



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS	
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11 November 1998

Richard Lariviere  
Assoc. Vice-President of International Programs  
Chair, Asian-American Studies Search Committee  
The University of Texas at Austin

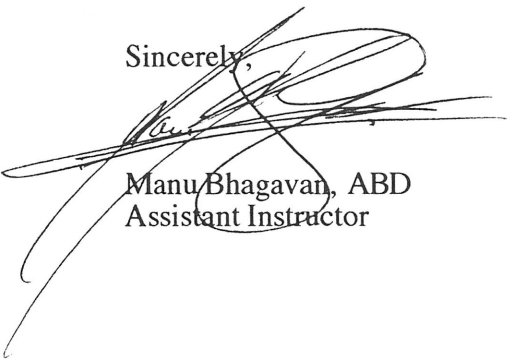
Dear Dr. Lariviere:

As you know, I have been teaching an introductory course on Asian American Experiences this semester. Recently, we spent a class period discussing the construction of "the Asian American" as a "Study" and the constitution of both Asian American Studies, specifically, and Ethnic Studies, generally, as disciplines.

Several good ideas for an Asian American Studies Program emerged from our talks, and, as undergraduate students are ultimately the basis of any academic program, I felt it incumbent upon myself to share my students' plans with you. I have therefore enclosed with this letter 4 student proposals which outline missions for Asian American Studies, possible degree plans, and potential courses. These proposals, I believe, not only reflect undergraduate needs and desires, but enthusiasm for an Asian American Studies Program as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that the enclosed materials will contribute positively to the development of Asian American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Sincerely,

  
Manu Bhagavan, ABD  
Assistant Instructor



Shalini Tripathi – Senior, English/History  
Lee Christopher Garcia – Junior, English/Asian Studies  
Viet Nguyen – Junior, Radio/Television/Film  
Daniel Lee Cameron – Sophomore, Management Information Systems

### B.A. Plan I in Asian American Studies

Mission Statement: To explore the historical and contemporary aspects of Asian American culture and the impact of Asian Americans in American history and culture.

\* Four semesters of credit or proof of proficiency in any Asian language required.

\* All general requirements - Area A, Area B, etc.- of Plan I degrees must also be fulfilled.

Lower division: Both of these are prerequisites to take upper division classes.

Asian American Subcultures – explores the different ethnic, cultural, racial, and economic subcultures of Asian Americans.

Introduction to Asian American Studies – discussion forum to examine issues that deal with Asian Americans; survey covers both historical and current political and social issues.

Upper Division: Must take at least thirty in-residence hours (any ten classes) of any of the following classes.

Chinese American History, 1800's - present

Japanese American History, 1800's – present

Other Asian American History, 1800's - present

Conflict and Resolution – historical and modern conflicts within the Pan-Asian American community based on national loyalties and their resolution.

Asian Americans in Literature (cross-listed with English department) – a survey of Asian American writers, their impact on the community, and portrayals of Asian Americans in popular American literature.

Asian Americans in Film (cross-listed with RTF department) – a survey of Asian American filmmakers, and portrayals of Asian Americans in popular American film.

Asian Americans in Media (cross-listed with Communications department) – a survey of popular Asian Americans in media, and their influence on popular American media.



Bruce Lee: The Man, the Myth, and the Legend (cross-listed with RTF department) – a survey of 14 Bruce Lee films, with one screening per week, and papers and in-class discussions examining the impact of Bruce Lee films on both Asian American and popular American culture.

Asian Americans in Legislation (cross-listed with Government department) – Asian Americans and their impact on American legislation, and policy that specifically affects Asian Americans.

Japanese Internment in WW II: the Reality and the Memories – survey of internment in WW II and its impact on Japanese Americans.

Martial Arts: Impact on American Culture

The Asian American Family (cross listed with Psychology, Anthropology, or Sociology departments) – survey of the Asian American family, its impact as a unit in changing American society, and the result of the family in society on native Asian Americans.

South Asians vs. East Asians: Racial Differences within Asian American Communities – a survey of popular conceptions of the Asian American community, racial divides and differences within the community, and how these differences affect the progress of Asian Americans in mainstream American culture.

The Model Minority Myth: Curse or Boon? (cross-listed with Psychology department) – a survey of how the “Model Minority Myth” began, how it has affected Asian Americans, and what its long-term effects are.

Gender Roles in Asian American Culture (cross-listed with Women’s Studies) – a survey of the impact of gender in the Asian American community – what it means to be a woman, and what it means to be a man. Discussion supplemented with both popular and documentary films dealing with gender – specific issues.

Asian American Communities and their Impact on the American Landscape – a survey of the social, political, and economic impact of Asian American communities, such as Chinatowns, on both the Asian American community at large and mainstream American culture.



Sakurai, Lisa—Asian Studies, Junior  
Desai, Hetal—Computer Science, Senior  
Yoon, Richard—Undergraduate, Senior  
Cho, Joseph—Art History, Junior

The Asian-American studies program's purpose will be to educate students of Asian-American's contributions, influences and other impacts to American society as a whole that are inadequately touched upon in traditional schooling programs. In trying to reach "equal" status with other programs at the University, Asian-American studies will serve to remedy the marginalization that are provoked by traditional education systems.

The undergraduate program will need to be a part of a larger Department (i.e. Ethnic Studies Department) for the Asian-American studies program to be considered as important as other courses of study at the University. Moreover, Asian-American studies along with other branches of ethnic studies such as African-American studies will be a part of a larger entity—namely, the Ethnic Studies Department.

Although some courses in the Asian-American studies program will be interdisciplinary overlapping into other fields (such as history of Asian-Americans), some courses will be directly offered through the Department of Ethnic Studies (such as Contemporary Asian-American issues).

Specific courses to be offered by the program will include but will not be limited to:

- History of Asian immigrants/Asian-Americans
- Sociology of Asian immigrants/Asian-Americans
- Anthropology –especially in Southern Asian-American areas of concentration
- Psychology of Asian immigrants/Asian-Americans
- Significant Contributions of Asian-Americans (including all aspects)
- Asian-Americans involved in US government

Some courses such as languages will be electives in the program.

The program will include honors programs as well as pre- and post-graduate support such as internships and job placement.



# Course Structure for degree in Asian American Studies

## Basic Course Requirements

- |                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. History/Government          | 12 hrs |
| 2. English                     | 6 hrs  |
| 3. Foreign Language            | 6 hrs  |
| 4. Natural Science Requirement | 12 hrs |
| 5. Math                        | 6 hrs  |

Any student who is majoring in Asian and Asian American Studies is required to choose a major sequence. This will mean picking a certain area of Asia that you are interested in and doing a series of classes on the government, economics, language, history of the area as well as ~~on~~ <sup>the</sup> influences on America of the people, immigrants and corporate market of the area.

- 1 general class + 1 specific class – wherever you see this, it means one class generally on Asians/ Asian Americans ~~in the region~~ and one class specifically in the area of the major sequence.

## Lower Division Course Requirements

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Language            | 10 hrs – 1 lower div + 1 upper div <i>5 hr class</i>  |
| 2. History             | 9 hrs – 1 general overview class on Asian Americans + 2 classes specifically on the area.   |
| 3. Economics           | 6 hrs – 1 general class + 1 specific class  |
| 4. Government          | 6 hrs – 1 general class + 1 specific class  |
| 5. Communications      | 6 hrs – 1 on the representation of Asians in the media + 1 on the trends in writing and speech among immigrants and native-born Asian Americans due to the influence of native languages. |
| 6. Theatre/Dance/Music | 3 hrs – One class on one of the indigenous arts of the region.  |
| 7. Sociology           | 6 hrs – 1 general class + 1 specific class  |
| 8. Anthropology        | 3 hrs – 1 general class + 1 specific class  |
| 9. Asian Psychology    | 3 hrs – Racial consciousness of certain nations and communal attitudes.   |
| 10. ELECTIVES          | 16 hrs– 9 hrs Lower Div. And 7 hrs Upper Div.   |



- **Dissertation in Area of Study**. They must pick a topic and spend a semester doing a dissertation on it. At the end of this class they are supposed to have received an all rounded liberal arts education as well, as be eligible to be considered authorities on their major sequence hence the need for a dissertation. 10hrs

*The Asian American Studies Department at UT, Austin aims to provide a holistic understanding of the Asian American community by looking at the economic, historic, social and psychological factors that went into creating their identity. Every graduating student should have an awareness of the place of this group in ~~the United States and the world~~ in the past, and an educated view of their role in the future.*

Prepared by: -

Kamal Janardhan – Senior, Computer Sciences

Farah Mitha - Senior, Social Work

Guillermo Rodriguez - Sophomore, Finance/ Marketing



## Asian American Studies Program Proposal

### I.Mission Statement:

The aim of our proposal is to lay foundations for an interdisciplinary program in Asian-American Studies at the university. The inception of such a program is intended to provide a rich and diverse education of Asian-Americans based upon historical and social grounds. A chief concern is also to elucidate important issues affecting the Asian-American community in hopes of empowering and helping Asian Americans gain a greater sense of self.

### II.Offered Classes

1. Asian American Youth Culture
2. Asian Diaspora in America--Intro
3. Asian American Artistic Expression
4. Political Issues Concerning Asian Americans
5. Sociological Aspects of Asian American Community
6. Gender Roles of Asian Americans
7. Interethnic Comparison of Asian American Subcultures
8. History of East-Asians in America
9. History of Southeast-Asians in America
10. History of South-Asians in America

Conceived by:

Name

Major

Year



1. YuShan Chang	MIS/History	Jr.
2. Cindy Ly	Biochemistry	Jr.
3. Kapil Mathur	Business(H)/Finance	Soph.
4. John Tong	Computer Science	Jr.
5. Ophelia Yang	Business(H)/Finance/ History	Jr.

