Asian Studies

The School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences

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Degree Offered: BA

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary major that explores the national, regional, and local cultures of Asia, past and present, with a particular emphasis on the way that these diverse cultures interact with one another and with the rest of the world. The major is built around courses in the humanities and social sciences divisions as well as two team-taught interdisciplinary core courses, Introduction to Asian Civilizations and Perspectives on Modern Asia. Some residential college courses may qualify for Asian Studies credit.

Degree Requirements for BA in Asian Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements in this publication. The undergraduate Asian Studies major consists of 30 hours or more of course work. There are 3 basic requirements:

1. One foundational course: either ASIA 211/HART 211/HIST 206 Introduction to Asian Civilizations or ASIA 212 Perspectives on Modern Asia.

2. 9 additional courses drawn from at least 3 of the departments offering courses with predominantly Asian content. In the case of cross-listed courses, any one of the departments or programs appearing in the cross-listing can be used to satisfy this particular requirement.

Note: Of the 10 courses required for the Asian Studies major (that is, ASIA 211/HART 211/HIST 206, or ASIA 212, plus the 9 additional courses mentioned above):

- 4, but no more than 4, of the 10 can be Asian language courses.
  (For details on the Asian Studies language requirement, see #3 below.)
3. Asian Studies majors must have the equivalent of at least 2 years of coursework in a single Asian language (this may include an Asian language other than those offered by Rice). As indicated above, up to 4 Asian language courses can be used to satisfy the 10-course Asian Studies major requirement. Students who have placed into the third year (300-level) or higher of an Asian language will have satisfied our proficiency requirement for the major. If such students continue with the same language (or decide to take another Asian language), they, too, can count up to 4 of these Asian language courses toward the 10-course Asian Studies major requirement.

The following courses, not all of which are taught every year, may be used to satisfy the major requirements. Note that a number of these courses are cross-listed.

**Anthropology**
- ANTH 310 Contemporary Chinese Culture
- ANTH 327 Cultures of Capitalism
- ANTH 353 Cultures of India

**Asian Studies**
- ASIA 139 Introduction to Indian Religions (also offered as RELI 139)
- ASIA 140 Introduction to Chinese Religions (also offered as RELI 140)
- ASIA 179 The Arts of China
- ASIA 211 Introduction to Asian Civilizations (also offered as HIST 206 and HART 211)
- ASIA 221 The Life of the Prophet Muhammad (also offered as RELI 221)
- ASIA 230 Asian Religion in America (also offered as RELI 230)
- ASIA 231 American Metaphysical Religion (also offered as RELI 231)
- ASIA 232 Religions From India (also offered as RELI 232)
- ASIA 240 Gender and Politicized Religion (also offered as SWGS 240)
- ASIA 250 Meditation, Mysticism, and Magic (also offered as RELI 250)
- ASIA 280 The Asian American Experience
- ASIA 299 Women in Chinese Literature (also offered as CHIN 299 and SWGS 299)
- ASIA 315 Taiwan’s Films since 1980 (also offered as CHIN 315)
- ASIA 323 The Knowing Body (also offered as SWGS 323 and RELI 323)
- ASIA 330 Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry (also offered as CHIN 330)

**ASIA 331 South Asian Literature, Poetry, and Popular Culture I** (also offered as HIND 335)
**ASIA 332 Chinese Literature and its Movie Adaptations** (also offered as CHIN 332)
**ASIA 334 Traditional Chinese Tales** (also offered as CHIN 334)
**ASIA 335 Introduction to Classical Chinese Literature** (also offered as CHIN 335)
**ASIA 336 South Asian Literature, Poetry, and Popular Culture II** (also offered as HIND 336)
**ASIA 340 Gender and Politicized Religion** (also offered as SWGS 340)
**ASIA 344 Korean Literature** (also offered as HUMA 344 and KORE 344)
**ASIA 345 Origin and Development of Korean and Related Languages in East Asia** (also offered as HUMA 345 and KORE 345)
**ASIA 346 Korean Culture and History** (also offered as KORE 346)
**ASIA 350 History and Politics of Central Asia**
**ASIA 355 Religion and Social Change in South Asia** (also offered as RELI 355)
**ASIA 360 China and the Chinese Diaspora**
**ASIA 361 The Oriental Renaissance** (also offered as RELI 361)
**ASIA 363 Marriage of Heaven and Hell** (also offered as RELI 363)
**ASIA 372 Survey of Asian American Literature** (also offered as ENGL 372)
**ASIA 380 The Asian American Experience**
**ASIA 385 Chinese Art and Visual Culture** (also offered as HART 372)
**ASIA 389 The Indian Ocean World** (also offered as HIST 389)
ASIA 399 Women in Chinese Literature (also offered as MDST 379 and SWGS 399)
ASIA 401/402 Independent Reading
ASIA 422 Original Beauty of Chinese Literature
ASIA 432 Islam in South Asia (also offered as HIST 432 and SWGS 432)
ASIA 441 Popular Religion in the Middle East (also offered as RELI 441/525)
ASIA 470 Visual Culture in Revolutionary and Postrevolutionary China (ca. 1949-present) (also offered as HART 470)
ASIA 473 Topics in Asian American Literature (also offered as ENGL 473)

**Chinese**

CHIN 101/102 Introductory Chinese I and II
CHIN 201/202 Elementary Chinese I and II
CHIN 203/204 Accelerated Chinese I and II
CHIN 211/212 Accelerated Elementary Chinese I and II
CHIN 215 Classical Chinese
CHIN 301/302 Intermediate Chinese I and II
CHIN 311/312 Accelerated Intermediate Chinese I and II
CHIN 313 Advanced Intermediate Chinese: Media Chinese
CHIN 314 Contemporary China
CHIN 315 Taiwan’s Films since 1980 (also offered as ASIA 315)
CHIN 316 Texts from Popular Culture
CHIN 318 Medical Chinese
CHIN 321 Structure of Chinese: Syntax and Semantics (also offered as LING 321)
CHIN 322 Taiwanese Language and Literature
CHIN 330 Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry (also offered as ASIA 330)
CHIN 332 Chinese Literature and its Movie Adaptations (also offered as ASIA 332)
CHIN 334 Traditional Chinese Tales (also offered as ASIA 334)
CHIN 335 Introduction to Classical Chinese Literature (also offered as ASIA 334)
CHIN 346 History of the Chinese Language (also offered as LING 346)
CHIN 399 Chinese Teaching Practicum
CHIN 411/412 Advanced Chinese Language and Culture I and II
CHIN 422 Original Beauty of Chinese Literature (also offered as ASIA 422)

**English**

ENGL 372 Survey of Asian American Literature (also offered as ASIA 372)
ENGL 473 Topics in Asian American Literature (also offered as ASIA 473)

**Hindi**

HIND 101/102 Elementary Hindi I and II
HIND 201/202 Intermediate Hindi I and II
HIND 335 South Asian Literature, Poetry, and Popular Culture I (also offered as ASIA 335)
HIND 336 South Asian Literature, Poetry, and Popular Culture II (also offered as ASIA 336)
HIND 398/399 Hindi Teaching Practicum

**History**

HIST 134 20th-Century Chinese Women
HIST 206 Introduction to Asian Civilizations
HIST 219 Fortune-Tellers and Philosophers
HIST 220 Contemporary China (also offered as ANTH 220)
HIST 268 Bondage in the Modern World
HIST 270 South Africa and Indonesia
HIST 271 History of South Asia to 1857
HIST 272 Modern South Asia
HIST 302 Traditional Chinese Culture
HIST 310 Contemporary China (enriched version of HIST 220; also offered as ANTH 310)
HIST 319 Fortune-Tellers and Philosophers
HIST 320 Imperial Gardens
HIST 341 Premodern China
HIST 342 Modern China
HIST 389 The Indian Ocean World (also offered as ASIA 389)
HIST 405 Issues in Comparative History
HIST 432 Islam in South Asia (also offered as ASIA 432 and WGST 432)
HIST 450 Traditional Chinese Culture (enriched version of HIST 250)
HIST 493 Early Modern Islamic Empires

**History of Art**

HART 170 The Arts of China
HART 211 Introduction to Asian Civilization (also offered as ASIA 211 and HIST 206)
HART 372 *Chinese Art and Visual Culture* (also offered as ASIA 385, HART 372, and MDST 373)
HART 470 *Visual Culture in Revolutionary and Postrevolutionary China (ca. 1949-present)* (also offered as ASIA 470)

**Japanese**

JAPA 101/102 *Introduction to Japanese I and II*
JAPA 201/202 *Intermediate Japanese I and II*
JAPA 301/302 *Advanced Japanese Reading and Composition I and II*
JAPA 370 *Structure of Japanese* (also offered as LING 370)
JAPA 398/399 *Japanese Teaching Practicum*
JAPA 498/499 *Independent Study*

**Korean**

KORE 101/102 *Introduction to Korean Language and Culture I and II*
KORE 201/202 *Intermediate Korean Language and Culture I and II*
KORE 301/302 *Advanced Korean I and II*
KORE 344 *Korean Literature and Culture* (also offered as ASIA 344 and HUMA 344)
KORE 345 *Origin and Development of Korean and Related Languages in East Asia* (also offered as LING 345 and ASIA 345)
KORE 346 *Korean Culture and History* (also offered as ASIA 346)
KORE 398/399 *Korean Teaching Practicum*

**Linguistics**

LING 321 *Structure of Chinese Syntax and Semantics* (also offered as CHIN 321)
LING 345 *Linguistic Structure of Korean* (also offered as ASIA 345 and KORE 345)
LING 370 *Structure of Japanese* (also offered as JAPA 370)

**Medieval Studies**

MDST 370 *Introduction to Traditional Chinese Poetry* (also offered as ASIA 330 and CHIN 330)
MDST 373 *Chinese Art and Visual Culture* (also offered as ASIA 272 and HART 372)
MDST 375 *Introduction to Classic Chinese Literature* (also offered as ASIA 335 and CHIN 335)

MDST 379 *Women in Chinese Literature* (also offered as ASIA 399 and SWGS 399)

**Political Science**

POLI 250 *Political Economy of Gender* (also offered as SWGS 250)
POLI 460 *Seminar in Comparative Government*

**Religious Studies**

RELI 131/132 *Intro Tibetan Language and Culture I and II* (also offered as TIBT 131/132)
RELI 221 *The Life of the Prophet Muhammad* (also offered as ASIA 221)
RELI 230 *Asian Religion in America* (also offered as ASIA 230)
RELI 231 *American Metaphysical Religion* (also offered as ASIA 231)
RELI 232 *Religions From India* (also offered as ASIA 232)
RELI 250 *Meditation, Mysticism, and Magic* (also offered as ASIA 250)
RELI 322 *Introduction to Buddhism*
RELI 323 *The Knowing Body* (also offered as ASIA 323 and SWGS 323)
RELI 328 *Tantra in Comparative Perspective*
RELI 333 *Knowing Body/Glowing Mind*
RELI 335 *Religion and Social Change in South Asia* (also offered as ASIA 335)
RELI 356 *Major Issues in Contemporary Islam*
RELI 361 *The Oriental Renaissance* (also offered as ASIA 361)
RELI 363 *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (also offered as ASIA 363)
RELI 441/525 *Popular Religion in the Middle East* (also offered as ASIA 441)
RELI 470 *Buddhist Wisdom Texts*
RELI 480/580 *Sexuality, Sanctity, and Psychoanalysis* (also offered as SWGS 470)

**Sociology**

SOCI 323 *The Knowing Body: Buddhism, Gender, and the Social World* (also offered as ASIA 323 and SWGS 323)

**Tibetan**

TIBT 131/132 *Intro Tibetan Language and Culture I and II* (also offered as RELI 131/132)
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
SWGS 240 Gender and Politicized Religion
(also offered as ASIA 240)
SWGS 250 Political Economy of Gender
(also offered as ASIA 250)
SWGS 299 Women in Chinese Literature
(also offered as ASIA 299 and CHIN 299)
SWGS 323 The Knowing Body: Buddhism, Gender, and the Social World
(also offered as ASIA 323 and SOCI 323)
SWGS 340 Gender and Politicized Religion
(also offered as ASIA 240)
SWGS 399 Women in Chinese Literature
(also offered as ASIA 399 and CHIN 399)
SWGS 432 Islam in South Asia
(also offered as ASIA 432 and HIST 432)
SWGS 470 Sexuality, Sanctity, and Psychoanalysis
(also offered as RELI 480/580)

See ASIA in the Courses of Instruction section.