

Department: AASI

Course No: 3201

Credits: 3

Title: Introduction to Asian American Studies

Contact: Roger Buckley

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Diversity: CA4 Non-International

Catalog Copy: AASI 201 Introduction to Asian American Studies. Either semester. Open to sophomores. Three credits. Machida A multidisciplinary introduction to major themes in Asian American Studies. Concepts of identity and community, migration and labor histories, Asians and the law, representations of Asians in visual and popular culture, gender issues, interracial and interethnic relations, and human rights.

Course Information: Description: This interdisciplinary course provides a general introduction to major themes in Asian American Studies through readings and class discussions, guest speakers, and video screenings. This course explores concepts of identity and community, as well as aspects of what constitutes "Asian American" contemporary culture. Issues covered include: Asian migration to the U.S., Asians and the law, representations of Asians in visual and popular culture, family and community formation, gender issues, interracial relations, and human rights issues. Course requirements: Mid-term and final examination; term paper (7-8 pages); weekly reading assignments of 20-30 pages; in-class presentations. Major themes and topics to be covered: This course provides the foundation for the Minor in Asian American Studies, which has recently been approved. It is requisite for all students planning to minor in this area. It will provide a firm academic grounding for students wishing to pursue studies in the area of Asian American Studies, as well as for those who are new to the field. By offering a wide-ranging overview that touches on history, cultural studies, diaspora studies and globalization, film and media studies, gender studies, racial formations in the United States, and theories of social justice, it situates the study of Asian American histories, cultures, and communities in wider and overlapping social and intellectual currents.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: AASI201 Introduction to Asian American Studies contributes to students' understanding of the diversity of human cultures by providing multi-faceted insights into the experiences and histories of various East Asian, Southeast Asian, and South Asian groups in the United States. It places particular emphasis on the immigrant and refugee experience, tracing different trajectories of Asian migration and settlement in North America from the nineteenth century to the present. Such an approach helps students to understand the era in which they live, as the globalized flow of people, goods, capital, images, and ideas between Asia and the West is ever more rapidly transforming the domestic U.S. sphere. Fundamentally interdisciplinary in character, Introduction to Asian American Studies draws on aspects of

American history, sociology, film and media studies, visual culture studies, literary studies, legal studies, and gender studies in framing the Asian American experience. In so doing, the course provides an array of intellectual tools that allow students greater flexibility in making more critical and informed judgements about the nature of the social and political conditions facing Asians and other groups of non-European origin in this country.

CA1 Criteria: Comparative and cross-disciplinary in its investigation of human experience, this course considers how the historical and contemporary perception and treatment of Asians are both similar to and different from the treatment accorded to African Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos in the United States. In particular, it examines how ideas of difference (whether racialized or cultural) are constructed through highly elaborated systems of representation, that in turn draw on the long-established discourses of Orientalism and Primitivism in the West. Students will be exposed to a range of expressive media, including film, documentaries, literature, visual art, graphics, and performance art forms.

CA4 Criteria: This course aims to develop the students' appreciation of the differences as well as commonalities among people by not only examining the experiences of specific groups, but also overarching questions of human rights, citizenship, race relations, and social justice. One important focus is the legacy of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s for subsequent generations who likewise have sought to combat discrimination directed toward their groups, and to move the society toward fulfilling the democratic principles on which it was founded. The rise of the Asian American movement and the creation of ethnic studies by student leaders during the 1960s and 1970s offer an especially relevant model for students, in recognizing how their knowledges and vision can be applied to creating a more just and equitable society for all of its members.

Role of Grad Students: Graduate student assistants will be required to help in monitoring student attendance, preparing materials for the course, leading groups of students in discussing the material covered in class, and to help in grading all quizzes, examinations, and papers. They will be supervised by the Instructor through weekly meetings, used both for planning purposes and to discuss the students' progress. They may also be asked to work closely with individual students who require specific guidance in writing papers and conducting research.