

San José State University
Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
AAS 1: Introduction to Asian American Studies
Section 80, Fall 2025

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Catherine Fung, PhD (she/they)
Office:	None - this course is online, asynchronous
Email:	catherine.fung@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment
Class Days/Time:	This course is online, asynchronous
Classroom:	None
GE Area(s):	F: Ethnic Studies

Course Description

Introductory examination of Asian Pacific Islander Desi/Americans (APID/A) through U.S.-national and transnational frameworks, concerned with contests over the production of racial knowledge, power, and citizenship and belonging. Develops an account of racialization beyond the black-white binary in the context of US war and empire in Asia and the Pacific Islands, settler colonialism, globalization, migration, and popular culture. Students will complicate existing narratives of immigration and assimilation; complicate the assumed homogeneity of the category of “Asian American”; explore the historical and contemporary production of the “model minority” myth; situate APID/As within global and transnational frameworks; and track the continuing evolution of the interdisciplinary field of Asian American Studies.

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Course Format - Online, Asynchronous

This class is 100% online asynchronous, will NOT meet in-person, and will completely utilize Canvas. All course materials and assignments are available and organized as weekly modules. You will need the following resources and tools to be successful in this class: reliable internet connection and a computer or tablet.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

CLO 1 - Learn various methodologies, concepts, and theoretical contributions of Asian American Studies to comparative critical race analyses of power and structure, including white supremacy, liberation, sovereignty, and settler colonialism (GELO 1)

CLO 2 - Identify the intellectual contributions and shared experiences that link Asian Pacific Islander Desi/Americans together, as well as the internal diversity (class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age) that characterizes this diverse group (GELO 2, 3)

CLO 3 - Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements among Asian Pacific Islander Desi/Americans as well as other racial and ethnic coalitional groups to build a just and equitable society (GELO 4, 5)

CLO 4 - Explain and assess how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation, as experienced, enacted, and studied by Asian Pacific Islander Desi/Americans are relevant to current and structural issues such as in immigration, anti-immigrant sentiment, trans-misogyny, and settler-colonialism. (GELO 5)

Reading Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Refer to the schedule on Canvas for the most up-to-date version. All readings and films will be available to you online and distributed each week via Canvas.

Week/Module	Reading Assignments
1 Introduction—Who/What is Asian American?	" 'On Strike!': San Francisco State College Strike, 1968-1969: The Role of Asian American Students," by Karen Umemoto "Are Asian Americans White? Or People of Color?", by Naseeb Banghal and Oiyen Poon Glenn Omatsu's essay, "The Four Prisons' and the Movements of Liberation: Asian American Activism from the 1960s to the 1990s".
2 What is race?	Michael Omi and Howard Winant's, Chapter 4, <i>Racial Formation in the United States</i> . "Brown," by Nitasha Sharma "Yellow" by Robert Ji-Song Ku
3 Orientalism and Origin Stories	"Ocean Worlds," from Gary Okihiro's book, <i>American History Unbound: Asians and Pacific Islanders</i> . Excerpt, Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i> Lee, Ch. 1
4 Yellow Peril and the Chinese Exclusion Act	Lee, Ch. 4 "Public Health and the Mapping of Chinatown," Nyan Shah
5 Immigration and Naturalization Laws	Lee, Ch. 5 Lee, Ch. 7
6 Colonialism and Sovereignty (Hawai'i and the Philippines)	Lee, Ch. 8 Excerpt, <i>America is in the Heart</i> , Carlos Bulosan Excerpt, <i>All I Asking For Is My Body</i> , Milton Muruyama Fujikane, Introduction to <i>Asian Settler Colonialism</i>
7 War and Memory (WWII and Internment)	Lee, Ch. 10 Lee, Ch. 11
8	Midterm Assessment
9	Lee, Ch. 12

Cold War Empire	Jodi Kim, Ch. 1, "Cold War Logics, Cold War Politics" Lee, Ch. 14
10 Dismantling the Model Minority Myth	"The Cold War Construction of the Model Minority Myth," by Robert G. Lee. "The 'Model Minority' Deconstructed," by Lucie Cheng and Philip Q. Yang. "Racial Anxieties, Uncertainties, and Misinformation: A Complex Picture of Asian Americans and Selective College Admissions," by Oiyen Poon and Ester Sihite. "Asian Americans Helped Build Affirmative Action: What Happened?" by Ellen Wu for Slate.com.
11 Interracial Dynamics and Intersectionality	"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen: The Roots of Black-Asian Conflict," by Fred Ho. "The 1992 Los Angeles Riots and the 'Black-Korean' Conflict" by John Lie and Nancy Ablemann.
12 Queering Asian America	"Queer," by Martin Manalansan Alice Hom, "Stories from the Homefront" Dana Takagi, "Maiden Voyage"
13 9/11 and the War on Terror	"'Racial Profiling' in the War on Terror: Cultural Citizenship and South Asian Muslim Youth in the United States," by Sunaina Maira TBD
14 Contemporary Asian America	"On Movement Praxis in the Era of Trumpism," by Alex T. Tom
15-16 Conclusion	Work on Final Project Work on Final Project

Course Assessments and Grading

Assessments for this course and their point values will be the following:

Assessment	Points Each
Annotations	10
Discussion Posts	10-20
Freewrites	10-20
Midterm assessment	100
Final Project	200
GELO Assessment	50

There will be assessments given every week of the course, usually consisting of annotations of readings (to be done via Hypothesis on Canvas) and/or a short writing assignment such as a discussion board post or freewrite. For any given week, you will be assigned 10-20 points worth of assessments.

There will be one larger assignment worth 100 points in the middle of the semester that asks you to synthesize the content you've learned so far.

At the end of the semester, there will be a final project worth 200 points, as well as a writing assignment required by the university to assess that you are meeting the General Education Learning Objectives (GELO), worth 50 points.

There will be extra credit/optional assignments offered just about every week. These assignments are typically worth 5 points and can be completed at any time for full credit.

Late Policy

You have TWO WEEKS from the date an assessment is assigned to complete and submit it for full credit. After that two-week deadline, you may complete and submit any assessment until the end of the semester for half credit.

Course Grade

Your course grade will be determined by a cumulation of all points earned.

Grading Scale (By Percentage)

A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
F	<60

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. are available here at the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

Credit Hours

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

Academic Integrity

Students should be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/integrity.html>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the

work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Plagiarism

Please keep in mind that plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense in both academic and professional environments. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own. At the very least, plagiarism will result in grade penalties. It can also result in failing the course and having the incident noted in your SJSU student records. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to educate yourself or ask for clarification before you turn in written work. Examples of plagiarism: If you use a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism. If you paraphrase somebody else's theory or idea and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism. If you use a picture or table from a web page or book and do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism. If your paper incorporates data that someone else has collected and you do not reference the source, you have committed plagiarism. A tutorial to explain how to identify and avoid plagiarism is available here: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>. For examples of paraphrasing and quotation, please see the following: <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html>; <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>. For the SJSU policy on plagiarism, please read the "Academic Integrity Policy" at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/schedules/integrity.html>. The use of A.I. to complete assessments is considered plagiarism and will be treated as such.

Dropping

It is your responsibility to confirm your continued registration in the course. If you decide not to continue in the course, it is your responsibility to formally withdraw from the course. Failure to withdraw can result in a U for the course that will turn into an F grade. Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on registration is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/students/registration/Registration_Resources/index.html