Major Program
Offering both an undergraduate major and minor, our curriculum emphasizes multidisciplinary, comparative, transnational, and intersectional perspectives; original empirically-based scholarship; cultural production and analyses; and community engagement.

In consultation with our faculty and staff advisors, students in the major have the exciting opportunity to select an emphasis or specialty organized around our faculty’s core areas of intellectual focus including —Immigration, Labor, and Transnationalism; Visual, Literary, and Cultural Studies; and Public/Community-Engaged Scholarship. The department is also developing an emphasis on Health through its emerging partnerships. Each emphasis incorporates a diverse array of thematic, theoretical, disciplinary, and methodological approaches—as well as a focus on a broad range of Asian American communities—allowing students to choose a course of study that aligns with their particular academic and career interests.

In order to enhance students’ intellectual development and postgraduate preparation, our curriculum also requires that all majors complete an off-campus community internship. This requirement seeks to ensure students experience a deeper and more comprehensive liberal arts education that connects classroom education to real life contexts that foster the development of new forms of knowledge and practical skills. The Department also offers an optional two-quarter thesis writing seminar for students in the major and minor that progresses through each stage of designing and completing an individualized undergraduate thesis project based on original research, which helps prepare students interested in applying for graduate school.

Career Alternatives
With the multidisciplinary emphasis of our program, an Asian American studies major provides excellent preparation for a diverse range of careers. Our alumni have established successful careers in the arts, community-based and non-profit organizations, government and politics, human rights, journalism, international relations, law, K-12 education, public health, public policy, social work, and student affairs in higher education. Others have gone on to pursue postgraduate degrees in a wide variety of fields that include education, ethnic studies, fine arts, feminist & queer studies, history, law, literature, political science, public policy, sociology, and social work. Our department has fostered close relationships with our alumni who are committed to supporting our majors with their career plans.

General Education Requirements
A large number of the courses offered by the Department fulfill a wide range of general education topical breadth and core literacy requirements that include:

Topical Breadth
- Arts & Humanities
- Social Sciences

Core Literacy
Lit...
POL 051  Scientific Study of Politics
PSC 041  Research Methods in Psychology
STA 013  Elementary Statistics
or STA 013Y  Elementary Statistics
WMS 104  Feminist Research

Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal 32

Depth Subject Matter

ASA 192  Internships 1 4

Major Emphasis

As part of the depth subject matter requirement, all Asian American Studies majors are encouraged to select a major emphasis or pathway by choosing either a disciplinary or thematic specialization in consultation with the Student Affairs Officer (SAO) and/or faculty advisors.

Choose at least six upper division Asian American Studies (ASA) courses: 24

ASA 100  Asian American Communities
ASA 102  Theoretical Perspective in Asian American Studies
ASA 112  Asian American Women
ASA 113  Asian American Sexuality
ASA 114  Asian Diasporas
ASA 115  Multiracial Asian Pacific American Issues
ASA 116  Asian American Youth
ASA 121  Asian American Performance
ASA 130  Asian American Literature
ASA 131  Ethnicity, Culture, & the Self
ASA/SPH 132  Health Issues Confronting Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders
ASA 141  Asian Americans & the Political Culture of Fashion in the U.S. & Asia
ASA 150  Filipino American Experience
ASA 150B  Japanese American Experience
ASA 150C  Chinese American Experience
ASA 150D  Korean American Experience
ASA 150E  Southeast Asian American Experience
ASA 150F  South Asian American History, Culture, & Politics
ASA 155  Asian American Legal History
ASA 189A  Topics in Asian American Studies: History
ASA 189B  Topics in Asian American Studies: Culture
ASA 189C  Topics in Asian American Studies: Physical & Mental Health
ASA 189D  Topics in Asian American Studies: Policy & Community
ASA 189E  Topics in Asian American Studies: Comparative Racial Studies
ASA 189F  Topics in Asian American Studies: Asian Studies & Asian American Studies
ASA 189G  Topics in Asian American Studies: Race, Class, Gender, & Sexuality
ASA 189H  Topics in Asian American Studies: Society & Institutions
ASA 189I  Topics in Asian American Studies: Politics & Social Movements
ASA 194  Asian American Studies Capstone Course
ASA 195  Asian American Studies Senior Thesis Seminar 2
ASA 198  Directed Group Study 3
ASA 199  Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates 3

At least two upper division elective courses from other departments or programs that relate to chosen emphasis. 8

Two courses (of up to 8 units) from Study Abroad can be substituted for major requirements upon approval from the SAO or faculty advisor.

Substitutions for disciplinary track courses will be considered by the Department Chair on a case by case basis. Likewise, any substitutions of Major/Minor criteria will be considered by the Department Chair.

Depth Subject Matter Subtotal 36-44

Total Required Units: 68

Total Units 68-76

1  ASA 192 Required.
2  ASA 194 & ASA 195 is a series of courses that is taken consecutively in two quarters. Students enrolling in ASA 194 must also enroll in ASA 195 the following quarter to complete the series.
3  Up to 6 units in ASA 198 and/or ASA 199 can be used to satisfy the Asian American Studies upper division course requirements.