

**Date:** 24 September 2009  
**Subject:** Proposed Revisions to the Asian American Studies Minor  
**From:** Larry Krissek, Chair, Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee

The Interdisciplinary Initiatives Subcommittee considered the initial proposal for revisions to the Asian American Studies Minor at its meeting of 8 April 2009. The Subcommittee raised significant questions about two aspects of that initial proposal: 1) the proposed reduction from 25 to 20 hours for the minor; and 2) the justification for a significant broadening in the courses that could be used as electives within the minor. As a result of these questions, the proposal was returned to the Asian American Studies Advisory Committee for reconsideration.

The updated proposal for revisions to the Asian American Studies Minor was considered by the Subcommittee at its meeting of 10 June 2009. The updated proposal maintained the present requirement of 25 credit hours for the minor, but included the broader list of elective courses that was part of the initial proposal. The Asian American Studies Advisory Committee argued that the broader list of elective courses is consistent with a general trend in ethnic/postcolonial studies programs, in that the broader list of electives encourages the study of Asian Americans side-by-side with the study of other racially and ethnically defined groups.

As presently structured, the Asian American Studies Minor requires 25 credit hours, with 5 credit hours from a list of 2 core courses and the balance from a list of 25 elective courses that have an emphasis on Asian American topics. With this revision, 20 credit hours will be taken from a list of 21 courses that emphasize Asian American Studies, and 5 credit hours will be taken from a list of electives (66 courses with an emphasis in Asian Studies, and 84 courses with an emphasis in U.S. race/ethnicity studies. In addition, 5 courses were removed from the present list of electives, primarily because a course has not been taught recently and/or because a course has evolved and no longer focuses on Asian American topics.

After thorough discussion, the Subcommittee agreed with the changes presented in the most recent proposal. The Subcommittee then voted unanimously to approve the proposed revisions to the Asian American Studies Minor, so the proposal is being moved to the CCI for its consideration.

## Asian American Studies Minor Revision

Current Minor program	Revised minor program
<p><b>Required core course (5 credit hours) – Chose one</b>            Comparative Studies 241            History 346</p>	
<p><b>Additional courses (20 credit hours)</b>            Anthropology 294 (with Asian American topic)            Chinese 678            Comparative Studies 241, 314, 345, 543, 545, 645, 665, 678            East Asian Languages and Literatures 346            English 681.01, 681.02, 681.03            History 346, 525*            Japanese 665            Korean 645            Linguistics 261            Political Science 508            Psychology 375, 646, 695*            Sociology 382            Theatre: H367.01</p> <p>* with Asian American topic</p>	<p><b>Asian American Studies courses (20 credit hours)</b>            Chinese 678            Comparative Studies 241, 314, 345, 543, 545, 645, 665, 678            East Asian Languages and Literatures 346            English 587, 681.01, 681.02, 681.03            History 346, 525*            Japanese 665            Korean 645            Political Science 508            Psychology 646            Sociology 382</p> <p><b>Electives (5 credit hours)</b>  <u>Asian studies</u>            Anthropology 421.01            Chinese 231, 232, 251, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 600            Comparative Studies 323            East Asian Languages and Literatures 323, 341, 399, 675, 677, 683            Economics 672            History 308, 543.01, 543.02, 543.03, 543.04, 546, 548.01, 548.02            History of Art 213, 576, 582, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677.01, 677.02, 678.01, 678.02, 679, 681, 682, 690.02            International Studies 235, 539            Japanese 231, 251, 252, 501, 600, 641, 654, 655, 656            Korean 231, 251, 600, 654            Philosophy 215            Political Science 536, 537, 539, 635, 636</p> <p><u>U.S. race/ethnicity studies</u>            African American and African Studies 303, 323.01, 323.02, 326, 345, 361, 367.02, 367.03, 367.04, 378, 379, 451, 504, 505, 545, 551, 555.01, 555.02, 561, 565, 571, 582, 595, 630            Anthropology 421.08            Art Education 367.01            Chinese 678            Communications 368, 645            Comp Studies 205, 242, 243, 274, 322, 339, 367.04, 542, 544, 641            Educational Policy and Leadership 551, 552            English 281, 367, 505, 581, 582, 583, 586, 588            Geography 643            History 309, 323.01, 323.02, 325, 555.01, 555.02, 557.03, 559, 568.01, 568.02, 577.01, 577.02            Linguistics 303, 372, 505            Music 288            Political Science 504, 541, 608            Psychology 375            Social Work 300, 301            Sociology 345, 380, 463            Women's Studies H296, 300, 340, 367.04, 370, 505, 510, 520, 540</p>



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Dear Jessica:

I am writing to explain the proposed changes to the Asian American Studies (AAS) minor. On Mar. 19, 2009, the Asian American Studies Advisory Committee—consisting of Professor Judy Wu (History and Women's Studies), Professor Pranav Jani (English), and myself—met with you to discuss the present state and future goals of the minor. We agreed to amend the requirements from one core course, three AAS courses, and one elective, to four AAS courses, and one elective. These changes have been incorporated into the revised minor sheet.

**Reduction in total hours.** Perhaps the most significant change to the minor is reducing the total number of credit hours from 25 to 20. This decision is motivated by several factors. 1.) There is a scarcity of AAS courses currently being offered due to the small number of faculty at OSU who specialize in the field. 2.) Students thus have limited options for fulfilling the minor requirements. 3.) The reduced hours will not only enable current minors to complete the requirements, but it may also assist in recruiting new students to the minor.

**Consolidating the AAS courses.** This change follows from the above curricular conditions. The limited number of AAS course offerings makes having a two-tiered system of core courses and AAS courses unnecessarily restricting and convoluted. Combining these into one pool of possible courses gives students maximum flexibility in terms of planning their schedules, while also enabling the Advisory Committee to have a closer investment in the content of these courses.

**Electives.** The elective can be fulfilled through one of three ways: 1.) by taking an additional AAS course; 2.) by taking a course on Asian history/culture, or on U.S. race/ethnicity; 3.) or by doing an independent study on an AAS topic. The second item warrants some explanation. Having an elective in either Asian studies or U.S. race/ethnicity studies not only broadens the range of offerings for students, thereby making it more feasible for students to finish the minor in a timely fashion. It also reflects two prominent lines of inquiry in the field itself. Asian American Studies has long had intellectual, disciplinary, and historical connections to both Asian history and culture, and other racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S. The elective gestures toward recognizing those disciplinary connections, even as it acknowledges the ongoing explorations in transnational/diasporic Asian American Studies and in comparative racializations.

I have attached the revised minor sheet as a separate document. Please let me know if there is any other information I can provide. Thank you for your assistance throughout this process.

Sincerely,

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