# AAST388: Independent Research
## Fall 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program:</th>
<th>Websites:</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Maryland Asian American Studies Program (AAST)</td>
<td>Course website: <a href="http://elms.umd.edu">http://elms.umd.edu</a>&lt;br&gt;AAST website: <a href="http://aast.umd.edu">http://aast.umd.edu</a></td>
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*Instructor: Ying Wang<br>*E-mail: ywang.aast@gmail.com<br>*Office: 1145 Cole Activity Building<br>*Phone: 301-405-0996<br>*Office Hours: By appointment*

## Course Description
This course involves students working one-on-one with instructor to design a research project resulting in a research paper or a scholarly essay. The course is designed to develop students’ awareness of issues pertaining to the Asian American community, as well as ethnic studies as a whole, while building experience in conducting research. The course is tailored to each student’s individual scholarly and professional interests. In addition, working on faculty-mentored research project helps students integrate ideas, research methods, and themes developed during their previous AAST courses.

## Learning Objectives
- Design and conduct an original research project.
- Learn to evaluate existing literature on Asian Americans.
- Conduct quantitative or qualitative research.
- Develop new interpretations and contribute original knowledge.

## Required Texts
No texts required for this course.

## Course Requirements

1) **Research Proposal**<br>This is a 3-4 pages document in which you provide an overall synopsis of your research project. In this proposal you are expected to identify your research topic,
state why your topic is relevant to the course themes (i.e. answer the question "why should I care about your paper?") as well as why you believe your topic is important (i.e. answer the question "how would my research contribute to the field of Asian American studies?"), introduce a tentative hypothesis (what is your argument based on a preliminary review of the sources and findings), and a brief discussion of possible sources you would like to cite for your paper. You will be graded on your ability to communicate your ideas in a clear, concise, and polished manner.

2) Rough Draft
You should submit a draft of your essay at least 15 pages in length to be reviewed by the instructor. Your draft should feature the following: introduction of research topic, brief discussion of the background of the topic (i.e. what has been done in previous studies on this topic?), original argument, solid methodology (i.e. what is your approach to study this topic?), supporting evidence, preliminary analysis, and preliminary conclusion.

Note that since this is a draft, you will be graded more on the quality of your overall thesis and your main supporting arguments rather than the overall polish of your work. It is understandable that the first draft may not have a sophisticated analysis and a final conclusion, yet you are highly encouraged to make your rough draft as complete as possible so that you may receive comprehensive feedbacks from the instructor.

3) Final Draft
You will be required to submit a final draft of your research paper of 20-25 pages in length at the end of the semester. This final draft should follow standard research paper format, which has an introduction, literature review, discussion of methodology, findings, conclusion, and references. Proper citation in MLA, APA, or ASR style is mandatory.

4) Periodical Meetings with Instructor
You are expected to meet with the instructor at least 3 times throughout the semester. To your benefit, each meeting might be scheduled prior to turning in your proposal, first draft, and final draft. These meetings are good opportunities for you to ask questions and get feedbacks.

Course Percentages

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Thursday, October 6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday, November 7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Draft</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3 meetings throughout the semester</td>
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Note:
For research proposal and rough draft, you may turn in a soft copy via email. The final draft is hard copy only. You must come to the AAST office to submit your final draft and the office staff will give you a time stamp on your paper.

Grading Guidelines
The following grade ranges and descriptions show the minimum requirements for the corresponding letter grades earned. The scale is adapted from UMCP’s established grading system found in the Faculty Handbook at http://www.faculty.umd.edu/teach/grades.html.

A+/A/A- Student grasps all major historical concepts, themes, and facts covered in the course. She or he demonstrates a keen analytical insight into all of the course readings as shown through the student’s consistently well-written and well-argued essays. In class discussion, the student raises relevant questions and engages classmates in intellectual debates by referring to specific page numbers and quotes from the assigned texts.

B+/B/B- Student makes a genuine effort but shows less consistency, analysis, and depth than an A/A- student, especially in his or her essays and class participation levels. She or he makes some effort to improve on subsequent essays by submitting rough drafts.

C+/C/C- Student meets the minimum academic standards for this course by completing all assignments but not participating in class discussions and failing to rectify a poor essay grade by subsequently working with me during my extra-help hours and the Writing Center.

D+/D/D- Student does not meet minimum course requirements and fails to complete essay assignments in a timely manner. When in attendance, he or she shows very little interest in critical reading and oral participation.

F Student fails to complete a majority of the course assignments.

XF Student has engaged in academic dishonesty.

Attendance and Make-up Work
No rescheduled meeting or make-up/late work will be allowed to unexcused absences. As stated in UMCP’s official attendance policy, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences in advance and make arrangements for make-up work. UMCP’s official attendance policy is available at (http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html).
Inclement Weather and Campus Emergencies
In the event of a severe weather or a campus emergency, the course will follow the official UMCP schedule on closing and delays as announced on the campus website (http://www.umd.edu/emergencypreparedness/weather_emer) and adjustments to the course schedule will be announced in class, via email, and on blackboard. For example, in the case of a 2pm delayed opening, we will still meet for the remaining one and a half hours (2-3:30pm); in the case of a 2pm early closing, we will still meet for the prior hour (1-2pm).

Writing Center
Students at all stages of their writing are encouraged to utilize the English Department's Writing Center (http://www.english.umd.edu/academics/writingcenter) located at 1205 Tawes Hall. There is always room for improvement and the writing advice you will receive will benefit you in whatever career path you pursue. You may contact the Center at writadmin@umd.edu or 301-405-3785.

Plagiarism and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty
In conjunction with the Student Honor Council’s policy of building a community of trust on the College Park campus, this seminar is based upon that very trust between student and professor. Any form of plagiarism including but not limited to knowingly borrowing someone’s words, ideas, conceptions or narrative frameworks without proper citation and acknowledgment of the original source is a violation of the University’s Code of Academic Integrity (http://www.shc.umd.edu/code.html) and will be promptly reported to the Honor Council. Other forms of academic dishonesty such as purchasing papers and class notes, forging signatures, knowingly submitting fraudulent documents, hiring others to take an exam, and submitting the same or similar paper for credit in two courses without authorization will also be reported to the Council (http://www.studenthonor council.umd.edu/whatis.html). Students found guilty of these types of behavior may receive a course grade of “XF” denoting failure due to academic dishonesty. To insure compliance with the University’s Honor Code, the Student Honor Council suggests that all students write the following honor pledge on all submitted essays, reading notes, and final examination:

I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment).

For further guidelines, please familiarize yourself with UMCP’s official policy on cheating and plagiarism at http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html.

Religious Observances
University policy provides that students “should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances.” Please inform the instructor
at the beginning of the semester if you are going to miss any lecture sessions, discussion sections, meetings, exams, or other assignments due to religious observances so that alternative arrangements can be made.

**Special Accommodations**
Please inform me at the beginning of the semester if you require special needs due to disabilities. I will be happy to make proper accommodations for you. In addition, please make an appointment with the Disability Support Services (DSS) so that you can learn the procedures and fill out the necessary paperwork. DSS contact information: [http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS](http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS); phone: 301-314-7682; fax: 301-405-0813; location: 0126 Shoemaker Hall – Building #37.