

UMBC UGC Program Changes & Other Request: Department of American Studies

Date Submitted: 10/20/16

Proposed Effective Date: 1/29/2017

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Nicole King, Ph.D. (Chair)	nking@umbc.edu	5-1457	AMST
Other Contact	Tamara Bhalla, Ph.D. (UPD)	tbhalla@umbc.edu	5-3254	AMST

Specifics: Proposed Minor in Asian American Studies (18 credits)

To earn the minor in Asian American Studies, students must complete 18 credits of coursework, divided as follows:

Students would be **required** to take the three following **core courses (9 credits)**:

AMST 200: What is an American? (offered every semester)

AMST 300: Approaches in American Studies (offered every semester)

AMST 375: Studies in Asian American Culture (offered every other semester)

Students would select three of the following **elective courses (9 credits)**: One course must be in AMST (up to 6 credits can be in another department/program)

At least one AMST course listed below:

AMST 365: Asian American Fictions

AMST 369: Filipino American Cultural Studies

AMST 464: Immigration Nation: Narratives of Immigration in the United States

AMST 466 - Media Literacy and Racial Representation

AMST 474: Theorizing Identity in Contemporary American Culture

Courses from other departments/programs:

ASIA/HIST 207: Asian Diasporas

GWST 342: Gender in Modern South Asia
GWST/HIST 380: Women and Gender in Asia

NOTE: Possible UMBC Courses from other departments/programs will be accepted with prior approval from faculty advisors in the Department of American Studies.

Rationale:

The creation of the Asian American Studies minor in the Department of American Studies responds to the growing student demand for a structured program of study in this nationally recognized sub-field of Asian American studies as well as a grounding in the core courses in the field of American studies.

The Minor fits with the Department's Vision: *The Department of American Studies strives to provide students with the skills to critically analyze issues of place, community, and identity through a comparative and transnational lens.*

Beginning in 2011, the Department of American Studies began offering the first course on campus that addressed issues of Asian American identity, culture, and community (AMST 375: Studies in Asian American Culture). In addition to AMST 375, the AMST department now offers AMST 369: Filipino American Cultural Studies and AMST 369: Asian American Fictions. All three courses have been granted GEP status and enroll at capacity (with waitlists).

The Department of American Studies is committed to expanding courses that develop intercultural awareness and attention to the fastest growing racial group in the United States while also grounding the minor in the key theories and methods in American cultural studies, the skills of critical analysis, and a commitment to inclusivity.

The Asian American Studies minor will provide an excellent intellectual opportunity for students across the university who are looking to deepen their knowledge of issues on diversity, race, ethnicity, globalization, and identity. The Asian American Studies minor will provide the option of a strong complement to interdisciplinary degrees, such as B.A.s in Departments like Africana Studies, American Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Media & Communications Studies as well as in the Asian Studies and the Global Studies programs.

Students at UMBC need Asian American studies for the same reasons they need Africana, Chicano/Latino, and Native American studies. Future leaders educated at UMBC need inclusive, expansive, and interdisciplinary perspectives of America and the

globe, and the critical work done in Asian American studies that links local communities to the Asian diaspora will prove to be a valuable asset in any career path or setting. While the Asian American Studies minor builds on curricular and pedagogical efforts in Asian Studies, the Asian American Studies minor emphasizes comparative and structural similarities that Asian Americans have in the United States with other racial minority groups.



(Paula) Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu>

letter/email of support for Asian American Studies minor

Constantine Vaporis <vaporis@umbc.edu>

Sat, Oct 1, 2016 at 4:34 PM

To: Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu>

Cc: Tamara Bhalla <tbhalla@umbc.edu>, Theodore Gonzalves <theo@umbc.edu>

Dear Nicole,

This email is in support of including ASIA 207: Asian Diasporas as part of the new minor in Asian American Studies. This is a wonderful development for UMBC's curriculum.

Best,

Constantine

Dr. Constantine N. Vaporis
Founding Director, Asian Studies Program
Presidential Research Professor, 2013-16
Professor of History
Affiliate Professor, Gender & Women's Studies
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

On Wed, Sep 28, 2016 at 5:01 PM, Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



(Paula) Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu>

Asian American Studies minor

Amy Froide <froide@umbc.edu>
To: Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu>

Mon, Oct 10, 2016 at 4:13 PM

The History Department would like to collectively voice its support for the proposed minor in Asian American Studies. We think this will be a fine introduction to a growing field and will emphasize the increasingly diverse strands of the American experience.

Sincerely,

Amy M. Froide, Chair and Associate Professor of History

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Amy M. Froide
Acting Chair and Associate Professor of History

Affiliate Faculty in Gender and Women's Studies &
Language, Literacy, and Culture Ph.D. program

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(Paula) Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu>

Asian American Studies minor letter/email of support

Carole McCann <mccann@umbc.edu>
To: Nicole King <nking@umbc.edu>

Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 10:20 AM

Nicole,

The Gender + Women's Studies Department is delighted to write in support of the proposed Asian-American Studies minor proposed by American Studies. This is an initiative that I have long been in favor of. The department will welcomes the enrollment of students in GWST courses and we look forward to the opportunity to develop additional courses that will serve both GWST and AMST students.

Best,

Carole McCann
Professor and Chair
Gender + Women's Studies

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