

# GASP!

## We have a new Program at UIC... The Global Asian Studies Program

# GLAS!

### **What is GLAS?**

Starting in Fall 2016, UIC will launch a new Program – GLAS. GLAS is short for the Global Asian Studies Program, an exciting new program that combines the Asian American Studies Program (ASAM) and Asian Studies (ASST). GLAS will include and incorporate elements from both ASAM and ASST, while growing in line with new research and developments in area and ethnic studies.

### **Why did Asian American Studies and Asian Studies merge?**

- The artificial division between Asian American Studies and Asian Studies no longer makes sense in a globalized world where mobility of people, commodities, and cultures has become the norm.
- The separation of the two fields has become an obstacle to producing innovative new work both intellectually and in terms of teaching; new work in both these fields increasingly emphasizes their linkages and intersections, which is one of the emphases in the new GLAS Program.
- Combining the faculty and resources of the two programs will strengthen both of them and provide for a much richer and more encompassing student experience.

### **What will happen to my credits as an ASAM or ASST minor?**

You will retain all previous course credits under the original rubric and title. Existing Minors in both Programs will not be required to fulfill the revised requirements for the Minor. Any student who declared an ASAM or ASST minor prior to Fall 2016 may choose to finish that minor as it was originally specified, or choose to convert to the new GLAS minor.

### **Why should I minor in GLAS?**

A GLAS minor will provide students with essential knowledge of how Asians and Asian Americans have contributed to the making of our modern world and global economy. As Asia becomes more prominent on the world stage, knowledge of Asian and Asian American histories, cultures, and societies will be extremely beneficial in today's globalized world. A GLAS minor can provide a broad perspective and vision for a range of career options and graduate education concerning Asia, Asian/Asian American migrations, diasporic politics, and cultures. GLAS students will not only gain important academic research, analysis, and writing skills, but also have fun creating digital stories, zines, and memoir projects. With only 15 credits, the GLAS minor complements majors in traditional disciplines and offers courses that are cross-listed with several other departments and meet UIC's Gen Ed requirements.

### **What jobs can I get with a GLAS minor?**

The GLAS minor can help you stand out with any job that requires some knowledge of or familiarity with Asian communities and cultures in the US or elsewhere. These might include jobs in marketing, public relations, the culture or entertainment industries, public advocacy or other jobs in the non-profit sector, as well as jobs in education such as student services or administration. In addition, a GLAS minor can be excellent preparation for a career in law, medicine, education, politics, international relations or academia. With its emphasis on globalization and migration, alongside issues of social justice, it prepares students for a critical and rigorous analysis of the economy, politics, and society.

### **How will a GLAS minor help with careers in Medicine, Public or Applied Health?**

Asian American communities are one of the fastest growing immigrant communities in the US, and they often confront distinct health problems and challenges. This means that there will be an increasing demand for culturally sensitive and competent healthcare educators and practitioners. A GLAS minor can help students become aware of the specific histories as well as the cultural and political issues and concerns in Asian and Asian American communities, thereby better attending to this important segment of the health care market.

### **Are there internships in GLAS?**

Yes! A new GLAS 105 1-credit course introduces students to the theory and practice of internships. A second 3-credit course -GLAS 250 - Critical Community Studies, specifically prepares students for internships with local Asian American community organizations. Upon completion of GLAS 250, students register for GLAS 495, the Service Learning Practicum, during which they will be placed in an internship off-campus. Students will receive course credit for successfully fulfilling the requirements of the course and internship.

### **Where do I go for advising and to declare a Minor in Global Asian Studies?**

For advising and for declaring a Minor, you should see the Director of the GLAS Program.

The current Director is Professor Anna Guevarra (guevarra@uic.edu). She is on leave in Spring and Summer 2016, so for all questions until August 2016, please contact the Acting Director, Professor Mark Chiang (mchiang@uic.edu).