

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (DIV II)

Chair: Professor Jan Padios

Advisory Committee: TBD

Asian American Studies is a vibrant interdisciplinary field of study about race and racism, colonialism and empire, immigration and diaspora, war and militarism, labor and embodiment, citizenship and identity, and much more. AAS research and teaching are grounded in the histories, social relations, and cultural expressions related to Asian American, Asian immigrant, and/or Asian diasporic people. Asian Americanist scholars, artists, and activists thus continuously generate critical insights into these communities within, or in relation to, the United States or the Americas more broadly. The field encompasses comparative methods of study, transnational analysis, and the work of scholars from around the globe. AAS courses at Williams encourage inquiry within traditional disciplines, bolster a number of interdisciplinary fields, and showcase a wide variety of theories, methods, and methodologies (both creative and scholarly). AAS courses emphasize intersectional analyses of difference (e.g. race, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, citizenship, class), as well as the social and cultural construction of place and identity. Knowledge in this field is thus crucial for understanding society, history, literature, religion, culture, art, and beyond.

The concentration in Asian American Studies requires five courses. Students are required to take at least one 100- or 200-level introductory gateway course, one 400-level senior seminar in which to pursue a capstone project, and three electives. One elective must be a core elective, one must have a country-of-origin, transnational, diasporic, or comparative ethnic studies approach, and one must be at the 300-level or higher. These attributes are not mutually exclusive; some courses may satisfy all three attributes at once. The electives must also be taken in at least two different divisions of the college. Additional courses may be approved by the program advisory committee. Up to one course may be taken while studying abroad or away; the program advisory committee must approve this course as well.

Gateway Courses

[AMST 125 / AAS 125\(F\) SEM Introduction to Asian American Studies](#)

Taught by: [Kelly Chung](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[DANC 216 / AMST 213 / GBST 214 / AAS 216 / ASIA 216 / THEA 216\(F\) SEM Asian/American Identities in Motion](#)

Taught by: [Munjulika Tarah](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[HIST 284 Asian American History](#)

Taught by: TBA

[Catalog details](#)

Core Electives

[AMST 125 / AAS 125\(F\) SEM Introduction to Asian American Studies](#)

Taught by: [Kelly Chung](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[AMST 373 / AAS 373\(F\) SEM US Empire in the Philippines: Capitalism, Colonialism, and Revolution](#)

Taught by: [Jan Padios](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[AMST 375 / AAS 375 / WGSS 375\(S\) SEM Asian American Sexualities](#)

Taught by: [Kelly Chung](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[DANC 216 / AMST 213 / GBST 214 / AAS 216 / ASIA 216 / THEA 216\(F\) SEM Asian/American Identities in Motion](#)

Taught by: [Munjulika Tarah](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ENGL 206 / AAS 206\(S\) TUT Beyond the Tiger Mom: Depictions of East Asian Mothers in Contemporary American Literature](#)

Taught by: [Karen Shepard](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[HIST 284 Asian American History](#)

Taught by: TBA

[Catalog details](#)

[MUS 279 TUT American Pop Orientalism](#)

Taught by: [W. Anthony Sheppard](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[MUS 316 / AMST 366 SEM Music in Asian American History](#)

Taught by: [W. Anthony Sheppard](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PHLH 384 Comparative History of Science and Medicine in Asian/Pacific America, 1800-Present](#)

Taught by: TBA

[Catalog details](#)

[SOC 313 / AAS 312\(S\) SEM The 626](#)

Taught by: [Phi Su](#)
[Catalog details](#)

Non-Core Electives

[AMST 306 / AAS 306 / ARTH 306\(S\) SEM Building Power: Race and American Architecture](#)

Taught by: TBA
[Catalog details](#)

[CHIN 275 / COMP 271 / THEA 271 / AAS 275 / ASIA 275\(S\) SEM Acting Out: Performativity, Production, and Politics in East Asian Theatres](#)

Taught by: [Man He](#)
[Catalog details](#)

[LATS 254 / AAS 253 / AMST 253\(F\) SEM Embodied Knowledges: Latinx, Asian American, and Black American Writing on Invisible Disability](#)

Taught by: [Maria Elena Cepeda](#)
[Catalog details](#)

[LATS 313 / AAS 313 / AMST 313 / WGSS 313 / AFR 326\(S\) SEM Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics](#)

Taught by: [Maria Elena Cepeda](#)
[Catalog details](#)

[PHLH 351 / AAS 351\(F\) TUT Racism in Public Health](#)

Taught by: [Marion Min-Barron](#)
[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 214 / AAS 214\(S\) SEM Racial and Ethnic Politics in America](#)

Taught by: TBA
[Catalog details](#)

[REL 237 / AAS 237 / AFR 237 / AMST 237\(F\) SEM Islam in the United States: Race, Religion, Politics](#)

Taught by: [Zaid Adhami](#)
[Catalog details](#)

Senior Seminars

AAS 125 (F) Introduction to Asian American Studies (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 125

Secondary Cross-listing

Who or what constitutes the term "Asian American"? Leading with this provocation, this course offers an introductory survey of the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies, tracing its formation and evolution from the 1960s onward. Focusing on an array of foundational texts, cultural production, and primary sources central to the discipline, we will ask who has been included/excluded from this category and analyze the shifting constructions of Asian Americans from the nineteenth century to the present in tandem with other markers of difference. Over the course, we will study how these constructions have been shaped not only relationally through other racial formations but also by overlapping systems of power, including settler colonialism, U.S. war and empire, capitalism, and globalization within and beyond the U.S. Additionally, we will examine how this term has been undone and remade via political activism, visual and performance art, media, and contingent spaces.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly readings, class discussions, weekly discussion posts, in-class presentation, midterm paper, and a final paper or creative project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: If over enrolled: first-year students, AAS concentrators or prospective concentrators, AMST majors or prospective majors

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 125(D2) AMST 125(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines "Asian" and Asian American" as categories of racial difference constructed through various structures of power. Students in the course are asked to unpack how constructions of this difference have changed over time and produced uneven power relations and access to resources.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AAS Gateway Courses AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Fall 2023

AAS 206 (S) Beyond the Tiger Mom: Depictions of East Asian Mothers in Contemporary American Literature (WS)

Cross-listings: ENGL 206

Secondary Cross-listing

A tutorial designed to explore the interpretative difficulties and possibilities of East Asian mothers and motherhood in contemporary American literature (fiction and memoir). The "Tiger Mom"--highly controlling, strict, severe almost to the point of abuse--has become the go-to phrase for many Americans when referring to traditional East Asian mothering styles. This attempt to categorize and simplify cultural differences fails to capture the complex nature of East Asian mothering. While the American public imagines East Asian parenting as only unwavering and harsh, immigrant parents, for example, must often find a parenting strategy that bridges traditional East Asian and mainstream American norms. This course will explore the ways that contemporary Asian American authors depict the complexity of East Asian mothering and mothers. What kinds of mothering does the reductive category of Tiger Mom ignore? What are the central questions these authors pose about mothers and motherhood? How do they negotiate the tension between the individual versus the community, or the pursuit of the child's own interests as opposed to success as defined by the parent when it comes to that child's future? And what are the pitfalls of reading literature as social science? In keeping with tutorial format, students will meet in pairs with the instructor once a week; during these meetings, one student will present a short analytical paper on the texts covered that week. The other student will write a response paper and join the instructor in a discussion of both papers. The reading list may include work by Ocean Vuong, Yiyun Li, Michelle Zauner, Celeste Ng, Amy Tan, Jessamine Chan, Maxine Hong Kingston, Alice Sola Kim, and Amy Chua, among others.

Class Format: In keeping with tutorial format, students will meet in pairs with the instructor once a week; during these meetings, one student will present a short analytical paper on the texts covered that week. The other student will write a response paper and join the instructor in a discussion of both papers.

Requirements/Evaluation: A paper or response each week; extensive comments (verbal and written) on published and student work; active participation in class; creation of writing assignments and discussion questions.

Prerequisites: A 100-level English course, or the equivalent.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Anyone who has taken a 100-level English course, or the equivalent.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 206(D2) ENGL 206(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: A paper a week, of varying lengths, with the opportunity for multiple drafts. Extensive time spent in and out of class on every stage of the writing process. Opportunities to meet with professor outside of class at any stage of writing. The students' writing tendencies, critical and analytical writing skills, and their editorial modes are as much a subject of the course as the published literature is.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives ENGL Literary Histories C

Spring 2024

TUT Section: T1 TBA Karen L. Shepard

AAS 214 (S) Racial and Ethnic Politics in America

Cross-listings: PSCI 214

Secondary Cross-listing

Arguably, the dominant discourse in American politics today is about race. Race is connected to salient issues like immigration and police conduct; to politicians across the political spectrum; and (some argue) to virtually everything in American politics, including fundamental concepts that have no manifest racial content, like partisanship and the size and scope of government. We will evaluate the role of race as it relates to public opinion, political behavior, campaigns, political institutions, and public policy debates, with special attention devoted to the nature of racial attitudes. Most of the course will focus on the historical and contemporary relations between whites and African Americans, but we will also explore topics involving other pan-ethnic communities, particularly Latinos and Asian Americans.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, one to two short papers (5-7 pages), one medium paper (8-12 pages), an oral presentation, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: poli sci majors first, seniors second, juniors third, sophomores fourth

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 214(D2) PSCI 214(D2)

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives PSCI American Politics Courses

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

AAS 216 (F) Asian/American Identities in Motion (DPE)

Cross-listings: THEA 216 / DANC 216 / ASIA 216 / GBST 214 / AMST 213

Secondary Cross-listing

The course aims to explore dance and movement-based performances as mediums through which identities in Asian and Asian-American (including South-Asian) communities are cultivated, expressed, and contested. Students will engage with how social and historical contexts influence the processes through which dance practices are invested with particular sets of meanings, and how artists use performance to reinforce or resist stereotypical representations. Core readings will be drawn from Dance, Performance, Asian, and Asian American Studies to engage with issues such as nation formation, racial and ethnic identity politics, appropriation, tradition and innovation among other topics. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course, and might also include screenings, discussion with guest artists and scholars, and opportunities for creative projects. No previous dance experience is required.

Requirements/Evaluation: reading responses, in-class writing assignments, participation in discussions and presentations, essays, and a final cumulative essay assignment.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: first years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

THEA 216(D1) DANC 216(D1) ASIA 216(D1) AAS 216(D2) GBST 214(D2) AMST 213(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course introduces students to the role of performance in nation formation in Asia and the history of Asian-Americans in the US through analysis of dance practices. Student will explore how race was central to the formation of Asian and the American nation, and how social and legal discriminatory practices against minorities influenced popular culture. The assigned material provide examples of how artists address these inequalities and differences in social power.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AAS Gateway Courses

Fall 2023

SEM Section: 01 WF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Munjulika R. Tarah

AAS 237 (F) Islam in the United States: Race, Religion, Politics (DPE)

Cross-listings: AFR 237 / AMST 237 / REL 237

Secondary Cross-listing

Malcolm X is one of the most iconic yet controversial figures in the black freedom struggle in the United States. He is also arguably the most prominent and influential Muslim in the history of the United States. His story and legacy powerfully illustrate the complex intersections of Muslim identity, political resistance, and national belonging. From the early period of "Black Muslim" movements represented by Malcolm X, to the current "War on Terror" era, American Muslims have faced a complex intersection of exclusions and marginalization, in relation to national belonging, race, and religion. Taking Malcolm X as our point of departure, this course examines how American Muslims have navigated these multiple layers of marginalization. We will therefore consider how the broader socio-political contexts that Muslims are a part of shape their visions of Islam, and how they contest these competing visions among themselves. In so doing, we will examine the complex relation between religion, race, and politics in the United States. Throughout the course, we will be engaging with historical and anthropological material, autobiographies, documentaries, films, historical primary-source documents, music, and social media materials. The course fosters critical thinking about diversity by challenging assumptions of who Muslims are, what being American means, and what Islam is. It also focuses on the complex interaction of different dimensions of diversity, from religion to ideology, race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, and language.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular reading responses, 2 midterm essays, final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Majors and concentrators in REL, AFR, and AMST

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 237(D2) AFR 237(D2) AMST 237(D2) REL 237(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course fosters critical thinking about diversity by challenging assumptions of who Muslims are, what being American means, and what Islam is. It also focuses on the complex interaction of different dimensions of diversity, from religion to ideology, race, nationality, ethnicity, culture, gender, and language.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora

Fall 2023

SEM Section: 01 MW 8:30 am - 9:45 am Zaid Adhami

AAS 253 (F) Embodied Knowledges: Latinx, Asian American, and Black American Writing on Invisible Disability (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 253 / LATS 254

Secondary Cross-listing

This interdisciplinary course assumes an expansive approach towards disability, defining it not exclusively as a legible identity that one can lay claim to, but rather as an identity grounded in one's relationship to power (Kim and Schalk, 2020). This course centers on the critical role of lived experience as a key site of everyday theorization for the multiply marginalized, and specifically on the ways in which invisibly disabled Latinx, Asian American, and Black American individuals write the self. As scholars in disability studies argue, self-representations of disabled individuals carry the potential for us as a society to move beyond the binary narratives of "tragedy or inspiration" so often associated with disability. Rather, the self-produced narratives of US disabled writers of color offer a much more nuanced portrayal of everyday life with disability/ies for the multiply marginalized. Much like invisible disability itself, these self-representations ultimately refute traditional depictions of disability, and underscore the ways in which the bodymind serves as a rich, albeit often overlooked, site of knowledge. Embodied Knowledges draws on the insights of disability studies, crip studies, anthropology, literary studies, medicine, psychology, education, cultural studies, ethnic studies, American studies, gender and sexuality studies, sociology, and trauma studies. We will examine the works of Latinx, Asian American, and Black American writers and scholars others in relationship to one another, and as points of departure for examining issues such as the relationship between immigration and disability; intergenerational trauma; the impacts of paradigms such as the Model Minority Myth and notions of cultural deficit; passing; the politics of disability disclosure, the paradoxes of invisible disability; invisible disability in academic spaces; the role of culture and categories of difference such as race, gender, class and immigration status in societal approaches to and understandings of invisible disability; and future visions in the realm of disability justice and care work.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two 5-6 page essays; One group question assignment; Final reflection document

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to majors or concentrators in LATS, AMST, and AAST, in order of seniority.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 253(D2) AMST 253(D2) LATS 254(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course takes up issues of difference and power in every one of its readings and materials. In particular, we examine the intersection of race, ethnicity, dis/ability, gender, sexuality and nation in our discussions of how disability helps to define our understanding of US identity and citizenship, particularly for US communities of color.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora LATS Comparative Race + Ethnic Studies Electives LATS Core Electives

Fall 2023

SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Maria Elena Cepeda

AAS 275 (S) Acting Out: Performativity, Production, and Politics in East Asian Theatres (DPE)

Cross-listings: ASIA 275 / COMP 271 / THEA 271 / CHIN 275

Secondary Cross-listing

"Asian Theatres," for those in the West, can conjure up a variety of exotic impressions: spectacle and cacophony, mysterious masks and acrobatic bodies, exquisite styles and strangely confusing conventions. Although Asian theatres have been studied systematically in the West for at least a century, the West has never truly left its "othering" look at them. Yet, what is "different" for the West is bedrock for Asian cultures. Theatre, one of the most important and dynamic forms of cultural production and communication, has actively involved all strata of Asian societies for a millennium. How to explain theatre's continued presence and relevance for Asian nations? What do the traditions of Kun, Noh, and Talchum reveal about the cultures and communities in which they were created? This course seeks to understand from the Asian perspective, rather than "exoticize" and "other," musical and dance theatres from China, Japan, and Korea. Examining the evolving presentations of signature dramas dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, we will act out Asian theatres in the following ways: (1) by reading the original plays in translation in tandem with their contemporary and intercultural reproductions, we will explore how Asian theatres fare in the era of globalization within and beyond national borders; (2) by revealing the "technologies" of writing, reading, acting, and staging these plays in different cultural milieus, we will consider what kinds of language and rhetoric, forms of music and movement, as well as visual components are deployed to convey evolving messages; (3) by considering key performances held outside of the proscenium stage, we will gain exposure to alternative theatrical spaces in Asian and diasporic communities that reform performing conventions, reconfigure staging environments, and renegotiate cultural values. In this manner, we will together gain an appreciation for the aesthetic devices, thematic concerns, and production politics of East Asian theatres and their global reproductions. Class materials include drama, production videos, and invited zoom sessions with Asian theatre practitioners and directors who live in the U.S. and other diasporic communities. All materials are in English. No language prerequisite.

Class Format: We will have a field trip after Spring Break to the Harvard-Yenching Library to examine their collection of 1989 Tian'anmen Student Protest materials

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on 1) ACTIVE in-class discussion; 2) three short papers (3 pages each); 3) a take-home midterm; and 4) participation in a final in-class theatre production.

Prerequisites: None; open to all. No knowledge of Asian languages required, though students with advanced Asian language proficiency are encouraged to work with primary sources if they wish.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Theatre majors; Comp Lit majors; Concentrators in Asian Studies or Asian American Studies.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 275(D2) COMP 271(D1) THEA 271(D1) CHIN 275(D1) AAS 275(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the power dynamics of spectacle and cacophony and how theatre provided a cultural space that engaged all strata of East Asian societies, thereby masking class and ethnic divisions within these nation-states, while also presenting a distinct image of "China," "Japan," and "Korea" to be consumed in the West. Students will learn ways in which "traditional" theatre productions affirm or subvert Western biases against Asians.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Man He

AAS 279 American Pop Orientalism (DPE) (WS)

This tutorial will investigate the representation of Asians and Asian Americans in American popular culture since the late nineteenth century. Our focus will be on music's role in Orientalist representation in a wide variety of media and genres, including Hollywood film, television, popular song, music videos, Broadway musicals, hip hop, and novels. We will begin with major texts in cultural theory (Said, Bhabha) and will attempt throughout the semester to revise and refine their tenets. Can American Orientalism be distinguished in any fundamental way from nineteenth-century European imperialist thought? How does Orientalist representation calibrate when the "exotic others" being represented are themselves Americans? Our own critical thought will be sharpened through analysis and interpretation of specific works, such as *Madame Butterfly*, "Chinatown, My Chinatown," *Sayonara*, *Flower Drum Song*, *Miss Saigon*, *Rising Sun*, *M. Butterfly*, *Aladdin*, and Weezer's *Pinkerton*. We will end the semester by considering the current state of Orientalism in American popular culture.

Requirements/Evaluation: five 5- to 6-page essays and five critical oral responses

Prerequisites: previous related coursework and/or musical experience is desirable, but is not required

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: students with prior related course experience

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading:

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will receive detailed comments on each paper, allowing them to build upon those comments in subsequent writing assignments. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Students will develop analytical and interpretive skills applicable to their future engagements with a wide range of art forms as we investigate the musical, literary, and visual techniques employed in works of exotic representation. We will focus on how popular culture has shaped and reflected perceptions of race and gender in American history since the late 19th century.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives ASAM Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

AAS 284 Asian American History (DPE)

This course offers an overview of Asian American history from the late seventeenth century to the present. It will cover the earliest Asian migration and settlement in the U.S., the rise of anti-Asian movements, the experiences of Asian Americans during World War II and the Cold War, the emergence of the Asian American movement in the 1960s, the post-1965 Asian immigration, and the War on Terror. We will investigate broader themes including labor, citizenship, political resistance, gender and sexuality, community formation, empire, and transnationalism. We will also consider key contemporary issues, including race and ethnic relations, anti-Asian harassment and violence, and the legacy of U.S. colonialism in Asia-Pacific. Along the way, we will engage classic and recent scholarship in the field, and form our own interpretations of the past based on a wide range of sources--including films, novels, newspapers, government documents, political cartoons, and more. Throughout, the course advances the argument that citizenship and belonging in the U.S. cannot be fully understood without accounting for the experiences of Asian Americans.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance and participation in discussion, weekly reading responses (2 pages), midterm exam, and final in-class exam and take-home essay (7-10 pages)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: Preference given to History majors and Asian American Studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 25-30

Grading:

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course introduces students to the incredible diversity of Asian Americans. It guides students through an examination of the historical events, policies and dynamics that have marginalized Asian American communities based on race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, citizenship, and other forms of difference. It also explores the diverse ways that Asian Americans have sought inclusion and belonging in the U.S.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AAS Gateway Courses HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Not offered current academic year

AAS 306 (S) Building Power: Race and American Architecture (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 306 / ARTH 306

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores the many ways race is constructed through American architecture. We will survey different methodologies for linking architecture and race, including uncovering the history of buildings in the nation's capital, analyzing public housing and "domestic war," and theorizing how racial difference and racialized power -- including white supremacy -- are implicated within modern architectural theory. Our readings will be drawn from Asian American, Latinx, and Black studies, as well as architectural history, art history, and urban studies. Together we will attempt to answer several questions about racialized architecture, such as why Asianness has often been associated with domestic interiors, how Blackness is coded in particular built forms, such as skyscrapers, and how architects and planners deploy the visual language of the Latinx barrio to mitigate anti-immigrant fear. We will also explore how BIPOC artists, architects, writers, and scholars engage architecture as a standpoint of critique, pushing back against the racialization of architecture and offer alternative or new ways of thinking about structures and space. While foregrounding race, the course will necessarily require intersectional thinking in relation (but not limited) to class, gender, citizenship, and ability.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on response papers, discussion questions, and a final research project on an architectural object, theory, or style.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: First- and second-year students

Expected Class Size: 10-15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 306(D2) AAS 306(D2) ARTH 306(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course examines how the production of racial categories and the maintenance of racial hierarchy and difference works through built forms, architectural style, and architectural theory. Students will see how buildings maintain social power, as well as how writers, architects, artists, and scholars use the architectural imagination to grapple with questions of racialized exclusion, dispossession, and crisis.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Space and Place Electives

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

AAS 312 (S) The 626 (DPE)

Cross-listings: SOC 313

Secondary Cross-listing

Ryka Aoki's *Light from Uncommon Stars* is "a defiantly joyful adventure in California's San Gabriel Valley, with cursed violins, Faustian bargains, and queer alien courtship over fresh-made doughnuts." What sociological insight could a sci-fi novel about intense extracurricular pressure, food, and foreignness have to offer about the San Gabriel Valley, area code 626? In this course, we take the fantastical characters and plots of Aoki's novel as

an invitation to delve into the histories of Asian American settlement to Gabrielino/Tongva lands on the eastern fringes of present-day Los Angeles County. The multilingual boba shops, restaurants, and store fronts throughout the valley mask a history of violent backlash and English-only initiatives. Media reports of academic and musical prodigies skew a broader socioeconomic picture that includes crimmigration, deportation, and xenophobia. And the figure of an intergalactic refugee mother exposes the toll that crossing borders takes on individuals, families, and communities. In this project-based course, we survey the formation of a particular place and its surroundings. In doing so, students grapple with general questions such as: How does migration shape intergenerational dynamics? When and with what tools do people confront racism and intersecting forms of discrimination? How do ethnic enclaves form and fracture? And how do communities mobilize for political rights?

Requirements/Evaluation: thoughtful and consistent participation; mock film festival screening and vote; possible community partnership; regular writing assignments

Prerequisites: N/A

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: ANSO majors and AAS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 312(D2) SOC 313(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores the making of the San Gabriel Valley as the "Asian American Holy Land." It delves into actors' diverse responses to the model minority stereotype, class, and belonging. Students will evaluate (pan)ethnicity as something to be explained, rather than explanatory, and consider the gaps between diversity and inclusion versus equity in the so-called majority-minority context of the 626.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Phi H. Su

AAS 313 (S) Gender, Race, and the Power of Personal Aesthetics

Cross-listings: LATS 313 / AMST 313 / WGSS 313 / AFR 326

Secondary Cross-listing

This interdisciplinary course focuses on the politics of personal style among women of color in the digital era. With a comparative, transnational emphasis on the ways in which ideologies of gender, (dis)ability, sexuality, ethno-racial identity, neoliberal capitalism and class inform normative beauty standards and ideas about the body, we examine a variety of materials including commercial websites, podcasts, histories, personal narratives, ethnographies, and sociological case studies. Departing from the assumption that personal aesthetics are intimately tied to issues of power and privilege, we engage the following questions, among others: What are some of the everyday functions of personal style among women of color in the US and globally? How do Latina/x, Black, Arab American, and Asian American personal aesthetics reflect the specific circumstances of their creation, and the unique histories of these racialized communities? What role do transnational media and popular culture play in the development and circulation of gendered and raced aesthetic forms? How might the belief in personal style as activist strategy complicate traditional understandings of feminist political activity? And what do the combined insights of ethnic studies, feminist studies, cultural studies, media studies, queer studies and disability studies contribute to our understanding of gendered Asian American, Arab American, Black, and Latina/x bodies?

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, one student-led discussion period, two written essays of 5-6 pages, final written reflection.

Prerequisites: LATS 105, AMST 201, AFR 200, WGSS 101 or permission of instructor; first year students are not permitted to take this course.

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Latina/o Studies concentrators, American Studies majors, Africana Studies majors, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies majors by seniority. If the class is overenrolled students may be asked to submit a brief writing sample.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

LATS 313(D2) AMST 313(D2) WGSS 313(D2) AAS 313(D2) AFR 326(D2)

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora LATS Core Electives WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses WGSS Theory Courses

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Maria Elena Cepeda

AAS 316 Music in Asian American History (DPE) (WS)

Is "Asian American music" all music made by Asian Americans, music by Asian Americans specifically drawing on Asian heritage, or music engaging with Asian American issues? This course embraces all three definitions and the full diversity of Asian American musical experience. We will study the historical soundscapes of immigrant communities (Chinese opera in North America; Southeast Asian war refugees) and how specific traumatic political events shaped musical life (Japanese American internment camps). We will encounter works by major classical composers (Chou Wen-Chung; Chen Yi; Tan Dun; Bright Sheng) and will investigate the careers and reception of prominent classical musicians (Midori; Seiji Ozawa; Yo-Yo Ma). Afro-Asian fusions, inspired by civil rights protest movements, manifested in jazz (Jon Jang; Fred Ho; Anthony Brown; Hiroshima; Vijay Iyer) and hip hop (MC Jin; Awkwafina; Desi rappers). Asian Americans have been active in popular music at home and abroad (Don Ho; Yoko Ono; Wang Leehom; Mitski). Finally, we will investigate communal forms of Asian American music making that have crossed racialized and gendered boundaries (taiko drumming; Indonesian gamelan; belly dance; Suzuki method). This seminar is designed to develop research skills, as we pursue original fieldwork, archival research, and oral history interviews.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active class participation; two short papers (5-6 pp.) and a research term paper (12-15 pp.).

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Students with curricular experience in Asian American history or music studies.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading:

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write three papers during the semester: two 5-6 page papers and a 12-15 page research paper, written in stages. Students will receive detailed comments on each paper and at each stage of the research paper process, allowing them to build upon those comments in subsequent writing assignments.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Political and cultural forces of exclusion not only determined Asian American musical participation in American music history but have shaped Asian American styles of music. We will study the history of Asian American political struggles as they have intersected with music and how Asian Americans have at certain points sought allegiance through music with other marginalized groups. We will explore as well popular media representations of Asian American musicians revealing race-based assumptions.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives

Not offered current academic year

AAS 351 (F) Racism in Public Health (DPE)

Cross-listings: PHLH 351

Secondary Cross-listing

Across the nation, states, counties and communities have declared racism a public health crisis. This push to identify systemic racism as a high priority in public health action and policy is an important symbolic and political move. It names the faults of histories, systems and institutions but also brings to the spotlight the individual and community responsibility to dismantle racism in the US. In this tutorial, we will examine racism in public health policy, practice and research through an investigation of several mediums of evidence and information, ranging from peer reviewed literature to news editorials, podcasts and documentaries. We will explore specific pathways by which legacies of colonialism and racism function in various public health disciplines such as epidemiology, social & behavioral sciences, health policy and environmental health while also examining the dynamics of power and history in research and community practice. We will take deep dives into issues on how health can be impacted by redlining, racist medical algorithms, racial trauma and stress and police violence, to name a few. Students will also have two opportunities to select their own case studies, as a way for you to research and learn about particular racial health issues that are of personal interest. This course is also about self-reflection and exploration of the ways in which our identities and lived experiences impact our understanding and perspective. We will gain skills in speaking across

differences and articulation of how our own perceptions and lived experiences of race and racism impact our study of public health. This tutorial requires an openness to self-reflection and the practice of listening and articulation.

Requirements/Evaluation: bi-weekly tutorial papers, weekly journaling, oral commentaries and tutorial discussion

Prerequisites: PHLH 201 or instructor approval.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: 1-Public Health concentrators. 2- Asian American Studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 351(D2) PHLH 351(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: In this course students will examine and critically examine the inequities and race based social and health injustices, and the ways racism infiltrates public health action and policy, both historically and currently. They will also refine their self reflection skills in understanding how their own positions of privilege and power, or lack thereof, inform their understanding of public health.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Fall 2023

TUT Section: T1 TBA Marion Min-Barron

AAS 373 (F) US Empire in the Philippines: Capitalism, Colonialism, and Revolution (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 373

Secondary Cross-listing

When the United States of America took official colonial control of the Philippines in 1898, Filipinos had already been fighting an anti-colonial struggle against Spain for several years. With the start of the Philippine-American War in 1899, that fight continued. Keeping the always-present possibilities of Filipino revolt in mind, this course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of U.S. empire-building in the Philippines from the late-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. We will frame our understanding in terms of racial capitalism and the colonality of power, with particular attention to the materiality of empire -- infrastructure, architecture, financing, markets, and population management -- and U.S. empire's production of racial, gender, indigenous, religious, and sexual categories and difference. Our readings may be drawn from critical ethnic studies, gender & sexuality studies, American studies, postcolonial theory, Black studies, disability studies, and more. Topics include the military "management" of Muslim, Christian, and animist groups, the Katipunan society, interracial intimacies, and early 20th century Filipino migration to the United States. Students are expected to take an active role in discussion, but no prior knowledge of the Philippines is expected.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on a semi-self-paced portfolio model: by two different points in the semester, students will be responsible for handing in a collection of 1-2 page response papers, discussion posts, discussion questions, and/or a paper analyzing a primary source or theoretical argument. The minimum requirement is a word count e.g. 3,000 words by 10/15, another 3,000 by 11/15. For the final, students will collect their work, revise at least 30% of it according to professor and peer feedback, and write a final reflection paper. In pairs, students will also lead discussion during one or more class sessions.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: First priority will go to AAS concentrators and AMST prospective and declared majors

Expected Class Size: 10-15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 373(D2) AMST 373(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the creation and maintenance of racial, indigenous, religious, gender, sexual, and ablist categories in the context of world-historic systems of power, namely capitalism and colonialism. It tracks the unequal relations of power between American colonizers and Filipino colonized subjects, while keeping live the inherent power of Filipino people for revolt.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives AMST Space and Place Electives

Fall 2023

SEM Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Jan Padios

AAS 375 (S) Asian American Sexualities (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 375 / WGSS 375

Secondary Cross-listing

Often framed as objects of sexual use and perversity, how might Asian/Asian American subjects contend with these projections and enact their own sexualities? Anchored in this question, this theory-intensive course introduces students to core texts in Asian American Studies, feminist and queer criticism, and performance studies alongside a host of cultural productions (e.g., film, visual art, performance, poetry). It will focus on an array of topics, including western demands to "come out," the history and activism of "comfort women," HIV/AIDS, orientalism/ornamentalism, the criminalization of Sikh, South Asian, and Muslim Americans post-9/11, queer kinship, sex work, representations in pornography, drag performance (among others) to explore questions of racialized and sexualized pain alongside pleasure, play, and critique from feminist, queer, trans, and queered positions.

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class discussion, weekly posts, in-class paper presentation, short paper, and final project (paper and creative options)

Prerequisites: preferably AMST 125 or WGSS 101/202

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: AMST/WGSS majors and AAS concentrators will be given priority; prospective AA concentrators

Expected Class Size: 18

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AMST 375(D2) WGSS 375(D2) AAS 375(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the terms Asian American, gender, sexuality, and ability as categories of social difference and oppression. Throughout the course, students will unpack how these categories have been made, unmade, and remade in relationship to ongoing issues of sexual violence, colonialism, racial capitalism, and empire.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AMST Arts in Context Electives AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Kelly I. Chung

AAS 384 Comparative History of Science and Medicine in Asian/Pacific America, 1800-Present (DPE)

How have scientific knowledge and medicine been tools of exclusion, violence, and imperial control against Asian Americans, as well as indigenous peoples, Black, Latinx, and white migrants, and their descendants? How have these groups negotiated and resisted encounters with such knowledge from the 19th century to the present? This seminar explores these questions by examining a series of case studies--including American colonial medicine and science in the Philippines and Hawai'i, Cold War migration of Chinese scientists and South Asian doctors to the U.S., and the politics of HIV/AIDS, psychiatry, and culturally competent care in Black, Asian, and Cuban migrant communities. Together, we will survey the literature in history, English, Global Health, Sociology, and other fields and consider how the Asian/Pacific American experience in science and medicine has been integral to, as well as informed by, the experiences of other groups in the transpacific world. Students will leave this course with interdisciplinary tools for understanding present-day health inequities in underserved Asian/Pacific American communities and other marginalized groups.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance and active participation in discussion, three response papers (3-4 pages), and final research paper (12-15 pages), as well as topic proposal, annotated bibliography, outline, and draft of the final paper

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Preference to History majors, Asian American Studies concentrators, and Public Health concentrators

Expected Class Size: 20-25

Grading:

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores how knowledge about science and medicine has been constituted and remade over time by various groups in the transpacific world to exert power over others on the structural, community and individual levels. We will also consider how individuals who experienced violence and inequities as a result of encounters with such knowledge challenged definitions and practices of science and medicine.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Not offered current academic year

AAS 414 (S) Race and Performance (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: WGSS 414 / AMST 414

Secondary Cross-listing

How does one "do" race? This seminar offers a survey of foundational and emergent scholarship at the nexus of performance studies, critical ethnic studies, and gender and sexuality studies alongside contemporary visual and performance art works. It will explore how the framework of performance destabilizes notions of race, gender, and sexuality as identities that are inherent to us and approaches them as ones we enact, do, and undo. We will begin the course by tracing key concepts in performance studies (i.e., performance, performative, performativity) before examining a range of performances that respond to and negotiate life under the ongoing conditions of racial capitalism, empire, anti-blackness, and settler colonialism. To this end, we will focus on how qualities attributed to racialized and gendered bodies, such as silence, diseased, patience, depression, passivity, and aloofness, are retooled as feminist and queer of color actions or positions.

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class discussion, weekly posts, class presentation, short written assignments, and final project (with creative option)

Prerequisites: AMST 101 or WGSS 101/202 and upper level courses in AMST, WGSS, or related fields

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: AMST seniors and juniors; WGSS seniors and juniors; AAS concentrators

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

AAS 414(D2) WGSS 414(D2) AMST 414(D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Weekly discussion posts, short writing assignments that will lead to the final assignment, and a self-assessment reflection. Additionally, students will draft and present an object-based analysis paper (incorporating primary and secondary materials), give and receive peer feedback, and submit a final, edited version.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course centrally examines the nexus of race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability and explores a bevy of strategies deployed to respond to overlapping structures of power, including racial capitalism, settler colonialism, anti-blackness, and empire.

Attributes: AAS Capstone AMST 400-level Senior Seminars WGSS Theory Courses

Spring 2024

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Thursday Org Mtg 7:30 pm - 7:55 pm Kelly I. Chung

AAS 497 (F) Independent Study: Asian American Studies

For students pursuing a semester-length independent study for Asian American Studies credit in the fall. Independent study proposals are due to the Chair of Asian American Studies by the end of the pre-registration period the semester prior. Proposals must be approved before students can enroll. Note that students enroll for this course code regardless of the instructor advising the independent study. See Chair for more details.

Requirements/Evaluation: To be determined between advisor and students by the start of the semester

Prerequisites: Asian American Studies gateway course

Enrollment Limit: NA

Enrollment Preferences: Asian American Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AAS Capstone

Fall 2023

IND Section: 01 TBA Jan Padios

AAS 498 (S) Independent Study: Asian American Studies

For students pursuing a semester-length independent study for Asian American Studies credit in the spring. Independent study proposals are due to the Chair of Asian American Studies by the end of the pre-registration period the semester prior. Proposals must be approved before students can enroll. Note that students enroll for this course code regardless of the instructor advising the independent study. See Chair for more details.

Requirements/Evaluation: To be determined by instructor and student before start of the semester.

Prerequisites: Asian American Studies gateway course

Enrollment Limit: NA

Enrollment Preferences: Asian American Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AAS Capstone

Spring 2024

IND Section: 01 TBA Jan Padios