ASA 100
Asian American Communities
Prof. Sunaina Maira
TR 12:10 - 2:00 PM

This course consists of a broad survey and analysis of Asian American political experiences within historical and contemporary contexts. The course examines the ways in which Asian Americans have participated in, and defined, “politics” and the ways they have created various forms of “community.”

The central questions running through the course is: what is defined as “politics”? What is “community,” and who defines it? Whose experiences are considered representative of “Asian American communities”? We will also discuss issues such as: What is the relationship of the university to “the community” or to Asian American communities? Which communities do you belong to? The course explores the multiple ways in which Asian American communities have been organized over time and place, in relationship to issues of race, multiraciality, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, religion, citizenship, labor, and sovereignty.

The course draws on reading materials from a range of disciplines—history, sociology, anthropology—and from interdisciplinary fields—ethnic studies, cultural studies, queer studies, and women’s studies—to provide the methods and concepts needed to describe and explain the range of Asian American political experiences.

Questions about this course?
Email Prof. Maira at smaira@ucdavis.edu