Together in empowerment, we hope to tell a story of our struggles for a change in a better future
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A coalition of students, including those who identify as Southeast Asian as well as those who do not, who advocate for the needs of the Southeast Asian student population at USC.
SEA Coalition Mission

To build solidarity and focus on collective organizing across Southeast Asian (SEA) students while advocating for equity and social justice education via relational ethnic studies. To demand for the decolonization and decapitalization of academia at USC through the creation of courses and programs that address and reflect the shared struggles of our underserved Southeast Asian diaspora communities.
19% of the entire USC student body identify as SEA

< 5% of the entire USC student body identify as SEA

? % USC does not have any disaggregated data on SEA student populations

*Asian students are not considered as Underrepresented Minority, according to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System that USC uses.
SEA Belonging at USC

Data and student input from APASS SEA Belongingness Survey

"I feel like Southeast Asian students are underrepresented and not really regarded that much compared to other Asian students so it made me feel more isolated from the rest of the Asian community."

41.51% of responses agree that USC programming or events are intended for them.

16.04% of responses agree that they see their SEA identity represented among USC faculty.

"I feel like Southeast Asian students are underrepresented and not really regarded that much compared to other Asian students so it made me feel more isolated from the rest of the Asian community."
Ethnic Studies

Direct support for sets of courses for SEA ethnic studies including but not limited to Pilipinx, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese, Singaporean, Indonesian, Cambodian/Khmer, Malaysian, Bruneian, Hmong, Laotian, Iu Mien, etc studies
Curriculum reflecting shared struggles of SEA communities

Emphasis on SEA relational studies on topics such as reconciling diaspora identity, far right support within the SEA community, disproportionate effects of COVID-19, colonization and imperialism, among others
Immersive SEA Language Courses

Offer SEA language courses and the option of placement exams in such languages for language requirements
SEA programming and resources

Expand curriculum to include possible exchange programs, service learning opportunities, institutional home, scholarships, spaces to discuss social justice specific issues, and initiative for retention
The Coalition's Progress So Far

Community Action Plan
Uniting Forces Across Campus

Coalition building & gathering allies to support our efforts

**Students**
- undergrad + grad students
- SEA students+ organizations
- student organizations
- USG

**Faculty**
- Dr. Adrian De Leon
- Transpacific Studies Center
- American Studies & Ethnicities

**Staff**
- Asian Pacific American Student Services
- East Asian Studies Center
- APIFSA

**Admin**
- Student Affairs
- Academic Senate*
- Academic Deans*
- Dornsife Chief Diversity Officer*
Southeast Asia and its People Minor under Anthropology Department

CURRENT STATUS

END GOAL

Revamped Minor/program that meets student needs and demands
 SEA Minor Mock Curriculum

Pulling from courses that are already offered at USC, here is a potential curriculum that can be curated for the minor and its required courses.

### SEA Minor Mock Curriculum (20 unit minor)

**Lower Division Courses (required courses)**
- AMST 200: Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity
- AMST 220: The Making of Asian America

**Upper Division Courses (Electives - choose 3)**
- AMST 353: Race and Racism in the Americas
- AMST 365: Leadership in the Community (internship)
- AMST 378m: Introduction to Asian American History
- AMST 389m: Carceral Geographies
- AMST 449m: Asian American Literature
- COMM 324: Intercultural Communication
- COMM 458: Race and Ethnicity in Entertainment and the Arts
  - (I've taken this and no emphasis on SEA)
- POSC 328: Asian American Politics
- **POSC: 352: Politics of Southeast Asia**
- POSC 421: Ethnic Politics
- POSC 424: Political Participation and American Diversity
- REL 336: Re-Viewing Religion in Asian America
- SOCI 355: Immigrants in the US
- SOCI 376m: Contemporary Issues in Asian American Communities
- SOCI 429: Immigration, Work and Labor
- SOCI 432: Racial and Ethnic Relations in a Global Society
Courses overlap with connected themes to create a holistic education on SEA matters.
Books for the Curriculum could include... 

Jose Antonio Vargas's *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*

Kimberly Kay Hoang's *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex*
Demographics Discussed in the Books

If there is a focus on a specific demographic, which demographic?

- Vietnam: 14.3%
- n/a: 14.3%
- Pilipinx-Am: 71.4%

Some Topics Covered

Count of Topics Addressed by the Books

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<td>Asian America</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Next Steps**

**Update Curriculum**
- Interdisciplinary approach
- Relational struggles across Southeast Asia and the Southeast Asian diaspora

**Solidify Minor Department**
- Conversations and decisions between department faculty and deans
- Funding & department politics
- American Studies & Ethnicities, East Asian Studies Center, East Asian Languages and Culture

**Track Interest & Gather Support**
- Identify how many students would actually take the minor
- Garner support across campus, showcase needs and demands
**Current support**
A constantly growing list that shows direct student support for the SEA Coalition's demands

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**SEA organizations**
- Troy Philippines (Troy Phi)
- Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)
- Thai Undergraduate Student Association (TUSA)
- Singapore Students Association (SSA)
- Burmese Students Association (BURSA)

**Other student organizations**
- Asian Pacific American Student Assembly (APASA)
- Student Coalition for Asian Pacific Empowerment (SCAPE)
- Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS)
- Dragon Boat at USC
- Delta Phi Kappa
- ASL Club
What can you do?

CALL TO ACTION:
SUPPORT THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDENT COALITION DEMANDS

Sign our petition to support the demands for social justice education at USC via relational Southeast Asian ethnic studies.

Support by signing our petition!

bit.ly/SEA-Coalition-Petition

Utilize the power in our collective voices!
THANK YOU