

# Introduction to Asian American Studies

## AAS 1

Fall 2025 Sections 09, 10 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/13/2025

## Contact Information

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**Instructor:** Dr. Wayne Silao Jopanda

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**Office:** DMH 221

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM, DMH 221 or via Zoom

## Course Information

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Lecture

Tuesday, Thursday, 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM, Dudley Moorhead Hall 357

## Course Description and Requisites

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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.

GE Area(s): F. Ethnic Studies

Note(s): A grade of "C-" (1.7) or better is required to satisfy GE Area F.

Letter Graded

## Classroom Protocols

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- Attend all classes on time and prepared; notify the instructor of absences.

- Respectful, civil communication; keep personal stories confidential.
- Step Up / Step Down: balance participation.
- Keep phones silent/off.
- AI tools may **not** be used to complete essays or final video projects without instructor approval.
- Complete readings and assignments by due dates.
- Follow the Code of Student Conduct.

## University Policies

See [SJSU Syllabus Information Page](#) for academic integrity, accommodations, and other resources.

## Program Information

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Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

**Goal 1:** To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

**Goal 2:** To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

**Goal 3:** To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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### GE Area F: Ethnic Studies

The Area F requirement is based on the premise that all students graduating from the CSU have an understanding of race, racism, and social justice history in the United States. As stated in AB1460/California Education Code 89032 Section 2 Subsection (d): "Commencing with students graduating in the 2024-25 academic year, the California State University shall require, as an undergraduate graduation requirement,

the completion of, at minimum, one three-unit course in ethnic studies.” To fulfill this requirement, eligible courses shall have the following prefixes: Native American Studies (NAS/AIS), African American Studies (AFAM), Asian American Studies (AAS), and Chicax/Latinx Studies (CCS).

### GE Area F Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area F course, students should be able to discover and critically evaluate significant topics, then compose and deliver oral and/or media-driven presentations on these topics as related to the group(s) studied in this class. Area F emphasizes comparative concepts and frameworks in ethnic studies with a focus on historically defined racialized core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicax/Latinx Americans. Approved courses shall meet at least three of the five following student learning outcomes:

1. Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethnocentrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism.
2. Apply ethnic studies theory and knowledge to describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements that have and continue to facilitate the building of a more just and equitable society.
3. Critically analyze the intersection of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty, language, and/or age.
4. Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, language policies.
5. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements that have contributed to the building of a more just and equitable society.

**Writing Practice:** Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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### 1. Daily Reflection: Comment & Question – 30%

- After each lecture, post a comment and question (100+ words) on Canvas by **midnight**.

### 2. Midterm Essay – 30%

- **Due:** Friday, October 31, 2025, 11:59 PM PST
- 1500+ word analysis of one media piece representing historic Asian American identity. Use course readings, notes, and theory.

## 3. Asian American Studies Multimedia Group Video Project – 40%

- Groups of 4–6 students. Create a 3–6 minute multimedia video on a course-related topic.
- **Week 5 – Bibliography (5 pts): Friday, September 19, 2025**
  - 10 sources: 2 books, 2 journal articles (2015+), 2 media pieces, plus class materials.
- **Week 7 – Proposal / Concept (10 pts): Friday, October 3, 2025**
  - 2-page minimum, outline topic, audience, objectives, contribution to Ethnic Studies.
- **Week 10 – Rough Script & Outline (10 pts): Friday, October 24, 2025**
  - Outline elements, scenes, talking heads, music, visuals, editing plan, 2-page minimum.
- **Week 16 – Final Video Project (15 pts): Thursday, December 4, 2025**
  - Submit video link (unlisted YouTube/Vimeo/social media) and present in class. Include group member names.

## ✓ Grading Information

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### Grading Scale

- 93+ = A
- 90–92 = A-
- 87–89 = B+
- 83–86 = B
- 80–82 = B-
- 77–79 = C+
- 73–76 = C
- 70–72 = C-

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance,

counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

### Course Schedule – Fall 2025

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
1	Aug 25–28	Deconstructing Race, Gender, Sexuality	Syllabus review, class visioning, community survey due Sun, Aug 31
2	Sep 1–4	Deconstructing Race, Gender, Sexuality	Continued discussion & introductions
3	Sep 8–11	Know Hxstory, Know Self	Dhingra & Rodriguez; Wu; Watch: History of Asian American representation in film
4	Sep 15–18	Understanding Race, Gender, Intersectionality	Critical Race Theory readings
5	Sep 22–25	Early Migrant Labor & Racial Formation	TED Talk: Kimberlé Crenshaw; Asian America Documentary Ep. 1; <b>Bibliography Due: Sep 19</b>
6	Sep 29–Oct 2	Migration Patterns & Community Formation	Historical & ethnographic readings
7	Oct 6–9	Breaking the “Watershed”: 1965 Immigration Act	Choy, Sang-Hee Lee; <b>Proposal Due: Oct 3</b>
8	Oct 13–16	Exclusion, WWII, & Militarization	Teaiwa reading; primary sources & video discussion
9	Oct 20–23	Deconstructing Orientalism	Videos & readings on stereotyping & representation
10	Oct 27–30	Asians in Media Pt. 1	Orientalism, Crazy Rich Asians, etc.; <b>Rough Script Due: Oct 24</b>
11	Nov 3–6	Asians in Media Pt. 2	Media case studies; <b>Midterm Essay Due: Oct 31</b>
12	Nov 10–13	Connected Struggle: Birth of Ethnic Studies	Third World Liberation Front readings & videos
13	Nov 17–20	Solidarity Work Then & Now	Black-Asian solidarity discussions
14	Nov 24–27	Contemporary Issues in Asian American Studies	TBD based on interest survey

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
15	Dec 1–4	Contemporary Issues Pt. 2 & Final Project Prep	Final video production, rehearsal, in-class support
16	Dec 4	<b>Final Video Presentations</b>	<b>Final Video Due: Dec 4;</b> group presentations in class

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