

Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies (IDAAS) Asian American Studies at Claremont McKenna College

The Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies (IDAAS) offers a rigorous, multi-disciplinary academic program that emphasizes social justice, critical thinking, and innovative analysis of the history, society and cultural production of Asians in the United States, within both multiracial American and transnational contexts. The program seeks to prepare students for various careers in the community, private or public, along with graduate work.

CMC offers a sequence in Asian American studies, a multi-disciplinary program that examines the historical and contemporary experiences of Asians in the United States. The sequence is designed to accompany majors in other disciplines. In consultation with an IDAAS advisor, students take appropriate courses in a range of disciplines throughout the undergraduate colleges, including interdisciplinary core courses in Asian American studies. To ensure balance and to accommodate the wide range of majors students may combine with the sequence, all courses must be approved by the CMC faculty member responsible for the oversight and administration of the sequence. Completion of the sequence will be noted on students' transcripts. For further information, contact the CMC faculty advisor Professor Hwang.

Major in Asian American Studies

Interested students may complete a full major in Asian American studies at Pitzer College. A dual major in Asian American studies cannot be completed by CMC students and honors in the major in Asian American studies is not granted by CMC.

Asian American Studies Sequence

Sequence Requirements:

The sequence requires five courses, one in each of the following areas:

1. History
2. Social Sciences (for example: economics, government, psychology, sociology)
3. Literatures and Fine Arts (literature, art, art history, theater, music)
4. Asian Context (Asian Studies)
5. American Context (comparative course in the student's major or a course related to America)

Courses in Asian American Studies

Courses may be selected from the areas listed below. The courses listed under each area are not meant to be exhaustive, but suggest the kinds of courses at Claremont McKenna College and the other Claremont Colleges that may be used to fulfill the requirements of the sequence.

Historical Context

Specialized courses that introduce students to the stories of Asian American groups that have been an integral part of the United States since the mid-19th century.

Students must complete one course selected from:

History

HIST 125 CM - Asian American History, 1850 to the Present

This survey course examines the journeys of Asian immigrant groups (and subsequent American-born generations) as they have settled and adjusted to life in the United States since 1850. The course addresses issues such as the formation of ethnic communities, labor, role of the state, race relations, and American culture and identity.

HIST 128 HM - Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States

A study of the experiences of different ethnic groups in the U.S. from the colonial period to the present that addresses the meanings of cultural diversity in American history.

Social Sciences

Courses in the social sciences that focus on Asian Americans.

Students must complete one course selected from:

Asian American Studies (Interdisciplinary)

ASAM 75 PZ - Asian American and Queer Zines

This course examines do-it-yourself (DIY) politics through independently produced zines. We will focus on Asian American and queer zine subcultures to understand various aspects of contemporary media, including: production and consumption, representation and self-expression, identity-construction and place-making, creativity and resistance, and the relevance of print in an increasingly digital world.

ASAM 77 PZ - Tattoos in American Popular Culture

This course examines how tattoos are depicted in U.S. popular culture and the meanings and significations that accompany these representations. Through close readings of texts and other visual materials, we will investigate how corporeal difference is constructed with regard to race, class, gender, sexuality, and belonging in the United States.

ASAM 86. Social Documentation and Asian Americans.

Viewing of films and other documentary forms by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) for critique and discussion. Basic instruction in use of digital video technology to document social issues relevant to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Community-project.

ASAM 090 PZ - Asian American and Multiracial Community Studies

Introduces students to studying and working beside Asian American and Pacific Islander communities through the exploration of the politics of place. Issues to be addressed in the course include ethical considerations of community projects and social topography as it changes in the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander diasporas. Course will be project-based and working with community-based organizations.

ASAM 111 PZ - Asian Americans and Education

The broader social processes of racialization and contestation are explored using the educational experiences of Asian Americans. We will analyze access to education and curricular marginalization. Issues like bilingual education, Asian American feminist and critical pedagogies, education as a workplace, and racialized glass ceilings will be investigated.

ASAM 115 PZ - Theories and Methods in Asian American Studies

This course identifies theoretical and methodological tools which distinguish Asian American Studies as a field of investigation. Asian American Studies not only documents the experience of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders but also provides an approach to theorize, analyze, teach, community-build, and research.

ASAM 128 PZ – Tattoos, Piercing, and Body Adornment

This course introduces students to various body modification practices, with particular focus on regional developments in Asia, Pacific, and America. Key issues include: identity and community formation; agency, power, and social control; colonialism and post-colonialism; cultural property and appropriation; global circulations of bodies, aesthetics, and labor.

ASAM 130 PZ - Science, Technology, Asian America

This course explores the implications of Western science and technology on the Asian American experience. By interrogating how science has been defined in the “West” in relation to “non-Western” peoples, we will explore questions related to epistemology, racialization, migration, education, professionalization, and research, and the political stakes therein.

ASAM 134 PZ - South Asian American Experiences

This course looks at the historical, cultural, social, and political issues which confront the South Asian American community today. Issues such as citizenship and transnational experiences, minoritization, economic opportunity, cultural and religious maintenance and adaptation, changes in family structure, gender roles, and generational shifts are explored.

ASAM 135 PZ - Filipino American Experiences

Examines the interplay of historical, social, political, and cultural factors that have and continue to influence the Filipino American experiences in the U.S., similarities and differences within the Filipino American community, as well as with other Asian American and ethnic/racial minority groups will also be examined. Course includes a community engagement project.

ASAM 160 SC - Asian American Women's Experiences

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of Asian and Pacific Islander American women. It will examine the history and experiences of Asian American women in the United States. The class will include both lecture and discussion and will cover various issues, such as gender roles, mass media stereotypes, Asian women's feminism, and the impact of sexism and racism on the lives of Asian American women through education, work, and home life.

ASAM 179D HM - Mixed Race Experience

This course looks at Asian American mixed race experience through history, literature, video, film, visual art and contemporary pop culture. We will examine the diversity of Asian American mixed race identities and racial formation and identifications in the United States; gender and sexuality; pervasive stereotypes; family; ethnic and interethnic communities. This class will examine the socio-political implications of mixed race identities and honor the voices of the mixed race communities and cultural expression. Field trips and guest lectures will highlight the vibrant voices and communities active in the Southern California area and beyond.

ASAM 187 SC - Art, Activism, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders

This course will focus on the role that different artistic forms including but not limited to music, fine arts, street art, and poetry, have played in social justice work. The participatory course analyzes the transformative power and potential of art within the context of Asian American social movements seeking transformative social and political changes. The course will put students directly into contact with the performance and display of Asian American art events, and seek to integrate their active participation in these events as a means to develop both creative outlets as well as critical thinking.

ASAM 188 PZ - Decolonizing Education

This project-based seminar will explore theoretical work on decolonizing education drawing from Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander scholar/activists. For this upper-division seminar, students should have familiarity with theories of coloniality, intersectionality, and racial formations. Work-load is high. Community teaching. Prerequisite: One (1) Asian American Studies course.

ASAM 189 PZ - Globalization and Oceania: Hawai'i and Tonga

Globalization in Oceania has included the multidirectional circulation of goods, information, people, and ideologies. This class examines the experience and impacts of globalization as traced through the histories, migrations, and the current economic, health, and education status of Pacific Islander communities.

ASAM 197 PZ - Special Topics in Asian American Studies

Special topics courses typically provide advanced study of selected topics in Asian American Studies. Intensive faculty-student collaboration; students take on the responsibility of planning and running the course. Topics vary. May be repeated.

SOC 150 PO - Contemporary Asian American Issues

Survey of contemporary empirical studies focusing on Asian American experiences in the U.S. and globally. Major themes include race, class, gender, sexuality, marriage/family, education, consumption, childhoods, aging, demography, and the rise of transmigration. Readings and other course materials will primarily focus on the period since 1965.

Government and Politics**POLI 118 SC - Politics, Economics and Culture of Korea**

This course is an intensive introduction to North and South Korea, with their interlocking histories and greatly divergent economic, political, and social realities. The course pays special

attention to the impact of U.S. foreign policy on Korean national formation and Korean American identity and community formation.

POLI 127 SC - Asian American Politics

Examines the intersection between Asian Americans and the politics of race and ethnicity. Central to the course is the claim that understanding race is critical to understanding American politics and that any sophisticated analysis of race must include the role of Asians in America.

Psychology

PSYC 153 CM - Asian American Psychology

Introduces students to the salient psychological issues of Asian Americans. Taking into account the social, cultural, and historical context of the Asian American experience, this course addresses values and cultural conflict development, acculturation, marriage and gender roles, vocational development, psychopathology, and delivery of mental health services. Prerequisite: One psychology course.

Sociology

SOC 082 PZ – Racial Politics of Teaching

This course examines how race and ethnicity are constructed in schooling from sociological, linguistic and ethnic studies standpoints. Specifically, we will discuss how race and ethnicity are constructed in schooling and ways teachers/educators may refine their pedagogies in relation to race and ethnicity. Students will do a research project.

SOC 084 PZ - Nonviolent Social Change

Asian American Studies emerged out of the longest student strike in the history of the United States. The third world liberation front used nonviolent social protest to call for educational relevance and greater access to higher education. This course takes a comparative racial approach to examine the history, philosophy, and practice of nonviolent social change.

SOC 124 AA PO- Global Asia/Asian America

This course is about the challenges that globalization poses to people of Asian descent living outside of their country of birth. We focus on case studies, paying particular attention to education, sexuality, citizenship, gender, family, and work. We will use these cases to question new concepts, such as "flexible citizenship," "cultural hybridity," And "transmigrant," that have emerged to describe new forms of belonging in this global age. Letter grade only.

SOC 126 AA PO - Immigration and Second Generation

Analysis of the post-1965 children of immigrants and/or immigrant children in Asian America. Emphasis on variations on coming of age patterns, the course examines diverse childhood experiences, including "transnational" children, "refugee" children, and "left-behind" children. Emphasis on gender, class, ethnicity, inter-generational relations, education, sexuality, popular culture, and globalization, and specifically how young adults negotiate major American institutions such as the labor market and educational systems.

Literatures and Fine Arts

Courses looking at the experiences of Asian Americans and at their contributions to culture through the fine arts.

Students must complete one course selected from:

English and Literature

ENGL 114 PO - Asian/American Forms

This course examines Asian/American literary texts that exhibit self-consciousness about their own formal characteristics as a means of engaging with and interrogating social and racial formations. Readings will include both texts written by Asian Americans and texts that address Asianness in an American context.

ENGL 180 SC - Asian American Fiction

This course will focus on Asian American Fiction and will explore the function of representation (both political and aesthetic) in relation to questions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class. The course will involve readings in both primary and secondary texts including critical and theoretical work in Asian American studies.

ENGL 183 SC - Asian American Literature: Gender and Sexuality

This course will explore questions of gender and sexuality in the context of Asian American literature and will investigate how these key terms undergird even the earliest formations of Asian America. The course will investigate this idea through a variety of lenses, focusing on both creative and critical texts.

ENGL 189J PO - Topics in Asian American Literature

This course is a general introduction to Asian American literature that tracks the major historical events, ideological problems, and social movements of Asians in America since the nineteenth century. We will examine a number of literary forms (fiction, memoir, drama, poetry) and investigate writing by authors from a number of different ethnic immigrant groups (Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Indian). Through these engagements, this course aims to introduce students to the major issues in this field of study; to explore overlaps with adjacent critical fields--such as postcolonial, queer, and gender studies—and to consider new directions for a literature and discourse that is often described as on the cusp of significant change.

Media Studies

MS 080 AA PZ - Video and Diversity

An introductory level course exploring video as a medium, particularly as it is utilized by women, people of color, lesbians and gays, grassroots activists, as well as other peoples who are under- and/or mis-represented by dominant media. This class explores independent video production from historical as well as issue-oriented approaches. The history of video technology, from analog to digital, is studied with a focus on developments that made video an accessible and powerful tool for self-expression and political intervention. Issues around gender, race, class, and sexual politics are examined in relation to works from the above-mentioned communities. Modes of work by individual makers and collectives are presented as case studies in how multiple issues can be addressed through singular *oeuvres*.

MS 100 AA PZ - Asian Americans in the Media

This is a historical survey of Asian American involvement in media production, beginning with the Silent Film Era and ending with contemporary projects in film, video, and new media. In this course, we will focus on the shifting yet continuous participation of Asians in the production of media in North America and look at how changing political, social, and cultural discourses have shaped media representations of Asians throughout this period.

Modern Languages and Literature in English

JPNT 177 PO - Japanese and Japanese American Women Writers

The course will examine the writings of classical/modern Japanese/Japanese American women writers within their local/global settings focusing on what they wrote, why they wrote, and where they wrote. The course will also explore how local/global gender and race politics inform these writings—and their reception—and look at the ways these formulations (which have crossed back and forth across the Pacific from the earliest Japanese immigration to the U.S. through international exchanges to this day) continue to fashion the writings of these women writers.

JPNT 178 PO - Japanese and Japanese American Autobiography

Introduction to the tradition of the native Japanese literary diary (*nikki bungaku*), modern Japanese autobiography and autobiographical writings and Japanese American diary/autobiography, emphasizing works by women. Readings in literary criticism on autobiography in general and women's autobiography in particular are included.

Music

MUS 126 SC - Music in East Asia and its American Diaspora

This course introduces the "traditional" music of China, Korea, and Japan and explores the ways in which traditional performing arts have been transformed, adapted, and given new meanings in these modern nation-states and the East Asian diasporic communities of the United States. A survey of these musical traditions will be followed by a closer study of *pungmul*, *kabuki*, *taiko*, Chinese opera, and *pansori*.

Theatre

THEA 001E PO - Acting for Social Change

Acting for Social Change is an introduction to the fundamentals of acting, drawing upon different techniques such as psychological realism and physical theatre. Students will perform a self-written monologue, a documentary monologue transcribed from a live interview, and a two or three person scene from a play. They will also be introduced to Playback Theatre and Theatre of the Oppressed, two forms of theater that are applied commonly today to create dialogue, heal conflict and trauma, and build community.

THEA 115N PO - Staging Our Stories: Contemporary Asian American Drama

This course examines several post-1960 dramatic and performance works created by Asian American artists, such as, Phillip Kan Gotanda, David Henry Hwang, Julia Cho, Ralph Peña, and Lan Tran, taking into account the historical and cultural contexts in which these productions emerged. We will look at how these different artists attempt to represent themselves and their experiences with dignity, how they preserve old traditions and create new ones, and at how these practices reflect different aspects of the relationships between the United States and various Asian countries, and between different ethnic groups in the U.S. This course includes a

field trip, a written review of your experience, as well as a self-written monologue, and a final paper or dramatic performance.

Asian Context

Courses introducing students to Asia.

Students must complete one course selected from:

Art History

ARHI 151 SC - The Arts of Japan

The development of Japanese art and civilization from prehistoric through the Meiji periods. Major art forms will be examined in their cultural context.

Government and Politics

GOVT 142 CM - Government and Politics of East Asia

Study of the governmental structures and political processes of China, Japan, and Korea with emphasis on political culture, constitutional frameworks, political leadership, party systems, electoral behavior, student movements, public policies, and economic modernization.

GOVT 152 CM - U.S. Policy in Asia

A study of the dynamic development of U.S. policy toward Asia in diplomatic, strategic, economic, and cultural fields and of the opportunities and challenges faced by the United States in the Asian Pacific region. Special attention is paid to the emerging issues of political realignment, regional security, economic interdependence, and cultural diplomacy. Prerequisite: GOVT 020 CM

History

HIST 059 CM - Civilizations of East Asia

The rise and development of Chinese (Sinitic/Confucian) civilization from neolithic origins to its full maturation in the 18th century and the struggle of countries on the periphery of the Chinese cultural zone - primarily Japan and secondarily Korea and Vietnam - to retain distinct cultural and political identities while borrowing aspects of Chinese culture. Themes include state building, the changing role of women, cultural and aesthetic traditions, religious values, and political patterns. Special attention is given to divergent paths of pre-modern development which helped condition 20th-century approaches to political/economic modernization.

HIST 061 CM - The New Asia: China, Japan, and Indonesia in the Modern Era

Revolution, state building, modernization, and socio-cultural change in four representative cultural zones of Asia. The first part of the course examines imperialism and de-colonization, socio-religious reform movements, changing gender roles, and dynamics of political revolution. The second part explores the new forces which have reshaped the countries: the passing of charismatic leaders and revolutionary development strategies, the Japanese/East Asian economic model, and problems defining culture.

Modern Languages and Literature

CHIN 125 PO - Modern Chinese Literature

Introduces students to 20th century literature of the May 4th era, the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, through a close reading of selections from poetry, prose, fiction and drama. Further development of advanced speaking, listening and writing skills. Prerequisite: CHIN111BPO

Religious Studies

RLST 100 PO - Worlds of Buddhism

An introduction to Buddhism as a critical element in the formation of South, Central, Southeast, and East Asian cultures. Thematic investigation emphasizing the public and objective dimensions of the Buddhist religion. Topics include hagiography, gender studies, soulcraft and statecraft, and the construction of sacred geography.

RLST 103 PO - Religious Traditions of China

Surveys vast range of religious beliefs and practices in the Chinese historical context. Examines myriad worlds of Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism, and meets with ghosts, ancestors, ancient oracle bones, gods, demons, Buddhas, imperial politics.

American Context

Courses examining the larger contexts within which Asian American Studies operates as part of the United States.

Students must complete one course selected from:

American Studies

AMST 103 JT - Introduction to American Cultures

This course, taught by an intercollegiate faculty team, introduces principal themes in American culture. Its interdisciplinary approach brings together such areas as art, music, politics, social history, literature and anthropology. Topics frequently covered include the origins of the American self, ethnic diversity, immigration, women, the West, modernism, consensus, and dissent.

Art History

ARHI 184 PO - Modernism, Antimodernism, Postmodernism: A Social History of North American Art

A comparative analysis of artistic production in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico in the 20th and 21st centuries. Examines issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and the relationships between artistic theories and practices, economic developments, and social and political movements (e.g., the Mexican Revolution, the Depression, the Women's Movement).

History

HIST 121 CM - United States History Since 1945

This course provides a topical and thematic approach to the history of the United States since 1945. The intersection between politics, culture, and society serves as the course's main emphasis. Topics include the Cold War, Vietnam, suburbanization, mass consumer culture, the fate of liberalism and the rise of conservatism, the social movements of the Left and the Right, globalization, and the "War on Drugs."

HIST 123 CM - History of the American West

This course examines the role of the American West within U.S. history from the Gold Rush era to the present. Students will examine major themes within the field such as migration and settlement, the environment, role of the federal government/public policy, popular culture, and the peopling of the West. The course will address historian Frederick Jackson Turner's thesis regarding the uniqueness of the American experience and character on the frontier.

Music**MUS 062 PO - Survey of American Music**

Introduction to the contributions that specific ethnic cultures have made to the diverse fabric of American music. Examines two ethnic populations and the elements which make up the musical life of each group. Lectures, guest presentations, and concerts.

Sociology**SOC 155 CH - Rural and Urban Social Movements**

This course will examine the emergence of social movements, the process of their formation, and the varied strategies for their mobilization. Particular attention will be paid to the Chicano, Civil Rights, Farm Labor, and union movements. Students will draw practical experience from organizing a memorial and alternative spring break with the United Farmworker's Union. Prerequisites: SOC 001 PZ or SOC 030 CH.

Additional Information

Additional courses may be available; please consult an Asian American studies advisor for details. For information on course offerings, please consult the Claremont Colleges course schedule website at portal.claremontmckenna.edu/ics/Course_Schedule/. Course descriptions may be found in the appropriate College catalogs.