



C-ID Descriptor

Contemporary Issues: Including Asian Americans & American Ideals and Institutions

Descriptor Details

- **Descriptor Title:** Contemporary Issues: Including Asian Americans & American Ideals and Institutions
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General Description

Asian American groups in the United States and their long-term experience with basic governmental ideals and institutions, at the national, state and local levels. Current and historic Asian American experiences with political-legal structures of the US, California, and local governments, examined through an Ethnic Studies framework of Asian American agency and resistance.

Any rationale or comments:

On many campuses, Asian American contemporary issues are explored in multiple different ways. There are courses like this one which cover both contemporary issues and the historic precedent behind them in a course on Asian Americans & American Ideals and Institutions which meets CSU US-2 United States Constitution and government and US-3 California state and local government requirements. Courses like this can also be used to meet requirements for any Asian American Studies course that meets Cal-GETC 4, 6 any course articulated as lower division preparation in the Asian American major at a CSU. Besides American Ideals and Institutions, other ways which contemporary issues are explored include courses on Asian American Women, or exploring issues through Asian American Popular Culture, or Asian American Film. Any of these courses which address contemporary issues would be fine as a required core class for the Asian American Studies ADT.

Prerequisites

None

Corequisites

None

Advisories

None

Content

1. Ethnic Studies Objectives

- A. Analyze and articulate concepts such as race and racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonization, sovereignty, imperialism, settler colonialism, and anti-racism as analyzed in Asian American Studies.
- B. Apply Ethnic Studies theory and knowledge produced by Asian American communities to describe the critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived-experiences and social struggle, with a particular emphasis on agency and group-affirmation.
- C. Analyze critical intersections of race and racism as they relate to citizenship, national origin, immigration status, class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, ability, sovereignty, language, and/or age in Asian American communities.
- D. Review critically how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation as experienced and enacted by Asian American groups are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics as, for example, in immigration, reparations, settler-colonialism, multiculturalism, education, labor and language policies.
- E. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Asian American communities for a just and equitable society.

2. Defining Ethnic Studies: foundations concepts and theories

3. Asian Americans and the United States

- A. Critical Race Theory and the federal experience

- B. Political philosophies of framers of the US Constitution
- C. Asian Americans and rights and obligations of citizens and non-citizens
- D. Challenges to racial restrictions on citizenship
 - 1. Laws and policies
 - 2. Significant resistance and court cases
- 4. Asian Americans change the definition of US birthright citizenship
- 5. United States Nationals
- 6. Asian Americans and the California experience
 - A. Framers of early California Constitutions
 - B. Early California laws and policies
 - C. Asian American resistance and early legal challenges
 - D. Anti-Chinese movement
- 7. Early Asian Americans and policies and practices of local municipalities
- 8. Early Asian Americans in other states
- 9. Contrasting Asian American experiences during World War 2
- 10. Post-War to present Federal Civil Rights
 - A. Naturalized citizenship
 - B. Asian American community mobilization for new opportunities and against hate crimes
 - C. Southeast Asian refugees
 - D. Undocumented Asian Americans
 - E. Political participation
- 11. Post-War to present California
 - A. Interracial marriage
 - B. California policies, laws and initiatives including land law, fair employment and housing, education, English, public benefits, affirmative action
- 12. Undocumented and refugees in California and other states
- 13. Asian Americans and laws, policies and struggles in educational institutions
- 14. Asian Americans and workplace restrictions, rights and resistance

Lab Activities

The course may include a lab component.

Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Review critically how Asian Americans gained growing citizenship rights and obligations, including applying concepts and theories of race and equity.
2. Analyze how Asian Americans have exercised their rights and responsibilities as citizens, at local, state, and national levels, including histories of oppression and agency.
3. Compare how different nationalities of Asian Americans have historically been treated by the political process and institutions under the US Constitution and California Constitution, including Ethnic Studies and Critical Race frameworks develop to interpret these experiences.
4. Evaluate how Asians in America have been affected by the political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution throughout US history
5. Analyze how Asian Americans have leveraged the relationships of local and California state government with the federal government, enacting struggle and solidarity to challenge structural issues.

Evaluation Methods

May include, but are not limited to:

- Presentations or debates
- Writing Assignments: Research projects or other paper(s)
- Examinations: Class performance(s), quizzes, tests
- Skill Demonstrations: Essay

Textbooks

(Eds.) Diane C. Fujino and Robyn Magalit Rodriguez. 2022. Contemporary Asian American Activism Building Movements for Liberation . University of Washington. Golash-Boza, Tanya Maria . 2021. Race and Racisms: A Critical Approach: 3rd Edition . Oxford University Press .
Stephanie Hinnertshitz. 2020. A Different Shade of Justice: Asian American Civil Rights in the South (Justice, Power, and Politics). The University of North Carolina Press.
Erika Lee. 2019. America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States. Basic Books Hatchette Book Group.

Erika Lee. 2015. The Making of Asian America: A History. Simon & Schuster.
Omi, Michael and Howard Winant . 2014. Racial Formation in the United States 3rd Edition (Classic text) . Routledge.
Daniel Martinez HoSang. 2010. Racial Propositions: Ballot Initiatives and the Making of Postwar California (Classic text). University of California Press.
Angelo Ancheta. 2006. Race, Rights & Asian American Experience (Classic text). Rutgers University Press .
Multimedia materials: a. Online material, such as the California Supreme Court Decision which ruled Chinese could not testify against whites THE PEOPLE, Respondent, v. GEORGE W. HALL, Appellant b. Films, such as A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. The United States
US Constitution
California Constitution
Amerasia Journal
Critical Ethnic Studies Journal
Library resources and databases, such as EBSCOHost, Jstor and Gale

Or equivalent Open Educational Resource