

# ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (TRI-CO)

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## Department Website:

<https://www.haverford.edu/asian-american-studies>

Asian American Studies is a Tri-College program that offers a minor at all three colleges. The interdisciplinary curriculum is designed to help students develop an understanding of Asian American experiences, histories, cultures, and art. While the program centers Asian American experiences and perspectives, it also contextualizes Asian American Studies within the broader field of critical race and ethnic studies, with a focus on how race operates in the United States and intergroup relations between Asian Americans with other racial and ethnic minority groups. Asian American Studies provides rich interdisciplinary training in complex social and cultural issues pertaining to the study of race, ethnicity, and identity; migration and acculturation; intergroup relations; power and privilege; stereotyping and discrimination; and globalization. Studying the experiences of Asian Americans helps students to learn more about themselves and their relationships in an increasingly multiracial, multiethnic, and multicultural nation. Students are engaged in thinking deeply about concepts and theory, and relating those in applied ways to contemporary issues and problems in Asian American communities.

## Learning Goals

- Gain competence in the theories and methods of the interdisciplinary study of Asian Americans.
- Contextualize how history has shaped the lives and experiences of Asian Americans, with relevance for contemporary issues and problems.
- Study and participate in creative expressions of Asian American experiences through literature, music, and dance.
- Examine the experiences of Asian Americans in the broader context of how race operates in the United States and understand intergroup relations with other racial and ethnic minority groups within the United States.
- Explore perspectives on Asian Americans from outside the United States taking a transnational or global view.

Haverford's Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President's website, at <http://hav.to/learninggoals>.

## Curriculum

The Asian American Studies minor is a 6-credit minor and is composed of the following requirements: at least 3 core courses in Asian American Studies, at least 1 course in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, and no more than 1 course in Transnational and/or Global Connections with Asia. In lieu of specific required courses, the curriculum offers a balance of structure and rigor with reasonable flexibility in possible pathways for completing the minor. The Co-Directors of Asian American Studies will help students select courses that meet the requirements for the minor. Students' minor experience will culminate with an annual Tri-College Asian American Studies symposium where seniors will present their work in various forms (e.g., music performance, poster presentation), reflecting the highly interdisciplinary nature of the program.

Students interested in the Asian American Studies Minor should plan their course schedule in consultation with one of the Co-Directors of Asian American Studies (one located at Haverford/Bryn Mawr, one located at Swarthmore).

## Minor Requirements

The 6-credit minor is composed of the following requirements:

- **At least 3 "Core Courses" in Asian American Studies.** These courses have a substantive focus on Asian American experiences, histories, and cultures. Please find a current list of approved courses on the Asian American Studies website.
- **At least 1 Course in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies.** These courses provide exposure to the experiences, histories, and cultures of other racial and ethnic groups in and of themselves, or in relation to other groups. Many courses that could meet this requirement are drawn from African and Africana Studies/Black Studies; Latin American, Iberian, and Latinx Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; and other departments. Students should discuss the course they wish to use for this requirement with one of the Co-Directors.
- **1 Course in Transnational or Global Connections with Asia.** No more than one course that offers perspectives on Asian Americans from outside the United States with regard to history, literature, culture, or politics in order to explore transnational or global connections in a broader context. There are many non-language courses offered by East Asian Languages and Cultures/Asian Studies and other departments on Asian history, literature, culture,

and politics from regional or global perspectives that could meet this requirement. Students should discuss the course they wish to use for this requirement with one of the Co-Directors.

**Please note:**

The six minor credits should cross over at least two divisions of the College (e.g., Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Independent Programs).

Senior thesis credit for an Asian American Studies topic may be counted towards the minor. Please discuss your senior thesis topic with one of the Co-Directors of Asian American Studies in advance.

No more than two credits from a single department can count towards the minor and no more than two of the six minor credits may double-count towards the student's major. We wish to encourage thoughtful and intentional selection of courses for the Asian American Studies minor that help to expand a student's academic exposure beyond what would have been gained through the major program of study as a matter of course.

## Faculty

Below are the core Asian American Studies faculty. Many other faculty contribute courses to the program; see the Courses section for a full listing.

### Haverford Faculty

**Ruodi Duan**

Assistant Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Cultures

**Elizabeth Kim**

Assistant Professor of English, Director of Creative Writing

**Theresa Tensuan**

Associate Dean of Student Success

**Gina Velasco**

Associate Professor and Director of Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Shu-wen Wang**

Associate Professor of Psychology, \*Co-Director of Tri-Co Asian American Studies Program (*Haverford and Bryn Mawr students can contact Prof. Wang about the program*)

### Bryn Mawr Faculty

**Thomas Le**

Assistant Professor of Psychology and BiCo Chair of Asian American Studies (TriCo)

### Swarthmore Faculty

**Ryan Ku**

Visiting Assistant Professor of English Literature

**Roseann Liu**

Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and Educational Studies

**Lei X. Ouyang**

Associate Professor of Music, \*Co-Director of Tri-Co Asian American Studies Program (*Swarthmore students can contact Prof. Ouyang about the program*)

**Vivian Truong**

Assistant Professor of History,

### Asian American Studies Courses

**ASAM H203 ASIAN AMERICAN QUEER AND TRANS STUDIES (1.0 Credit)**

*Gina Velasco*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Queer and Trans Studies.

As such, we will focus on scholarship and cultural production at the intersection of Asian American Studies and Queer/Trans Studies. Throughout the course, we will draw on a range of theoretical and ethnographic texts, as well as forms of queer Asian American cultural production (primarily film and performance). Crosslisted: GSST, ASAM. Lottery Preference: Preference given to Gen Sex and Asian American Studies minors.

**ASAM H339 ASIAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)**

*Shu-wen Wang*

**Division:** Social Science

**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

This seminar course addresses major theories and findings in Asian American Psychology, with a focus on immigration and acculturation, ethnic identity, stereotyping and discrimination, families and development, and mental health. Prerequisite(s): One 200 level PSYC course or permission from instructor

**(Offered:** Fall 2025)

### East Asian Languages and Cultures Courses

**EALC H126 GLOBAL ASIAN DIASPORAS (1.0 Credit)**

*Ruodi Duan*

**Division:** Social Science

**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

This course examines the modern histories, politics, and cultures of Asian migration and diasporas, with a focus on American contexts. Between 1840 and 1940, Asian migrants—numbering in the tens of millions—set out in search of livelihoods and fortunes, especially in Southeast Asia and

the Americas. We will look at how patterns of Asian migrations were propelled by and shaped world-historical dynamics including colonialism, globalization, racial formation, and the most contentious wars of the twentieth century. Crosslisted: EALC.

### English Courses

#### **ENGL B223 THE HELP: ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE & CARE WORK (1.0 Credit)**

*Sophia Mao*

**Division:** Humanities

This course surveys Asian American literature and cultural productions that feature the work of care: jobs, whether official or unofficial (such as mothering, nursing, and nannying) that are essential, yet so often undercompensated and overlooked. We will examine how Asian American immigration history has led to the burgeoning of industries around care work. We will see how narrative and fiction portray the troubling entanglements between economic structures, race and gender roles, and personal feeling in the labor of care. This course operates under the premise that an attentiveness to how care unfolds is essential to creating a more just world. Collectively, we will not just talk about care as an abstract set of ideas but concretely practice it with one another in the space of our classroom. **(Offered:** Fall 2025)

#### **ENGL H249 INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE (1.0 Credit)**

*Elizabeth Kim*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course will explore the diversity of Asian American experience by studying a selection of foundational and emerging works by Asian American writers. Assigned readings of various literary genres will address themes such as immigration, generational conflict, racism, assimilation, difference, and political struggle. Key lines of inquiry include: What does Asian American identity, culture, and aesthetic look like? How do writers represent them? What does the racial and literary category "Asian American" constitute? Crosslisted: ENGL. Pre-requisite(s): None **(Offered:** Fall 2025)

#### **ENGL H306 TOPICS IN ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE: ASIAN AMERICAN HYBRIDITY (1.0 Credit)**

*Elizabeth Kim*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts); B: Analysis of the Social World

This course will study the relationship between form and content in a diverse range of experimental and multi-media works by contemporary Asian American authors to explore the ways in which they address the hybrid identity marker "Asian American." Through examining works of various genres paired with critical texts, we will analyze how authors combine media and what this reflects about Asian American identity, experience, and survival. Lottery Preference: None **(Offered:** Spring 2026)

#### **ENGL H366 TOPICS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE: ASIAN AMERICAN HYBRIDITY (1.0 Credit)**

*Elizabeth Kim*

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

### Gender and Sexuality Studies Courses

#### **GSST H203 ASIAN AMERICAN QUEER AND TRANS STUDIES (1.0 Credit)**

*Gina Velasco*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Queer and Trans Studies. As such, we will focus on scholarship and cultural production at the intersection of Asian American Studies and Queer/Trans Studies. Throughout the course, we will draw on a range of theoretical and ethnographic texts, as well as forms of queer Asian American cultural production (primarily film and performance). Crosslisted: GSST, ASAM. Lottery Preference: Preference given to Gen Sex and Asian American Studies minors.

### History Courses

#### **HIST H126 GLOBAL ASIAN DIASPORAS (1.0 Credit)**

*Ruodi Duan*

**Division:** Social Science

**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

This course examines the modern histories, politics, and cultures of Asian migration and diasporas, with a focus on American contexts. Between 1840 and 1940, Asian migrants—numbering in the tens of millions—set out in search of livelihoods and fortunes, especially in Southeast Asia and the Americas. We will look at how patterns of Asian migrations were propelled by and shaped world-historical dynamics including colonialism, globalization, racial formation, and the most contentious wars of the twentieth century. Crosslisted: EALC.

### **Peace, Justice and Human Rights Courses**

#### **PEAC H329 AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITIES (1.0 Credit)**

*Prea Persaud Khanna*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This interdisciplinary course analyzes the relationship between Black and Asian communities in the Americas, highlighting moments of solidarity and unity and areas of divergence and conflict. Moving from slavery to indentureship to U.S. immigration, particularly post 1960s, students will examine the rhetoric of the yellow peril, the myth of the model minority, the rise of Black Power movements, orientalist stereotypes, and anti-blackness within the Asian (inclusive of South Asian and Indo-Caribbean) community. Pre-requisite(s): PEAC 101 or 201 or consent of instructor Lottery Preference: PJHR, AFST, and FGSTC students  
**(Offered:** Spring 2026)

### **Psychology Courses**

#### **PSYC H339 ASIAN AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY (1.0 Credit)**

*Shu-wen Wang*

**Division:** Social Science

**Domain(s):** B: Analysis of the Social World

This seminar course addresses major theories and findings in Asian American Psychology, with a focus on immigration and acculturation, ethnic identity, stereotyping and discrimination, families and development, and mental health. Prerequisite(s): One 200 level PSYC course or permission from instructor  
**(Offered:** Fall 2025)

### **Writing Program Courses**

#### **WRPR H155 ORIGIN STORIES: IN THE WAKE OF WAR (1.0 Credit)**

*Theresa Tensuan*

**Division:** First Year Writing

In this course we will read a range of origin stories--creation narratives, memoirs, alter/native accounts of settler colonialism, and trickster tales--that delineate constructions of identity and constitutions of community with a focus on the ways in which writers and artists represent ongoing "encounters" between indigenous and imperial cultures, examining inventive work that play with genres ranging from the lyric to the epic to speculative fiction as a means of offering new ways of understanding history and imagining the future. Open only to first-year students as assigned by the Director of College Writing.  
**(Offered:** Spring 2026)