

# Creating a course to explore Asian Canadian health



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## Introduction

Asian diaspora forms:

- 40% of Vancouver's population (Statistics Canada, 2016)
- A seemingly large proportion of the UBC student body

**BUT**

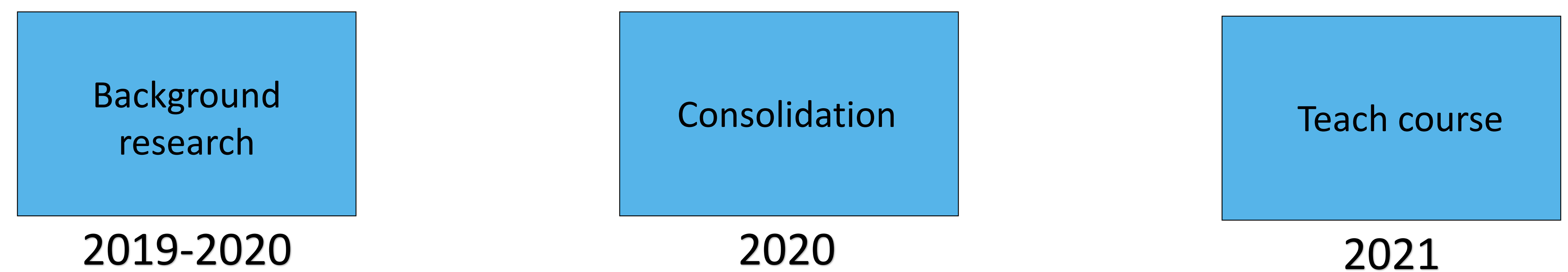
- No course focusing on Asian diasporic health

Especially pertinent given health concerns due to:

- Significant increase in explicit anti-Asian racism during COVID-19 pandemic (Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, 2021)
- Increased risks (infection, racism, on-the-job exploitation) to essential workers, disproportionately affecting Asian diaspora (Arce, 2021)

## The Process

2-year process to create course



Background research:

- Contacted other departments in Canada and USA and collected relevant syllabi
- Interviewed community members soliciting important themes
- Searched for relevant academic & non-academic work

Consolidation

- Distilled themes, set out reading list, identified potential guest speakers
- Determined appropriate assessments

Teaching

- Discussion-based course involving Piazza, discussion questions/responses, and final project

## Course Work

Course culminates in a final project completely of the student's choosing, including

Syllabus   Podcasts   Written Work   Project Showcase

Visual Art   Multimedia

## Impact

"This course is honestly one of the best courses I have taken at UBC. The course material was diverse and inclusive, was accessible and often of different formats."

Overall assessment of the course: 4.63 (out of 5), SD = 0.81

Overall impact course had on student: 4.75 (out of 5), SD = 0.52 (1 = Strongly Neg; 5 = Strongly Pos)

Change in seeing self as an agent of change: 4.25 (out of 5), SD = 0.72 (1 = Much Less, 5 = Much More)

## References

- Arce, F. (2021). Asian-Canadian frontline workers face rampant discrimination report. *Toronto Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2021/09/02/asian-canadian-frontline-workers-face-rampant-discrimination-report.html>
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