Asian Studies

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Core Faculty
Ricki Bliss, Ph.D. (Department of Philosophy); Thomas Chen, Ph.D. (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures); Connie Cook, Ph.D. (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures); Nandini Deo, Ph.D. (Department of Political Science); Yinan He, Ph.D. (Department of International Relations); Kiri Lee, Ph.D. (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures); Anabella Pitkin, Ph.D. (Department of Religion Studies); Rob Rozehnal, Ph.D. (Department of English); Nicola Tannenbaum, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology); Nobuko Yamasaki, Ph.D. (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures); and Yuping Zhang, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology).

The Asian Studies program provides undergraduates an opportunity to acquire a systematic knowledge of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. The program focuses on the rich historical and cultural heritage of the countries of Asia, as well as their growing importance in world affairs.

The overall program is administered by the Asian Studies Committee, an interdisciplinary body of faculty with special interests in the region. This committee oversees both the formal academic work within the program as well as extracurricular activities. It also cooperates with the Asian Cultural Society and other student organizations involved in Asian Studies.

The courses listed are regularly offered in the program and new ones are currently under development in several subject areas. (Consult the Registrar’s Schedule of Classes for specific offerings in any particular semester.)

Courses offered at other LVAIC institutions may be taken for credit by Lehigh students. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities that are offered by the Asian Studies program as well as extracurricular activities. It also cooperates with the Asian Cultural Society and other student organizations involved in Asian Studies.

MAJOR IN ASIAN STUDIES
The Asian Studies major is designed to accomplish three goals: to ground the student in a regional language and culture, to survey various disciplines in Asian Studies more broadly, and to provide advanced research opportunities. The program, when successfully completed, prepares the student for further graduate work, professional education, or employment in the public or private sector. There is an increasing demand for graduates who combine a major in a disciplinary field (e.g., business, economics, international relations) with a second major (or minor) in Asian Studies, including Chinese or Japanese language competence. Click here to view the Asian Studies major declaration form (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/asiastudies/asian_studies_major_declaration_supplement.pdf).

The major in Asian Studies requires a minimum of 35 credits. Students are required to demonstrate the intermediate language proficiency (Intermediate II) in an Asian language in addition to required course work as described below. The academic advisor is the director of the Asian Studies Program. Students may also request an advisor from among the Asian Studies faculty.

Core Requirements
Intermediate language proficiency
Humanities and Social Science

Six courses (minimum 24 credits) from the Humanities/Social Sciences course list or other courses approved by the Asian Studies program director, minimum one course must be at 300 level, one course may be an advanced Asian language course

Study Abroad
Capstone Project. Students are required to exhibit using primary source of materials under supervision of faculty member.

Pre-thesis (spring) 4
Senior thesis (fall) 4

Total Credits 35-36

1 Other suitable courses at LVAIC or other approved institutions in the United States or courses in approved study abroad programs in Asia may be substituted with the Director’s approval.
2 Courses in Chinese, Japanese or other Asian language may apply as program electives with approval of the Program Director.
3 If study abroad is difficult academically or financially, other arrangements can be made upon major advisor’s approval.

MINOR IN ASIAN STUDIES
The minor in Asian Studies is intended to complement a student’s major field of study and it is flexible according to individual needs. Students are free to survey the field broadly or concentrate in a specific area such as Chinese or Japanese studies. The minor comprises a minimum of 4 courses (16 credits) in Asian studies, chosen from an approved list in consultation with the director of the Asian Studies Program.

While students minoring in Asian Studies are encouraged to study languages, only 8 credits of language study count towards the Asian Studies minor. Students interested only in language study are encouraged to minor in Chinese or Japanese language (see MLL (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/modernlanguagesandliteratures)). To declare a minor in Asian Studies, students must complete a minor declaration form. (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/coursesprogramsandcurricula/artsandsciences/asianstudies/Asian_Studies_Minor_Declaration_Form_2017-18.pdf)

HUMANITIES and SOCIAL SCIENCES COURSES
Each semester, a complete list of Asian Studies course offerings can be found on the web site or available in the Office of Interdisciplinary Programs, Williams Hall, Suite 101.

ASIA/PHIL/REL 010 Intro to Buddhism: Love Death and Freedom 4
ASIA/REL 012 Mountains, Buddhhas, Ancestors: Introduction to East Asian Religions 4
ASIA/WGSS/MLL 015 Sex, War, Women, Art 4
ASIA/REL/MLL 056 Monkey Business 4
ASIA/REL 060 Religions of South Asia 4
ASIA/IR 061 East Asian International Relations 4
ASIA/IR 063 U.S.-China Relations 4
ASIA/IR 066 Japan in a Changing World 4
ASIA/MLL 068 Japanese Language: Past and Present 4
ASIA/MLL/WGSS 073 Film, Fiction, and Gender in Modern China 4
ASIA/MLL 074 Chinese Cultural Program 1-8
ASIA/HIST/MLL 075 Chinese Civilization 4
ASIA/HIST/MLL 076 Understanding Contemporary China 4
ASIA/GS/REL 077 The Islamic Tradition 4
ASIA/MLL 078 Asian-American Studies 4
ASIA 091 Elementary Asian Language and Culture Abroad 1-8
ASIA/MLL/REL 110 Drinking and Immortality 4
ASIA/SOC 114 Social Issues in Contemporary China 4

Asian Studies 1
ASIA/MALL 127  ORIENTations: Approaches to Modern Asia  4

ASIA/PHIL 140  Eastern Philosophy  4

ASIA/PHIL 142  Zen and Art of the Everyday  4

ASIA/REL/GS 145  Islam and the Modern World  4

ASIA/REL/GS 147  Pilgrims, Bandits, Traders, Nuns: Traveling Religious Identities in Asia  4

ASIA/REL 162  Zen Buddhism  4

ASIA/IR 163  U.S.-China Relations  4

ASIA/IR 164  Japan in a Changing World  4

ASIA/MALL 165  Love and Revolution in Shanghai  4

ASIA/REL 166  Religious Nationalism in South Asia  4

ASIA/REL 167  Engaged Buddhism  4

ASIA/HIST 170  The Last Samurai  4

ASIA/REL 172  Tibetan Buddhism and Society  4

ASIA/MALL 177  China Enters the Modern Age  4

ASIA/ANTH 187  Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia  4

ASIA/ANTH 188  Southeast Asian Migrants and Refugees  4

ASIA 191  Intermediate Asian Language and Culture Abroad  1-8

ASIA/POLS/GS 201  Democracy and Dictatorship in South Asia  4

ASIA/REL 220  Poet, Mediator, King: Classics of East Asian Religion  4

ASIA/REL 221  Topics in Asian Religions  4

ASIA/PHIL 240  Figures/Themes in Eastern Philosophy  4

ASIA/GS/REL 247  Islamic Mysticism  4

ASIA/REL/ES 254  Buddhism and Ecology  4

ASIA/REL/ANTH 337  Buddhism and Society  4

ASIA/POLS/GS 339  The Rise of the State in Modern East Asia  4

ASIA/HIST 340  Japanese Industrialization  3-4

ASIA/GS/POLS/AAS 343  Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa  4

ASIA/IR 364  Chinese Foreign Policy  4

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Students are encouraged to spend a summer, semester, or year in an approved study program in China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, India, or elsewhere in Asia. Students who wish to study abroad, and who wish to have the academic work taken in that program count toward a Lehigh degree, must have a GPA of 2.7 or higher, or a 2.7 average over the last two regular (spring or fall) semesters. Any student with a lower GPA may petition the Committee on the Standing of Students for an exception to this rule before applying to an approved study abroad program. These programs are open to all LVAIC students subject to the regulations of their home institutions. For details on all programs, consult Study Abroad Office, Coxe Hall, 32 Sayre Dr., 610-758-3351, (www.lehigh.edu/studyabroad) Asian Studies offers a limited number of study abroad travel grants.

Courses

ASIA 010 (PHIL 010, REL 010) Intro to Buddhism: Love Death and Freedom 4 Credits

This course will introduce students to Buddhist practices, philosophical systems, and cultural forms, from Buddhism's Indian origins to its spread in East Asia and Tibet. Students will explore how Buddhists have approached the problem of death, the possibility of freedom, and the forms of social and individual love and concern. Course materials include poetry, biographies, philosophical writings, art and film.  

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 012 (REL 012) Mountains, Buddhas, Ancestors: Introduction to East Asian Religions 4 Credits

This course explores the principal religions of East Asia, including Buddhism, Daoism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Shamanic Traditions. What is each tradition's view of human potential? How is ultimate reality depicted and experienced? What do home altars, boisterous festivals, and silent meditation halls have in common? Several primary texts are read in translation.  

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 015 (MLL 015, WGSS 015) Sex, War, Women, Art 4 Credits

Through the study of selected visual and literary works in their historical and social contexts, students will gain knowledge of cultures in Japan. This course examines various cultures from the perspectives of gender and sexuality as constitutive factors of Japanese society. Materials include a film depicting a romantic life of samurai, art works by contemporary artists, and writings on sex workers impacted by the Japanese empire. No prior knowledge of Japanese language is required. An introductory course taught in English.  

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 056 (MLL 056, REL 056) Monkey Business 4 Credits

The search for immortality by Monkey, kongfu master and mischievous monk, is one of the most popular tales in Asia. A combination of comedy and religious quest, the traditional novel "Journey to the West" is filled with tricks and lively storytelling that teach without preaching. The class will read the entire novel looking carefully at the social context of its production but also its timeless lessons for transcendence.  

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 060 (REL 060) Religions of South Asia 4 Credits

A thematic introduction to the foundational religious traditions of South Asia: Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Islam. Students explore the social and spiritual dimensions of these religious worlds through scripture, ritual practices, narrative and teaching traditions, music and art.  

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 061 (IR 061) East Asian International Relations 4 Credits

Introduction to East Asian international relations, with emphasis on post-1945 period: historical background of Asian international system; Cold War conflicts; China's rise and regional responses; Japan's changing international role; the two Koreas; ASEAN and Asian regionalism; U.S. and Russian policies; current and future issues.  

Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 063 (IR 063) U.S.-China Relations 4 Credits

Introduction and analysis of the historical context and key aspects of contemporary US-China relations: Cold War US containment, rapprochement and diplomatic normalization; American arms sale and the Taiwan controversy; conflict and cooperation in the Korean Peninsula; economic interdependence and frictions; human rights and security relations; Asian regional disputes. Students may not receive credit for both IR/ASIA 063 and IR/ASIA 163.  

Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 066 (IR 066) Japan in a Changing World 4 Credits

This course explores Japanese foreign policy through its historical and international context; domestic determinants; foreign and security policymaking processes; policy toward major regional players; foreign economic policy; current grand strategic debates.  

ASIA 068 (MLL 068) Japanese Language: Past and Present 4 Credits

Historical and contemporary aspects of the Japanese language, including the origins of Japanese in relation to Korean, the influence of Chinese, syntactic features which reflect the hierarchical character of Japanese society, differences in female and male speech, and use of foreign loan words.  

Prerequisites: (JPNS 001)

Attribute/Distribution: HU
ASIA 073 (MLL 073, WGSS 073) Film, Fiction, and Gender in Modern China 4 Credits
Study of the struggle for an individual “modern” identity out of traditionally defined roles for men and women as depicted by Chinese writers and filmmakers. Class, texts, and films in English. Students interested in setting up a corollary Chinese language component for credit as CHIN 371 or CHIN 251, may discuss this possibility with the professor.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 074 (MLL 074) Chinese Cultural Program 1-8 Credits
A summer program in China, taught in English.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 075 (HIST 075, MLL 075) Chinese Civilization 4 Credits
The development of traditional Chinese thought, beliefs, technology, and institutions from a historical perspective.
Attribute/Distribution: SS, HU

ASIA 076 (HIST 076, MLL 076) Understanding Contemporary China 4 Credits
An overview of recent history, politics, economy, religion, problems of modernization, popular culture, and attitudes. Contemporary Chinese society viewed against the backdrop of tradition and the tumultuous history of twentieth-century China.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 077 (GS 077, REL 077) The Islamic Tradition 4 Credits
A thematic introduction to Islamic history, doctrine and practice. Topics include: Qur'an; prophecy and sacred history; ritual practices; community life; legal interpretation; art and aesthetics; mysticism; politics and polemics.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 078 (MLL 078) Asian-American Studies 4 Credits
A survey of issues concerning Asians living in the United States from the perspectives of history, language, literature, and film.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 079 (DES 079) Digital Bridges 2 Credits
Run as an independent study; research ancient Chinese bridges, gardens, and pavilions. Digitize images and website design. Create photographic documentation of the Bridge Project. Produce documentary from historical materials concerning history of Chinese students at Lehigh. Bridge Project students could continue project work in Shanghai and Beijing.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

ASIA 091 Elementary Asian Language and Culture Abroad 1-8 Credits
Elementary language and culture abroad other than Chinese or Japanese.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 110 (MLL 110, REL 110) Drinking and Mortality 4 Credits
This class explores modes of transcendence and their expression in literature and art, but most especially poetry. The primary focus is the role of drinking alcoholic beverages in traditional Chinese society and religion, but also on other modes and what is meant by the search for mortality - and the use of inner versus outer alchemy - will be examined.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 114 (SOC 114) Social Issues in Contemporary China 4 Credits
Dramatic Economic, cultural and social changes are underway in China today and have aroused much debate among social scientists East and West. The following social issues are critical for understanding China’s development trajectory: inequality and poverty; rapid demographic shifts; provision of health care services; provision of education services; and becoming an “information society.” We will explore how these issues intersect with old hierarchies in China, urban-rural differences, and gender differences.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 119 (GS 119, REL 119) The Podcast and the Lotus 4 Credits
Buddhism is increasingly a global phenomenon. Contemporary Buddhist teachers stay in touch with students via podcasts, WeChat, Twitter and Facebook. Buddhists from Singapore, Tibet, Japan, Mexico, Taiwan or Pennsylvania now meet via new technology. This class asks, how is Buddhism now a global religion? what effect has this had? How is Buddhism a “modern” religion? Students explore issues of conversion, modernity, globalization, new technology, migration and travel. Sources include autobiography, film, travel writing, political essays, interviews, social media, ethnography.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 127 (MLL 127) ORIENTations: Approaches to Modern Asia 4 Credits
A survey of the rapid economic, political, and social changes occurring in East, South, and Southeast Asian countries. How do the contemporary societies and historical traditions of Asian countries differ from the West? What distinguishes our perspectives on politics, individual liberties, civic responsibility, religious faith, the “pursuit of happiness”? How are Asians represented (or misrepresented) in the West, and how will the ongoing process of globalization change, and be changed by, Asian cultures?

ASIA 140 (PHIL 140) Eastern Philosophy 4 Credits
Survey of selected texts and issues in the eastern philosophical traditions. Attention will be given to the development and interrelations of these traditions as well as a comparison of western and eastern treatments of selected issues. Areas of focus may include Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 142 (PHIL 142) Zen and Art of the Everyday 4 Credits
The Japanese conception of beauty is strikingly different to our own: it is associated with impermanence, imperfection, and austerity. Moreover, attention to beauty pervades even everyday activities in Japan, such as wrapping purchases at the dollar store or putting out garbage. This course explores principles that guide the Japanese aesthetic sensibility with an eye to its expression in Japanese literature, film, and traditional arts, such as the tea ceremony and gardening.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 145 (GS 145, REL 145) Islam and the Modern World 4 Credits
Examines how numerous Muslim thinkers-religious scholars, modernists, and Islamists-have responded to the changes and challenges of the colonial and post-colonial eras. Special emphasis is placed on the public debates over Islamic authority and authenticity in contemporary South Asia.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 147 (GS 147, REL 147) Pilgrims, Bandits, Traders, Nuns: Traveling Religious Identities in Asia 4 Credits
This course examines religious networks linking Chinese, Tibetan, Himalayan, and Inner Asian people, places, and institutions to Asia and the world. We explore examples of 19th, 20th century and present day transnational religious identities, emerging from trade, religious travel and pilgrimage, refugee migrations, labor migrations, and modern day leisure travel. We consider religious identity, nationalism, transnationalism, and globalization, using literary, historical, and ethnographic sources, and film, video, and popular media.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 162 (REL 162) Zen Buddhism 4 Credits
Attribute/Distribution: HU
ASIA 163 (IR 163) U.S.-China Relations 4 Credits
Introduction and analysis of the historical context and key aspects of contemporary US-China relations: Cold War US containment, rapprochement and diplomatic normalization; American arms sale and the Taiwan controversy; conflict and cooperation in the Korean Peninsula; economic interdependence and frictions; human rights and security relations; Asian regional disputes. This is an advanced course on US-China relations. Students may not receive credit for both IR ASIA 063 and IR/ASIA 163.
Prerequisites: IR 010 or IR 061
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 164 (IR 164) Japan in a Changing World 4 Credits
This course explores Japanese foreign policy through its historical and international context; domestic determinants; foreign and security policymaking process; policy to major regional players; foreign economic policy; current grand strategic debates.
Prerequisites: IR 010 or IR 061
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 165 (MLL 165) Love and Revolution in Shanghai 4 Credits
This project-based course will examine human relationships and political-economic changes in Shanghai through the lens of literature, film, and a selection of other readings. Students will discuss the conflicts between and influences of pre-communist, communist, and capitalist systems as played out in the Shanghai urban arena.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 166 (GS 166, REL 166) Religious Nationalism in South Asia 4 Credits
This course explores the conflation and conflict of religion and politics in one of the most complex, dynamic and volatile regions on the planet (South Asia). Through literature, film and scholarly writings, students will examine the history of cooperation and conflict between the Muslim and Hindu communities in South Asia-from the movements for national independence to twenty-first century identity politics.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 167 (REL 167) Engaged Buddhism 4 Credits
Examines a contemporary international movement that applies Buddhist teachings and practices to social, political, and environmental issues. Topics include: important thinkers, forms of engagement, and areas of controversy.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 168 (REL 168) Buddhism in the Modern World 4 Credits
Explores contemporary Buddhism in Asia, America, and Europe. Topics include the plight of Tibet, Buddhist environmentalism, and the emergence of a socially engaged Buddhism. How are Westerners adapting this ancient tradition to address present day concerns.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 170 (HIST 170) The Last Samurai 4 Credits
Explores the revolutionary character of the political upheaval in 1868 that led to the fall of the ruling shogun and the dissolution of the elite samurai class. Examines both the causes of these major political and social changes and their continuing impact upon Japanese culture and society.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 172 (REL 172) Tibetan Buddhism and Society 4 Credits
This course examines the history, rituals, practices and art of the Tibetan Buddhist world, and the interaction of Tibetan Buddhism with the Tibetan Bon religion and Tibetan Islam. Students will explore film, autobiography, visual arts, and religious writings, asking, How has Tibetan Buddhism shaped Tibetan societies, as well as neighboring cultures in East Asia and Inner Asia? In what ways is Tibetan Buddhism now a global religion?
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 177 (MLL 177) China Enters the Modern Age 4 Credits
The collapse of the imperial order and China's agonizing transformation into a modern nation-state over the past 150 years. The impact of imperialism, war, radical social change, and protracted revolution on Chinese traditions, values, and institutions.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS
ASIA 247 (GS 247, REL 247) Islamic Mysticism 4 Credits
Sufism, the inner or 'mystical' dimension of Islam, has deep historical roots and diverse expressions throughout the Muslim world. Students examine Sufi doctrine and ritual, the master-disciple relationship, and the tradition's impact on art and music, poetry and prose.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 254 (ES 254, REL 254) Buddhism and Ecology 4 Credits
Buddhism's intellectual, ethical, and spiritual resources and reexamined in light of contemporary environmental problems. Is Buddhism the most green of the major world religions? What are the moral implications of actions that affect the environment?
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 291 Advanced Asian Language and Culture Abroad 3 Credits
Advanced language and culture abroad other than Chinese and Japanese.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 337 (ANTH 337, REL 337) Buddhism and Society 4 Credits
In this course we explore ways in which Buddhism is localized to become lived religions in Thailand, Tibet, Japan, and the United States. We examine how Buddhist practices are integrated into local traditions and how religious practices become part of the larger social, political, and value systems. Students will develop a comparative framework that includes Theravada, Tibetan, and Zen Buddhism.
Attribute/Distribution: ND, SS

ASIA 340 (HIST 340) Japanese Industrialization 3-4 Credits
Explores economic growth in the traditional economy, the rise of an entrepreneurial class, the importation of western technology, and the social, political and economic institutions which support industrial society since the early 19th century.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 361 Internship in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
Internship in public or private agency involved in some aspect of Asian studies. Individual faculty mentor. Written report required. Program permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

ASIA 364 (IR 364) Chinese Foreign Policy 4 Credits
Research-oriented seminar focusing on the sources of Chinese foreign policy preferences and goals, foreign policy decision-making processes; international implications of the rise of China, and the pressing regional and global issues that China is facing now and in the future. Consent of department required.
Prerequisites: IR 010 or IR 061 or ASIA 061 or IR 062 or ASIA 062 or IR 063 or ASIA 063 or IR 161 or ASIA 161 or IR 163 or ASIA 163
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 371 Advanced Readings in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
Directed course of reading and writing in advanced topic not covered in regular Asian Studies course offerings. Program permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

ASIA 386 Chinese Culture in a Multinational Workplace 3 Credits
Students explore the interaction between Chinese and non-Chinese cultures at a variety of work sites in the city of Shanghai, a port city that has involved people of many nationalities since its birth in the 1840s. This project-based course involves a faculty mentored practicum at one or more specific sites related to the student's own field or major, assigned readings, weekly electronic Course Site discussions, and a written summary of the experience.

ASIA 389 Honors Project 1-6 Credits

ASIA 391 Senior Seminar in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
Advanced seminar focusing on discussion and research on specialized subjects in Asian studies. Variable subject matter. Offered by faculty on rotating basis. Program permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

ASIA 399 Senior Thesis in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
Advanced, individual research project on topic agreed between faculty and student. Research paper and oral defense required. Open to Asian studies majors only. Program permission required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS