Andrew Cao

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Education

University of Pennsylvania, College of Arts & Sciences, Philadelphia, PA
B.A. candidate in English (Literary Theory & Cultural Studies) and Religious Studies, expected May 2029

Gainesville High School, Gainesville, GA, 2025
16 Advanced Placement courses; 7 dual-enrollment courses (University of North Georgia, Brenau University)

Research Experience

Penn Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program (PURM) Fellow, Department of English, May–August 2026
Ante-Possessive Lives in the Americas, directed by Professor David Kazanjian

- Researched and wrote the project's Theory & Method framework, reading two turn-of-the-eighteenth-century legal cases from New England and Yucatán against theories of dispossession.
- Designed and built the public research website, migrating earlier ArcGIS StoryMaps into a unified archive with case studies, theory and bibliography.

Presentations

"Ante-Possessive Lives in the Americas." Co-authored research poster. Penn CURF Fall Research Expo, University of Pennsylvania, 2026.

Digital Humanities Projects

Enoch, a library of religion and history, 2026–present. Design and editing. Short guides that lead to primary texts: 45 guides and 274 cited sources, with reading paths and a historical atlas.
Ante-Possessive Lives in the Americas, research website, 2026. Theory and method; web design and development. Case studies by Braden Lipman and Gabriela Chavez Hernandez.
Half a Line, a daily literature game, 2026–present. Design, writing and build.

Honors and Awards

Diane Hunter First-Year English Prize, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, 2026
PURM Fellowship, Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, University of Pennsylvania, 2026

QuestBridge National College Match Scholar, 2025
GHSA Literary Competition, Argumentative Essay: State Runner-Up; two-time Regional Champion

Service and Leadership

English Department Undergraduate Advisory Board, University of Pennsylvania, 2026–present
Student Manager and Tutor, The HUB Student Social Services Center, Gainesville High School, 2022–2025
Founder and President, Vietnamese Cultural Club; President, Chinese Club, Gainesville High School, 2021–2025
Chapter President, National Honor Society, Gainesville High School

Public Writing and Media

@ruruuco (TikTok and Instagram): short videos and photo essays on books, religion, style and student life. 11,700+ TikTok followers, 1.6M likes; 2,500+ Instagram followers (November 2026).

Selected Coursework

English: Poetry (ENGL 1045); Witchcraft (ENGL 1860). Classics: Greek History (CLST 0101); Rome in Film (CIMS 0085). Linguistics (LING 0500). Chinese through Intermediate (CHIN 0300).

Languages and Skills

Languages: Vietnamese (native); Mandarin Chinese (intermediate)
Digital: HTML/CSS, static-site publishing (GitHub Pages, Cloudflare), ArcGIS StoryMaps, AI-assisted development with Claude Code

References

Available on request.