

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The Major Program

Offering both an undergraduate major and minor, our curriculum emphasizes multidisciplinary, comparative, transnational, and intersectional perspectives; original empirically-based scholarship; cultural production and analyses; and community engagement.

In consultation with our faculty and staff advisors, students in the major have the exciting opportunity to select an emphasis or specialty organized around our faculty's core areas of intellectual focus including—Immigration, Labor, and Transnationalism; Visual, Literary, and Cultural Studies; and Public/Community-Engaged Scholarship. The department is also developing an emphasis on Health through its emerging partnerships. Each emphasis incorporates a diverse array of thematic, theoretical, disciplinary, and methodological approaches—as well as a focus on a broad range of Asian American communities—allowing students to choose a course of study that aligns with their particular academic and career interests.

In order to enhance students' intellectual development and postgraduate preparation, our curriculum also requires that all majors complete an off-campus community internship. This requirement seeks to ensure students experience a deeper and more comprehensive liberal arts education that connects classroom education to real life contexts that foster the development of new forms of knowledge and practical skills. The Department also offers an optional two-quarter thesis writing seminar for students in the major and minor that progresses through each stage of designing and completing an individualized undergraduate thesis project based on original research, which helps prepare students interested in applying for graduate school.

Career Alternatives

With the multidisciplinary emphasis of our program, an Asian American studies major provides excellent preparation for a diverse range of careers. Our alumni have established successful careers in the arts, community-based and non-profit organizations, government and politics, human rights, journalism, international relations, law, K-12 education, public health, public policy, social work, and student affairs in higher education. Others have gone on to pursue postgraduate degrees in a wide variety of fields that include education, ethnic studies, fine arts, feminist & queer studies, history, law, literature, political science, public policy, sociology, and social work. Our department has fostered close relationships with our alumni who are committed to supporting our majors with their career plans.

General Education Requirements

A large number of the courses offered by the Department fulfill a wide range of general education topical breadth and core literacy requirements that include:

Topical Breadth

- Arts & Humanities
- Social Sciences

Core Literacy

Literacy with Words & Images

- Writing Experience
- Oral Skills
- Visual Literacy

Civic & Cultural Literacy

- American Cultures, Governance, & History
- Domestic Diversity
- World Cultures

Major Advisor

Joe Nguyen (jovnguyen@ucdavis.edu), Student Academic Advisor; 530-752-8617

Substitutions for disciplinary track courses will be considered by the Department Chair on a case-by-case basis. Likewise, any substitutions of Major/Minor criteria will be considered by the Department Chair.

Direct questions pertaining to the following courses to the instructor or to the Department of Asian American Studies in 3102 Hart Hall; 530-752-2069. Also find relevant contact information at Asian American Studies (<https://asa.ucdavis.edu/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Asian American Studies Bachelor of Arts is 68.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
ASA 001	Historical Experience of Asian Americans	4
ASA 002	Contemporary Issues of Asian Americans	4
ASA 003	Methods in Asian American Studies	4
ASA 004	Asian American Cultural Studies	4
Choose at least two lower division courses from the following departments or programs: 8		
All lower division courses of at least 4 units are acceptable except those numbered 092, 097T, 098, 099.		
African American & African Studies (AAS) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/aas/)		
American Studies (AMS) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ams/)		
Chicana/o Studies (CHI) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/chi/)		
Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies (GSW) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/gsw/)		
Middle East & South Asia Studies (MSA) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/msa/) *		
Native American Studies (NAS) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/nas/)		
Women's Studies (WMS) (https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/wms/)		
Methodology		
Choose at least two courses from any of the following methods courses: 8		

AAS 101	Introduction to Research in the Afro-American Community	
AHI 005	Understanding Visual Culture	
AHI 100	Methods of Art History	
AMS 100	Methods in American Studies	
ANT 013	Scientific Method in Physical Anthropology (Discontinued for spring 2026)**	
ART 030	Introduction to Contemporary Visual Culture	
CHI 023	Qualitative Research Methods	
ENL 042	Approaches to Reading	
ENL 110A	Introduction to Literary Theory	
ENL 110B	Introduction to Modern Literary & Critical Theory	
HDE 120	Research Methods in Human Development	
HIS 101	Introduction to Historical Thought & Writing	
PHI 005	Critical Reasoning	
POL 051	Scientific Study of Politics	
PSC 041	Research Methods in Psychology	
or PSC 041V	Research Methods in Psychology	
STA 013	Elementary Statistics	
or STA 013V	Elementary Statistics	
or STA 013Y	Elementary Statistics	
WMS 104	Feminist Research (Discontinued for spring 2026)**	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		32
Depth Subject Matter		
ASA 192	Internships ¹	4
Choose at least six upper division Asian American Studies (ASA) courses:		24
ASA 100	Asian American Communities	
ASA 102	Theoretical Perspective in Asian American Studies	
ASA 112	Asian American Women	
ASA 113	Asian American Sexuality	
ASA 114	Asian Diasporas	
ASA 115	Multiracial Asian Pacific American Issues	
ASA 116	Asian American Youth	
ASA 121	Asian American Performance	
ASA 130	Asian American Literature	
ASA 131	Ethnicity, Culture, & the Self	
ASA/SPH 132	Health Issues Confronting Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders	
ASA 141	Asian Americans & the Political Culture of Fashion in the U.S. & Asia	
ASA 150	Filipino American Experience	
ASA 150B	Japanese American Experience	
ASA 150C	Chinese American Experience	
ASA 150D	Korean American Experience	
ASA 150E	Southeast Asian American Experience	
ASA 150F	South Asian American History, Culture, & Politics	
ASA 155	Asian American Legal History	
ASA 189A	Topics in Asian American Studies: History	

ASA 189B	Topics in Asian American Studies: Culture	
ASA 189C	Topics in Asian American Studies: Physical & Mental Health	
ASA 189D	Topics in Asian American Studies: Policy & Community	
ASA 189E	Topics in Asian American Studies: Comparative Racial Studies	
ASA 189F	Topics in Asian American Studies: Asian Studies & Asian American Studies	
ASA 189G	Topics in Asian American Studies: Race, Class, Gender, & Sexuality	
ASA 189H	Topics in Asian American Studies: Society & Institutions	
ASA 189I	Topics in Asian American Studies: Politics & Social Movements	
ASA 194 & ASA 195	Asian American Studies Capstone Course and Asian American Studies Senior Thesis Seminar ²	
ASA 198	Directed Group Study ³	
ASA 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates ³	

At least two upper division elective courses from other departments or programs that relate to chosen emphasis. 8

Two courses (of up to 8 units) from Study Abroad can be substituted for major requirements upon approval from the SAO or faculty advisor. 0-8

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Depth Subject Matter Subtotal 36-44

Total Required Units: 68

Total Units 68-76

1
ASA 192 required.

2
ASA 194 & ASA 195 is a series of courses taken consecutively in two quarters; students enrolling in ASA 194 must also enroll in ASA 195 the following quarter to complete the series.

3
Up to 6 units in ASA 198 and/or ASA 199 can be used to satisfy the Asian American Studies upper division course requirements.

*
MSA courses to be applied will depend on departmental approval. Please see the Student Academic Advisor prior to taking any MSA course to confirm.

**
Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.