Asian American Studies (ASAM)

ASAM 001 Asian Americans in Contemporary Society
This class will introduce you to sociological research of Asian Americans and engage in the "model minority" stereotype. We begin by a brief introduction to U.S. immigration history and sociological theories about assimilation and racial stratification. The class will also cover research on racial and ethnic identity, educational stratification, media images, interracial marriage, multiracials, transracial adoption, and the viability of an Asian American panethnic identity. We will also examine the similarities and differences of Asian Americans relative to other minority groups.
For BA Students: Society Sector
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 103
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 002 Asian American Literature
An overview of Asian American literature from its beginnings at the turn of the twentieth century to the present. This course covers a wide range of Asian American novels, plays, and poems, situating them in the contexts of Asian American history and minority communities and considering the variety of formal strategies these different texts take.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ENGL 072
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 003 Introduction to Asian American History
This course provides an introduction to the history of Asian/Pacific Americans, focusing on the wide diversity of migrant experiences, as well as the continuing legacies of Orientalism on American-born APA's. Issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality will also be examined.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Azuma
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 155
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 006 Race and Ethnic Relations
This course will focus on race and ethnicity in the United States. We begin with a brief history of racial categorization and immigration to the U.S. The course continues by examining a number of topics including racial and ethnic identity, interracial and interethnic friendships and marriage, racial attitudes, mass media images, residential segregation, educational stratification, and labor market outcomes. The course will include discussions of African Americans, Whites, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and multiracials.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: AFRC 006, SOCI 006, URBS 160
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 110 Asian American Activism
Please see our website for more current information: asam.sas.upenn.edu
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 160 South Asians in the United States
This course investigates the everyday practices and customs of South Asians in America. Every immigrant group has its own history, customs, beliefs and values, making each unique while simultaneously a part of the "melting pot" or salad bowl of American society. Yet how do people define themselves and their ethnicities living in a diasporic context? By taking into account the burgeoning South Asian American population as our model, this course will explore the basic themes surrounding the lives that immigrants are living in America, and more specifically the identity which the second generation, born and/or raised in American, is developing. South Asians in the U.S. will be divided thematically covering the topics of ethnicity, marriage, gender, religion, and pop culture. Reading and assignments will discuss a variety of issues and viewpoints that are a part of the fabric of South Asia, but will focus on the interpretation of such expressive culture in the United States.
Taught by: Khan
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: SAST 290
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 170 Psych of Asian Americans
Using a cultural perspective, this course is intended to provide knowledge of Asian American personality, identity, and its relationship to mental well being; analyze psycho-social research pertinent to Asian Americans; and develop critical thinking skills on Asian American issues through experiential learning/discussions.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: SAST 170
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 180 Asian American Food
You are what you eat. Asian American Food explores the history, politics, and ethnic identity of food through a cultural lens. Growing food, eating, and sharing meals serve as intimate expressions of self and community. By examining the production and consumption of food, the course investigates the ways that Asian Americans navigate traditions, gender norms, religious dietary laws, food habits, and employment as they create lives in the United States. The course overviews the history of Asian American foodways, but has a particular focus on Philadelphia's Asian American communities.
Taught by: Khan, F
Also Offered As: SAST 180, URBS 180
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 190 Intro Asian Am Studies: Introduction To Asian American Studies
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 200 Multicultural Psychology
Please see our website for more current information: asam.sas.upenn.edu
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
ASAM 201 Topics in Asian American Sociology
Topics vary. Please see our website for more current information: asam.sas.upenn.edu
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: SOCI 150, URBS 215
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 202 Topics in Asian American Literature
Topics vary. Please see our website for more current information: asam.sas.upenn.edu
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 272, ENGL 272
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 203 Topics in Asian American History
Topics vary. Please see our website for more current information: asam.sas.upenn.edu
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 231
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 205 Asian American Communities
Who is Asian American and how and where do we recognize Asian America? This interdisciplinary course explores the multiple factors that define Asian American identity and community. In order to provide a sketch of the multifaceted experience of this growing minority group, we will discuss a wide variety of texts from scholarly, artistic, and popular (film, cinematic) sources that mark key moments in the cultural history of Asia America. The course will address major themes of community life including migration history, Asian American as model minority, race, class, and transnational scope of Asian America. In combination with the readings, this class will foster and promote independent research based on site visits to various Asian American communities in Philadelphia and will host community leaders as guest lecturers.
Taught by: Khan
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: URBS 207
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 210 Asian Am Religions: Asian American Religions
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

ASAM 294 Facing America
This course explores the visual history of race in the United States as both self-fashioning and cultural mythology by examining the ways that conceptions of Native American, Latino, and Asian identity, alongside ideas of Blackness and Whiteness, have combined to create the various cultural ideologies of class, gender, and sexuality that remain evident in historical visual and material culture. We will also investigate the ways that these creations have subsequently helped to launch new visual entertainments, including museum spectacles, blackface minstrelsy, and early film, from the colonial period through the 1940s.
Taught by: Shaw
Also Offered As: AFRC 294, ARTH 274, ARTH 674, CIMS 293, LALS 274
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 354 American Expansion in the Pacific
This class will focus on America's expansion into the Pacific around the turn of the century with the acquisition of Hawaii and the Phillipines. It can deal with various issues, including the meaning of "frontier," colonialism, development of capitalist economies in the region, diplomacy, racism, migration, an American brand of Orientalism in encountering the "natives" and "heathens,"and histories of the West and the Pacific Islands in general.
Taught by: Azuma
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 354
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

ASAM 590 Sociology of Education
This graduate seminar will introduce students to some of the key theoretical and empirical work in the sociology of education. We will examine how schools work to maintain or alleviate inequality, and focus on differences in educational achievement and attainment by race, ethnicity, immigrant status, class, and gender. We will review work on the educatinal experiences of youth from early childhood to young adulthood.
Taught by: Kao
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: SOCI 596
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit