

SOCI 1140-401/ASAM 1500-401 Asian Americans in Contemporary Society - Fall 2024

Note: This is a prospectus. The actual syllabus may be subject to change. The full syllabus, course expectations, and policies will be covered in the first lecture session.

Class Structure

- Mondays and Wednesdays 10:15am to 11:44am
- The class lectures will always be in person unless notified ahead of time.
- Attendance is mandatory except for emergency circumstances. Slides from each class session will be uploaded on Canvas at the end of the day of lecture. Participation in class is warmly encouraged. Attendance will not be taken, but lectures are testable material. So, it is the student's responsibility to make sure they have notes from the class from their peers.
- Lectures will be interactive and include presentations, movies and clips, open discussion sessions, and short in-class reflection notes.

Readings and Out of Class Activities

- Students are expected to read the assigned readings for each class ahead of time so that they can keep up with the lecture and participate meaningfully in class. Reading materials may include a required textbook (will be made available at the Penn Bookstore), outside chapters and academic articles, and newspaper articles. Any reading material outside of the textbook will be uploaded well ahead of time on Canvas for students to access and prepare for class.
- For class assignments, students will be asked to go and observe a location ("fieldsite") to take observation notes that they will then use to write a short paper on a chosen theme based on class lectures. The professor will be available to provide support to students to find a topic of interest and a relevant site to take observation notes.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

- There will be 15 short in-class reflection notes (about a paragraph long) based on the day's lecture content. These will altogether comprise 15 percent of the course grade. These are meant to encourage class engagement and give a boost to students' overall grade in the course.
- There will be a midterm and final test, each worth 20 percent of the grade.
- There is one research paper where students are expected to choose an Asian-themed restaurant which they will visit 3-5 times throughout the semester to take observation notes related to a chosen topic. This paper will count towards 25 percent of the course grade and is due at the end of the course.
- To help students work towards their research paper, there will be a set of stepping-stone assignments spread throughout the course. These small assignments will be worth 20 percent of the course grade.