

# ASIAN-PACIFIC STUDIES

College of Arts and Humanities

## Program Description

### Undergraduate

The Asian-Pacific Studies Department offers an interdisciplinary major and minor in the study of Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander cultures, emphasizing a transnational perspective. Two concentrations are offered in the major:

1. The Asian-Pacific Studies Concentration focuses on Asian-Pacific peoples, societies, and nations from the perspective of their historical, cultural and political experiences from antiquity to the present. It covers ancient civilizations, history, culture, philosophy, religion, politics, economics, and gender and family relations. It also explores the interconnections of Asian Pacific societies with the rest of the world. Though not required, Study Abroad and Asian language classes are highly recommended.
2. The Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Concentration focuses on Asian American and Pacific Islander American history, community formation, education, gender and family relations, culture and social and political development including intra-Asian dynamics and relationships with other ethnic communities and the larger society. An internship course with a community organization is an important component of this concentration.

The major and minor in Asian-Pacific Studies are designed for students seeking to either complement their studies of other civilizations and cultures, or to pursue graduate study, foreign service, international business, teaching careers, or work in health science fields and community services.

### Features

The University is located in a unique area at the nexus of the international ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Numerous corporations in Los Angeles and Orange counties represent the increasing importance of America's relations with the Asian-Pacific region.

## Academic Advisement

Department Chair will help students plan their course of study to fulfill requirements for an Asian-Pacific Studies major or minor.

Students should see the department chair upon first entering CSU Dominguez Hills, at the beginning of their junior year and at the beginning of their senior year.

## Preparation

Asian-Pacific Studies is open to all students who are admitted to the University.

## Opportunities to Study Abroad

The California State University International Programs make available to students, who would like to have firsthand knowledge of Asia, an opportunity to study at Waseda University (Japan), University of Tsukuba (Japan), Yonsei University (Korea), and Peking University (China).

## Languages

There are no language requirements for the Asian-Pacific Studies degree program; however, students are encouraged to study an Asian language.

## Graduation with Honors

An undergraduate student may graduate with Honors in Asian-Pacific Studies provided that the following criteria are met:

1. A minimum of 36 units in residence at CSU Dominguez Hills;
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.5 in all courses used to satisfy the requirements in the major;
3. Eight upper division courses taken in the Asian-Pacific Studies Program

## Student Organizations

The student group, the Asian and Pacific Islander Association (APIA), is directly affiliated with the Asian-Pacific Studies Department. The department also supports other Asian and Pacific Islander student groups including Pagsikapan (Pilipino-American Student Community), Vietnamese Student Association, Oceania, and the Korean Culture Club.

## Career Opportunities

In a world that is increasingly dependent upon global cooperation and trade, career opportunities for those with a background in Asian-Pacific Studies are numerous and varied.

- Advertising or marketing
- Community service
- Domestic or international business
- Education
- Foreign Service
- Film, television or multimedia
- Government work
- Health science
- International law
- Journalism
- Ministry
- Non-profit organization
- Social Work

## Undergraduate Programs

### Bachelor

- Asian-Pacific Studies, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/asian-pacific-studies/asian-pacific-studies-ba/>)

### Minor

- Asian-Pacific Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/asian-pacific-studies/asian-pacific-studies-minor/>)

## Faculty

Dr. Mary T. Lacanlale, Associate Professor and Chair

Dr. Jung-Sun Park, Professor

Dr. Jessica Marinaccio, Assistant Professor

Dr. Y Thien Nguyen, Assistant Professor

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## Courses

### **APP 101. Introduction To Asian Studies. (3 Units)**

Basic themes and key issues in Asia and the Pacific region. Multi-disciplinary survey of art, literature, philosophy, religion, politics, and society. Background to understanding tradition and change in the region, and introduction to the multicultural roots of Asian-Pacific Americans. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 195. Special Topics in Asian Pacific Studies. (3 Units)**

Offered As needed

### **APP 201. Introduction to Asian American Studies. (3 Units)**

Examines basic themes and key issues in the Study of Asian Americans. Interdisciplinary survey of immigration history, community formation, and development of ethnic identities through the arts, literature, music, multimedia and internet, cultural festivals, scholarship. and student and community organizations. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

### **APP 212. Introduction to Comparative Ethnic and Global Societies. (3 Units)**

Explores the lived experiences of the three Ethnic/Global communities in the United States and their place of origin. Examines the socio-cultural dynamics in Africana, Asian-Pacific and Chicano/Latino communities. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 225. Pacific Islander Culture in Oceania and the U.S.. (3 Units)**

Examines the cultural, historical and contemporary experiences of various peoples of Hawai'i and the Pacific including the struggle over land, traditions, and sovereignty, state and national political restructurings, and global flows of knowledge, capital, and bodies. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 227. Social Activism in Hawai'i and the Pacific. (3 Units)**

Examines the history of colonialism and neo-colonialism in Hawai'i (under the United States) and the broader Pacific region. Explores how Pacific Islanders in the Pacific and the United States have utilized strategic social activism, resistance, and social justice movements to work toward decolonial and anti-colonial goals and fight inequities within their own societies. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 231. Approaches to Pacific Knowledge. (3 Units)**

Explores how Pacific Islanders in Oceania and the United States have developed unique methods for conducting research, such as using the talanoa methodology to conduct interviews in a Pacific style and the kakala methodology to build research plans and papers, and how these methods have been applied to Pacific Studies research. Specifically outlines how Pacific movements against and experiences with the climate crisis have benefitted from these research methods. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 295. Spec Topic Asian-Pacific Studies. (3 Units)**

A study of selected topics or issues in Asian-Pacific Studies. Repeatable for a maximum of six units for credit. Offered As needed

### **APP 311. Contemporary Issues in Asian American Communities. (3 Units)**

Examination of the history and contemporary realities of Asian America. Analyzes the differences and commonalities in the experiences of various Asian American populations, focusing on the interplay of race, ethnicity, class, gender and culture in shaping their lives. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

### **APP 314. Asian Americans and the Media. (3 Units)**

Critical analysis of Asian and Pacific Islander American artists and their creative expression in music, television, film, and on the internet. Examines issues of stereotyping and exclusion in Hollywood as well as empowerment through artistic expression and community engagement. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 315. Asian Pop Culture and Globalization. (3 Units)**

Explores the growing transnational flows of Asian popular culture in historical and socioeconomic contexts. Analyzes the ramifications of the popularity of Asian pop culture for the changing contemporary global cultural landscape and power relations. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

### **APP 318. Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao Americans: Culture, History, and Identity. (3 Units)**

Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao American culture, history, and identity examines the challenges of these immigrant groups focusing on the context of refugee experiences, intergenerational conflict, education, and preservation and transformation of culture in American society. Offered Fall, Spring

### **APP 319. Filipino American Experience. (3 Units)**

Explores the lived experiences of Filipino Americans through the lens of Philippine history and culture, U.S. colonization, immigration, and community formation. Examines key issues, debates, and theories about diversity, ethnic identity and assimilation, education, families, and gender/sexuality. Offered Spring odd

### **APP 325. Asian Pacific Art, Music and Literature. (3 Units)**

Examination of diverse Asian Pacific cultures and history through art, music, and written and oral literatures. Analyzes the contributions of past and present artists, musicians/composers, and writers to the establishment and challenging of cultural identities in a globalized and mass-mediated world. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

### **APP 327. Values and Communication of Asian Pacific Cultures. (3 Units)**

Examination of basic values and societal outlooks unique to various Asian Pacific groups. Comparative analysis of verbal and nonverbal communication models for better cross-cultural understanding. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

### **APP 331. Japanese Comics/Animation. (3 Units)**

Focusing on Japanese comics and animation, this course examines the contemporary transnational flows of culture and their implications. It also explores how the existing power relations between the East/West, center/periphery, and men/women are reflected and challenged in the production and dissemination of Japanese comics and animation. Offered As needed

**APP 333. E Asian Cul/Soc in Cinema. (3 Units)**

Through critical analyses of films, this course will explore various aspects of East Asian societies including history, cultural traditions, socioeconomic transformations, politics, identity, gender and generational relations. It will also examine the issue of ethnic/racial/national/gender representation in East Asian cinema and its implications. Offered As needed

**APP 335. Asian Pacific Culinary Culture. (3 Units)**

Analysis of Asian Pacific culture traditions and their transformation and globalization. Examines how Asian Pacific food culture intersects with local ecology, gender, cultural traditions, identity politics, (im)migration, colonialism, modernization, and globalization.

Offered Fall, Spring

**APP 339. Asian Diaspora and Transnational Asian Religions. (3 Units)**

Analysis of Asian diaspora populations' practice of Asian religions outside of Asia, especially in the U.S. Examines how Asian religions are transformed in different historical, social and cultural contexts and how the transformation is also intertwined with identity and community-building.

Offered Fall, Spring

**APP 343. Asian Pacific Film & Literature. (3 Units)**

Critical analysis on how a written source can be transformed from literature into film. Several Asian Films and Asian novels or short stories will be examined.

Offered Fall, Spring

**APP 350. Asian-Pacific Gender and Family. (3 Units)**

Critical analysis of Asian gender and family structure and their dynamic processes. Examines issues of dating, marriage, reproduction, parenting and child socialization, domestic labor, the negotiation of paid work and family care, sexual desires and practices.

Offered Fall, Spring

**APP 353. Law and Diplomacy in the Pacific. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite(s): APP 225, APP 227, or APP 231 are required. Explores current events in the politics of the Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian sub-regions of the Pacific, outlining the structure and functions of Pacific governments and their legal systems and some of the challenges they face. Examines how Pacific Island nations in the three sub-regions interact with each other and with global powers, like the United States and China.

Offered Fall, Spring

**APP 395. Special Topics in Asian Pacific Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of program coordinator. An intensive study of an issue, concept or theme in Asian-Pacific Studies. Repeatable for a maximum of nine units for credit.

Offered As needed

**APP 490. Sem: Asian-Pacific Issues. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: APP 301 and APP 321. Capstone experience in Asian-Pacific concentration. In-depth study and project development of historical or current issues confronting Asian-Pacific populations. Three hours of seminar per week.

Offered Infrequent

**APP 494. Indepen Study:Asian-Pacific. (1-3 Units)**

Independent study of a particular topic in Asian/Pacific Studies, relating two or more disciplines, such as anthropology, art, education, history, languages, music, philosophy, politics, or sociology under the direction of an Asian/Pacific Studies Program faculty member. Repeatable course.

Offered Fall, Spring

**APP 495. Selected Topics:. (3 Units)**

An intensive study of selected topics or issues in Asian-Pacific studies. Offered Infrequent

**APP 496. Internship in Asian Pacific Studies. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisites: Lower division courses in Asian Pacific Studies Involves supervised work experience in community-based business, non-profit organization, or government agency serving Asian Pacific Americans with specific emphasis upon business and public administration, public policy, program planning, and economic development projects in a local, national, and/or international setting. Supervision emphasizes training and application of administration, analytical, socio-political and cultural knowledge, and technical skills. Students will be placed in setting suitable to their academic specialization. One hour of tutorial per week is required with instructor. Student must complete all of the lower division courses in Asian Pacific Studies before they can enroll in an internship.

Offered Fall, Spring