Class of 2012, Welcome to Northwestern University!

Welcome! All of us here at the Asian American Studies Program are looking forward to meeting you, learning with you, and working with you over the coming years.

The Asian American Studies Program was established in 1999 because students like you wanted a place to learn about all American experiences, not just the standard history in school textbooks or the standard array of experiences visible in the mass media. That is, they wanted to learn about the experiences of Asian Americans, about people like themselves and their neighbors and their friends. After a long struggle, Northwestern heard their demands and the administration, faculty and students worked together to build this Program.

The Asian American Studies Program is here for you now so that you can learn not just about Asian Americans, not just about yourself, but also about the United States and the world. Studying the experiences of Asian Americans will open up a window to examine globalization, international relations, and the complexity of culture. Even as our courses focus on Asian American experiences, they are always located within a broader frame of world relations and a multi-group context. Many of our courses are international or comparative. Through Asian American Studies, you will learn more about the world and therefore, ultimately, more about yourself and your relationship to the world we live in and to the diverse people we live with.

Are you perhaps pre-med or pre-law and thinking that Asian American Studies isn’t relevant? Think again. Medical schools and law schools view favorably applicants with strong backgrounds in the humanities and social sciences, who have training in complex social and cultural issues such as diversity, cultural difference, race and racial discrimination, and globalization. Asian American Studies courses provide that training and knowledge. Medical schools and law schools also prefer candidates who can think critically, analyze issues, and write clearly and persuasively. Asian American Studies courses develop those skills.

Or maybe you’re interested in engineering or computers, or aiming for the business world and thinking of majoring in economics or political science. The knowledge about the world and its diverse peoples that Asian American Studies courses provide will be invaluable as you make your way through the world after college. The critical thinking and writing skills you will hone in Asian American Studies courses will serve you well whatever you do.

We hope that you will find the Program to be as exciting and inviting a place as we do, and that like your predecessors you will join us at events, in courses, at study breaks during reading week, and of course in our offices for conversations about anything and everything. We are here for you.

In the coming year we will be moving into a new space in Kresge which will be outfitted with a new resource room for faculty and students, offering space for office hours, meetings, and browsing our collection of books, music and video resources. Our new space will be shared with the brand...
In this introductory seminar for first year students, we will delve into an analysis of immigration, race, ethnicity, identity, gender, sexuality, class, community, and generation through the lens of Asian American youth popular cultures. Covering an array of Asian Americans and a variety of popular cultures, the aim of this course is to understand how young Asians in the U.S. come to understand themselves as part of and apart from America by analyzing the role popular culture plays in this formation and expression of minority youth identity. Drawing from a collected volume of essays on Asian American popular culture, this course includes the experiences of South Asian, East Asian, Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander, and West Asian youth, both U.S. born and those who immigrated here as “1.5” generationers. The Birmingham School of Cultural Studies highlighted several decades ago the critical role of analyzing individual and group expressions of self by reading bodies, stylistic, linguistic, and other “performances” as “texts” in order to interpret how individuals craft meanings out of everyday materials and the materiality of their bodies. Ranging from Korean car culture to Indian American bhangra parties, and from Southeast Asian rappers to the Hello Kitty phenomenon, this course links these particular forms of popular culture to the operation and manipulation of race, class, gender, and sexuality in American culture. Ultimately, it reveals how Asian youth in America actively take part in interpreting—and transforming—their identities and place in the world.

Asian Am 210-0
Introduction to Asian American Studies
Instructor: Ji-Yeon Yuh/MWF 1:00 – 1:50/Max Enroll = 65/University 102/ Social and Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

This course introduces students to the field of Asian American Studies, examining its origins, areas of concern, research methodologies and philosophy, and its intellectual trajectory. Originating from a desire to examine one’s own collective history, experiences and worldview, and to interject oneself into a broader collective narrative, particularly the national narrative of America, Asian American Studies evolved into a professional academic discipline. What did that evolution entail? We will chart the evolution of Asian American Studies scholarship in three phases broken into three-week segments. Uniquely designed to reflect the expertise of our Program as well as the heterogeneity of the field, this course focuses on the works of the core faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students who conduct research on Asian Americans in various disciplines, as well as on community activists and artists from the Chicago area. Through weekly presentations by visiting scholars, this class will focus on the process and products of Asian American scholarship, examining research method, analytical framework and assumptions, and the implications of the scholarship. Ultimately, over the course of nine weeks, students should emerge with an overview of the development and methodology of Asian American Studies, understand the core debates and enormous heterogeneity that defines the field, and become exposed to some recent developments that suggest the future evolution of Asian Americans Studies.

Asian Am 275-0
Introduction to Asian American Literature
Instructor: Jinah Kim/MW 3:30 – 4:50/Kresge 1-375/Max Enroll = 50/

This course will explore Asian American cultural productions from the late-19th century to the current moment. In addition to studying various genres and forms of Asian American literary expressions, we will read, interpret, and analyze photographs, films, legal documents, magazines and other materials to acquaint ourselves with the variety of ways that “Asia,” “Asian” and “Asian American” have been produced within different moments in American modernity. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of Asian American literary forms and theories. Students will also learn to distinguish between different periods of Asian American cultural productions as well as the differences and overlaps between different Asian American national literatures and history. By discussing the literary features of the assigned readings students will learn to move beyond reading texts as transparent transcriptions of reality and learn how to interpret them as mediated representations. Thus, this class aims to provide an introduction to the study of literature and culture as well as an introduction to Asian American literary forms and creative expressions.

Asian Am 304-0
Asian American Women’s History
Instructor: Ji-Yeon Yuh/TTh 11 – 12:20/Max Enroll = 40/History Dept Lecture course

This course explores the intersections of gender, race, and ethnicity in the historical experiences of Asian American women. We will consider a variety of themes significant to those experiences, including immigration and citizenship, exclusion and discrimination, family
Fall 2008 Course Offerings

**Spotlight: New Course**

**Introduction to Asian American Studies (Asian Am 210)**

This is a brand new course developed by the faculty of the Asian American Studies Program at Northwestern University, and taught by Professor Ji-Yeon Yuh, the program’s Director.

This course promises to provide an exciting journey into the breadth and history of the field of Asian American Studies. If you can take only one course in Asian American Studies, then this is the one! And if you are thinking of doing a minor in the field, then this course is a must.

In the space of a quarter, guest speakers will introduce students to a wide array of topics important to the field, from its historical roots in the radical student movements of the ’60s and’70s, to community activism, to globalization as a context for Asian American experiences.

What constitutes “Asian America?” Digging into the past, how has history shaped what it means to be “Asian American” today? How have these unique experiences been given expression in art and culture? Generational and class shifts in Asian American communities are explored, as is the intersection of racial and sexual identities, and the multi-cultural and mixed-race experience in America. These are just some of the topics that will be explored in this exciting new course.

The format for this course will be lecture and discussion. Monday and Wednesday classes will be devoted to that week’s readings and film screening, and every Friday will feature a guest speaker, either a local or visiting scholar or a community activist.

The quarter will be divided into three parts:

I. “On Strike! Student Protest & the Rise of Asian American Studies”.
II. “Foundations and Faultlines: Questioning Asian America As a Construct”
III. “New Directions in Asian American Studies: Comparative, Global, Popular.”

Introduction to Asian American Studies satisfies the Area III Distribution requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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**Asian Am 370-0**

**Bollywood and Beyond**

Instructor: Shalini Shankar/W 2:00 – 6:00 (Lecture) Kresge 4-410/M 6:00 – 10:00 (Screenings) MMLC (library)/Max Enroll = 20/
*Social & Behavioral Sciences Distro Area

This course examines concepts of diaspora, migration, globalization, and citizenship through the medium of film. Focusing on South Asia and its diaspora, the course uses “Bollywood,” the world’s most prolific film industry, as a starting point from which to examine how nation states and subjects produce meanings of homeland and belonging through film. The course also analyzes films from South Asian diasporic film makers that present a wide range of migration experiences. The course is thematically organized around such topics as postcoloniality, gender, race, language, sexuality, religion, nationalism, consumption, and generation. The course covers theoretical concepts in both visual culture and diaspora studies and requires careful viewing of selected films. Requirements include class presentations, essays, a seminar research paper, and regular class attendance and participation.

**Asian Am 392-0**

**Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, and African Americans: Comparative Racial Formations in U.S. History**

Instructor: Shuji Otsuka/MW 3:30 – 4:50/Harris 315/Max Enroll = 20 students

The course provides an integrated and comparative approach to the history of racialized experiences and racial categories in the U.S. by examining three groups: Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, and African Americans. Focusing on the first half of the twentieth-century, we will analyze the racialization of Asian ethnic minorities as both a gendered and classed process linked to Mexican American, African American, and other domestic racial formations. Readings will focus on racial formation as media representations, as legal constructs, as international labor migrations, and as U.S. involvement with Asia, Mexico, and sub-Saharan Africa. The course encourages students to think about the emergence of race and racial communities in broad conceptual terms, as intersecting systems of subordination and liberation, rather than as embodiments of competition among minority groups in the United States.
Carolyn Chen is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Asian American Studies. She teaches classes in immigration, religion and family. Her book, Getting Saved in America: Taiwanese Immigration and Religious Experience, was recently published with Princeton University Press.

Shalini Shankar is a sociocultural and linguistic anthropologist whose central concerns include race and ethnicity, class, globalization and diaspora, Asian American youth culture, multiculturalism and multilingualism, consumption, and media. Shankar’s forthcoming monograph, entitled Desi Land: Teen Culture, Class, and Success in Silicon Valley (Duke U Press, Fall 2008) focuses on Desi (South Asian) youth in socioeconomically and racially diverse high schools and analyzes how their everyday cultural and linguistic practices intersect with their immigration history and class status to position them in school, as well as impact their educational and career paths. Her publications and presentations focus on how Asian American youth mediate racial hierarchies, create identities through material culture, media, and language use, and strive to find a place for themselves in competitive urban and suburban regions.

Nitasha Tamar Sharma, Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Asian American Studies (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, 2004) is trained formally as an anthropologist, but does interdisciplinary work centering on the experiences of second generation South Asian Americans with a focus on race, ethnicity, and youth culture. Her ethnographic study of South Asian American hip hop artists analyzes how they use black popular culture to create and express alliances with Blacks as people of color. Dr. Sharma’s publications include, “Down by Law: the effects and Responses of Copyright Restrictions on Sampling in Rap” (Journal of Political and Legal Anthropology, May 1998), and “Rotten Coconuts and Other Strange Fruit: A Slice of Hip Hop from the West Coast” (South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection, November 2001). Her book on desi hip hop is due out from Duke University Press. During the summer of 2005, Professor Sharma conducted preliminary fieldwork in Trinidad on douglas — people of African and Indian descent — in order to expand her focus on Indian/Black relations beyond the U.S. and to develop her interest in mixed race studies. Professor Sharma teaches classes on race, difference, and popular culture, including “Hapa Issues: Mixed Race Asian Americans,” “Cracking the Color Lines: Black and Asian Relations in the U.S.” and classes on Asian American film and hip hop culture.

Ji-Yeon Yuh is the Director of the Asian American Studies Program and an associate professor in the Department of History. She specializes in Asian American history and Asian diasporas and is the author of Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America (New York University Press, 2002). A history of Korean women who immigrated to the United States as the wives of U.S. soldiers, this work examines the dynamics of race, culture, gender and nationalism from the perspective of Korean military brides. Her new project examines policies toward minority ethnic groups and their impact on the development of community and identity, as well as the ways in which experiences of Koreans in the diaspora are connected and divided by the history of the Korean peninsula in the twentieth century. She has also done research on refugees from North Korea, on socialist Koreans in China and Japan in the immediate post-WWII period, and on the Korean reunification movement in the United States. She is a co-founder of the Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea (www.asck.org), an organization devoted to educating policy makers and the public, and Board President of KANWIN, a Korean American women’s organization focusing on domestic violence.

Heidi Kim is a doctoral candidate in the English department, focusing on questions of minority invisibility in American history as depicted in the twentieth century American novel. She loves teaching for the Asian American Studies Program, particularly because this means that she gets to read novels that are not in her dissertation. This quarter, she even gets to read British novels and watch British TV and film. She hopes to continue this happy trend.

Neeraja Kasini Aravamudan, adjunct faculty member with the Asian American Studies Program. Neeraja enjoys the opportunity to interact with NU undergrads, something she doesn’t get to do often in her full-time position joined as Associate Director with the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence. Since 1999, she has helped graduate students prepare for TAing and teaching at NU, first focusing on international TAs but eventually expanding to all graduate students across the university. In addition to overseeing graduate student development for the University, she is responsible for personnel and operations issues for the Center. She has taught a variety of classes at NU including Problems of Cities, Sociology of Sex Roles for the Sociology Department. With AASP, she has taught a survey course on South Asians in the US, using a combination of discussion, interactive activities, and innovative projects. Her dissertation focused on how gender and years in the US affects Indian-American youths’ explanations of their dating and marriage preferences. Her sociology research interests include gender, culture, ethnicity and immigration. Her academic development research interests include graduate student development, teaching and technology, and training models that affect participants’ conceptions of teaching and learning.

Jinah Kim, Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow (Ph.D., University of California, San Diego, 2006) currently studies the differential racialization of Latino immigrants, Asian immigrants, and African Americans through the analysis of multiculturalism, neoliberal discourse, and “romantic” representations of the Asia-Pacific. She is also conducting research for her other project, which looks at the relationship between the Mexican Bracero Project and the Internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. Through the study of Asian/American representations her work attempts to make visible the ways in which Asia, Latin America, and the United States are interconnected in the 20th and 21st centuries.
Shanshan Lan, Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow (Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2007) has major research interests in race and ethnicity, with a special focus on post-1965 Asian immigrants’ experience of racialization in the United States; inter-ethnic relations among minority groups in multiracial urban U.S. communities, especially among Asian Americans, African Americans and Latinos; globalization and the Asian diaspora in North America. Her dissertation, “Learning Race and Class: Chinese Americans in Multiracial Bridgeport,” explores how class positions mediate Chinese Americans’ perceptions of and reactions towards racial difference in Bridgeport, a multiracial working-class immigrant community adjacent to Chicago’s Chinatown. Dr. Lan’s publications include, “Chinese Americans in Multiracial Chicago: A Story of Overlapping Racializations” (Asian American Law Journal, 13, 2006), and “Race, Class and the Politics of Multicultural Learning: Chinese Immigrant Workers and the Brokered American Dream in Chicago” (City and Society, 19, 2007). She is now in the process of preparing her dissertation into a book manuscript for publication. Dr. Lan has taught classes on ethnographies of Chinese Americans and in winter 2008 she will be teaching “Imagining Chinatown: Race, Community Building and the Construction of Differences.”

Stephen Mak is a PhD Candidate in the History Department and an Instructor for the Asian American Studies Program. He researches and teaches social and political history, especially the intersection of foreign relations and immigration policy. His dissertation, “Enemy Aliens in a World at War: America’s Other Internment during World War II,” examines questions of race, citizenship, and international human rights. In the Fall Quarter, he offers the course “The Politics of Race and Immigration.” In the Winter, he will offer a new course about human rights from the Japanese American Internment to Guantanamo. Stephen earned his bachelor’s degree at Cornell University, where he was a Dean’s Scholar and majored in Industrial and Labor Relations. His senior honors thesis won the Joel Seidman Prize. He decided to attend graduate school to continue reading, writing, and thinking about the world around him. Before coming to Northwestern, he worked at the labor policy office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy and taught social studies in New York’s Chinatown, two experiences that revealed the challenges of policy-making and the rewards of teaching.

Shuji Otsuka, Graduate Instructor (Ph.D. candidate, Northwestern University) teaches a variety of courses that compare the historical experience of Asian Americans with other minority groups in the United States and that place Asian Americans in international contexts. He has offered seminars on the “East Asian Diaspora,” “Japanese Americans and the Pacific Wars,” “Asian Immigration to the United States,” and “Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, and African Americans: Comparative Racial Formations in U.S. History.” His dissertation is on Japanese who became students in American universities after World War II. In his spare time, he trains for the GSA 5K and is a longtime fan of the Chicago Fire.

Greg Jue, Program Assistant, graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972. He was part of the “Third World Strike” that brought Ethnic Studies to the Berkeley campus in 1968. For a number of years after the strike, Greg continued to work both on campus and in the San Francisco Chinatown community. It was here that he was introduced to Mao’s ideas on revolution and human society—interestingly, by members of the Black Panther Party who had just come onto the national scene at the time, and by students from Hong Kong and Taiwan who were inspired by the movements of revolutionary China’s youth during the 60s. “There were times back then when we would be out protesting all day, then come home and wrangle all night with ideas about how to create a better society.” Today, Greg would like to see much more of that kind of spirit in the world.

Class of 2012, Welcome to Northwestern University!

Continued from front page

new Latino/a Studies Program, with whom we have collaborated on exciting events this past year. Sharing space will enable us to better coordinate our collaborations and work on even more exciting projects.

This summer edition of our quarterly newsletter offers a glimpse into the life of the Program—our people, our events, our courses. This past year we sponsored scholarly lectures and workshops like guest speaker Moon-Ho Jung, author of Coolies and Cane, Race Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation (winner of the Merle Curti Award), cultural events like Teatro Luna’s performance of S-E-X-Oh! and HipHopistan, which showcased South Asian Hip Hop performances and workshops; and an activist forum, “Our Sisters Are Not For Sale,” on the trafficking of Asian women. This coming year promises more exciting events, beginning with a forum featuring Asian American authors of young adult literature.

Stay informed on all Program happenings by signing up for our email listserv. Just send a request to asianamerican@northwestern.edu.

Once again, welcome. Stop by the Program office or drop me a line at <j-yuh@northwestern.edu>. It’ll make my day!

Ji-Yeon Yuh, Director
The Asian American Studies Program
Northwestern University
Daughter highlights the role of baseball in helping Japanese, illustrated by Dom Lee, which won the Newbery Medal in 2002, about an orphan in 12th century Korea. Ken Mochizuki is best known for his book Baseball Saved Us, illustrated by Dom Lee, which highlights the role of baseball in helping Japanese Americans cope with internment during World War II. Marie Lee’s most recent novel, Somebody’s Daughter, explores the experiences of a Korean-born adoptee in Minnesota and her birth mother. All of these authors have written numerous YA and children’s books. Linda Sue Park is the author of *A Single Shard*, winner of the prestigious Newbery Medal in 2002, about an orphan in 12th century Korea. Ken Mochizuki is best known for his book *Baseball Saved Us*, illustrated by Dom Lee, which highlights the role of baseball in helping Japanese Americans cope with internment during World War II. Marie Lee’s most recent novel, *Somebody’s Daughter*, explores the experiences of a Korean-born adoptee in Minnesota and her birth mother.

Suggestions for the promotion of Asian American Studies:
- Explore the role of baseball in helping Japanese Americans cope with internment during World War II.
- Read *A Single Shard* by Linda Sue Park, winner of the prestigious Newbery Medal in 2002, about an orphan in 12th century Korea.
- Learn about Ken Mochizuki and his book *Baseball Saved Us*, illustrated by Dom Lee, which highlights the role of baseball in helping Japanese Americans cope with internment during World War II.
- Explore the experiences of a Korean-born adoptee in Minnesota and her birth mother in *Somebody’s Daughter* by Marie Lee.

**Recognizing Achievements & Contributions**

**Shuji Otsuka** (instructor in AASP, doctoral candidate in History) delivered a paper entitled, “He Stands Between Black and White: Japanese American Youth Popular Cultures” at the 2008 Asian American Studies Conference held in Chicago. He also delivered a paper on her upcoming research, “Hapa and Douglass: Multiracial Identities in Hawaii and Trinidad,” at the Popular Culture Association’s annual meeting. The panel was organized by colleague Jinah Kim, who also presented a paper. Dr. Sharma’s article, “Musical Manifestos: Desi Hip Hop Artists Sound off on Capitalism and Sexism,” was published in the Spring 2007 issue of *The Subcontinental: The Journal of South Asian American Public Affairs.*

**Heidi Kim** (instructor in AASP, doctoral candidate in English) co-organized a panel at AAAS called “War at the Heart of Asian America” including her paper titled “We eat too much: Policies of Americanization in East of Eden and the Far East.” She also went to her farthest afield conference yet, the International English and American Studies conference at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, where she presented a paper on Maxine Hong Kingston and Lin Yutang called “The Ghosts of History.” She recently received a Graduate Research Grant from The Graduate School at NU, which she will use to do archival work for her dissertation at the Japanese American National Library and Japanese American National Museum.

**Professor Nitasha Sharma**, who recently received her second Outstanding Teaching Award in African American Studies, helped coordinate and host Hiphopistan: South Asians in Hip Hop. This three day series of events featured eight South Asian hip hop artists from the U.S. and abroad in April as part of the annual Asian American Studies Conference held in Chicago. She also delivered a paper on her upcoming research, “Hapa and Douglass: Multiracial Identities in Hawaii and Trinidad,” at the Popular Culture Association’s annual meeting. The panel was organized by colleague Jinah Kim, who also presented a paper. Dr. Sharma’s article, “Musical Manifestos: Desi Hip Hop Artists Sound off on Capitalism and Sexism,” was published in the Spring 2007 issue of *The Subcontinental: The Journal of South Asian American Public Affairs.*


**PhD candidate Stephen Mak** will be receiving a Josephine De Karman Fellowship for 2008-2009 to write his dissertation. He was also an honorable mention for the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship.


**Coming!—Newberry Medal Winner to Speak Here in Fall**

On Thursday, October 16, 2008, Asian American Studies at Northwestern will be hosting three prominent Asian American young adult fiction authors for a panel discussion of minority children’s literature. Linda Sue Park, Ken Mochizuki, and Marie Lee will meet to discuss their experiences in the publishing world, as well as their writing process and their hopes for readers’ reactions. The event will be followed by a Q&A and informal reception with the authors. The Our Sisters Are Not For Sale! forum on the trafficking of Asian women was co-presented with KAN-WIN (a Korean American women’s organization focusing on domestic violence), and brought together a diverse audience from academia and the community during Winter Quarter.

**PAST EVENTS**

**The Our Sisters Are Not For Sale!**

**Scene from Maid In America, a film documentary, co-presented with Latino/a Studies in the Spring Quarter, and featured a Q&A and reception with the film maker, Anayansi Prado** during the Spring Quarter.