Asian Studies

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Core Faculty
Ricki Bliss, Ph.D. (Department of Philosophy); Connie Cook, Ph.D. (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures); Nandini Deo (Department of Political Science); Yinan He (Department of International Relations); Kiri Lee, Ph.D. (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures); Rob Rozehnal, Ph.D. (Department of Religion Studies); Nicola Tannenbaum, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Anthropology); 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, such as special lectures and seminars, films, performances, and exhibits.

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.

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 the Asian Studies faculty.

Core Requirements

Intermediate language proficiency

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<tr>
<th>Humanities and Social Science</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six courses (minimum 24 credits) from the list below 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</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA/REL 012 Introduction to Asian Religions</td>
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<td>ASIA/REL 060 Religions of South Asia</td>
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<td>ASIA/IR 061 East Asian International Relations</td>
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Study Abroad

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

Pre-thesis (spring)

3-4

ASIA/IR 062 US-China Relations
ASIA/REL 064 Religions of China
ASIA/REL 065 Religions of Japan
ASIA/REL 067 Japanese Civilization
ASIA/MLL 068 Japanese Language: Past and Present
ASIA/GCP/MLL/ WGSS 073 Film, Fiction, and Gender in Modern China
ASIA/MLL 074 Chinese Cultural Program
ASIA/HIST/MLL 075 Chinese Civilization
ASIA/HIST/MLL 076 Understanding Contemporary China
ASIA/GS/REL 077 The Islamic Tradition
ASIA/MLL 078 Asian-American Studies
ASIA 091 Elementary Asian Language and Culture Abroad
ASIA/SOC 114 Social Issues in Contemporary China
ASIA/MLL 125 Immortal Images: Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation
ASIA/MLL 127 ORIENTations: Approaches to Modern Asia
ASIA/PHIL 140 Eastern Philosophy
ASIA/GS/REL 145 Islam and the Modern World
ASIA/GS/REL 146 Islam in South Asia
ASIA/REL 160 The Taoist Tradition
ASIA/REL 162 Zen Buddhism
ASIA/MLL 165 Love and Revolution in Shanghai
ASIA/REL 166 Religious Nationalism in South Asia
ASIA/REL 167 Engaged Buddhism
ASIA/REL 168 Buddhism in the Modern World
ASIA/HIST 170 The Last Samurai
ASIA/MLL 177 China Enters the Modern Age
ASIA/ANTH 187 Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia
ASIA/ANTH 188 Southeast Asian Migrants and Refugees
ASIA 191 Intermediate Asian Language and Culture Abroad
ASIA/POLS/GS 201 Democracy and Dictatorship in South Asia
ASIA/REL 220 Classics of Asian Religion
ASIA/REL 221 Topics in Asian Religions
ASIA/REL 234 Buddhist Visions of a Good Society
ASIA/PHIL 240 Figures/Themes in Eastern Philosophy
ASIA/REL 247 Islamic Mysticism
ASIA/REL/ES 254 Buddhism and Ecology
ASIA/IR 263 Japanese Foreign Policy
ASIA/REL/ANTH 337 Buddhism and Society
ASIA/POLS/GS 339 The Rise of the State in Modern East Asia
ASIA/HIST 340 Japanese Industrialization
ASIA/POLS/AAS/GS 343 Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa
ASIA/IR 364 Chinese Foreign Policy
ASIA 062 (IR 062) US-China Relations 4 Credits
Introduction and analysis of the historical context and key aspects of contemporary US-China relations: Korean War, Vietnam War, and US containment; rapprochement and diplomatic normalization; Taiwan controversy; post-Tiananmen twists and turns; economic interdependence and frictions; security relations; human rights and environmental issues.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 064 (REL 064) Religions of China 4 Credits
History and meaning of the major forms of Chinese religion, especially Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism, Taoist mysticism, Buddhism (Ch’an/Zen), and popular religion.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 065 (REL 065) Religions of Japan 4 Credits
A survey of Japan’s diverse religious heritage and its impact on contemporary culture. Japanese approaches to the self, the world, and the sacred are considered in comparative perspective. Topics covered include: Shinto, Buddhism, Zen, Confucianism, the way of the warrior, folklore, and postwar movements.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 067 (REL 067) Japanese Civilization 4 Credits
This course explores the history and culture of Japan from the sixth century to the nineteenth century. How did Japan develop its distinct sense of self? What aspects of Japanese culture have gained recognition on an international scale? Special consideration is given to the rise of the warrior class, the flowering of religious expression, and the dynamics of family life.

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 (GCP 073, MLL 073, WGSS 073) Film, Fiction, and Gender in Modern China 4 Credits
Introduction and analysis of the historical context and key aspects of contemporary Chinese films and novels. The course examines the perspectives of history, language, literature, and film.
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: HU

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 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 125 (MLL 125) Immortal Images: Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation 4 Credits
Explore age-old themes in literature as diverse as pre-modern novels, ghost stories, poetry, divination manuals, and medical texts. Students interested in setting up a corollary Chinese language component for credit as CHIN 251, may discuss this possibility with the professor.

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 145 (GCP 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 challenges of the colonial and postcolonial eras. Special emphasis is placed on the public debates over Islamic authority and authenticity in contemporary South Asia.

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 146 (GS 146, REL 146) Islam in South Asia 4 Credits
A survey of the dynamic encounter between Islamic and Indic civilizations. Topics include: Islamic identity, piety and practice; art and aesthetic traditions; intercommunal exchange and conflict; the colonial legacy; and the politics of contemporary religious nationalism.

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 160 (REL 160) The Taoist Tradition 4 Credits
Consideration of the religious and cultural significance of Taoism in its various historical forms. Primary attention will be given to a close reading of some of the most important texts of the early philosophical tradition (e.g. Tao Te Ching, Chuang Tzu) and of the later religious tradition (e.g. Pao P'u Tzu and other selections from the Tao Tsang). Contemporary implications of Taoist thought will also be considered (e.g. "The Tao of Physics", "a Taoist on Wall Street", and "the Tao of Japanese Management").

Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 162 (REL 162) Zen Buddhism 4 Credits

Attribute/Distribution: HU

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 (GCP 166, GS 166, REL 166) Religious Nationalism in South Asia 4 Credits
This course explores the conflations 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 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 187 (ANTH 187) Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia 4 Credits
Peoples and cultures of Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines. World view, religion, economy, politics, and social organization.

Attribute/Distribution: SS
ASIA 188  (ANTH 188) Southeast Asian Migrants and Refugees 4 Credits
Focus on migrants and refugees from Southeast Asia to the United States; examines cultures and practices while in Southeast Asia, the migration process, and the ways in the people and their cultural practices have changed in the United States.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 191 Intermediate Asian Language and Culture Abroad 1-8 Credits
Intermediate language and culture abroad other than Chinese and Japanese.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 201  (GS 201, POLS 201) Democracy and Dictatorship in South Asia 4 Credits
Theories of democracy and democratization explored in the South Asian context. Relationship of democracy to economic development and identity considered. How do historical legacies and conflict shape contemporary outcomes.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 220 (REL 220) Classics of Asian Religion 4 Credits
Sacred scriptures of Asia and an introduction to the religions they represent. What do these texts teach about reality, humanity, divinity, and society? How is the path of spiritual practice presented in the different traditions?
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 221 (REL 221) Topics in Asian Religions 4 Credits
Selected thematic and comparative issues in different Asian religious traditions. May include Buddhism and Christianity, religion and martial arts, Asian religions in America, Taoist meditation, Zen and Japanese business, Buddhist ethics.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.

ASIA 234 (REL 234) Buddhist Visions of a Good Society 4 Credits
This course examines Buddhist visions of a better world. Present-day Buddhist teachers, most notably the Dalai Lama, propose “zones of peace,” advocate “a policy of kindness,” and exalt “compassionate consumption.” Are there wiser ways to pursue happiness? What is the relation between individual transformation and social transformation? Can we imagine a community guided by altruism and nonviolence? The process of contemplating alternative societies is also a way to achieve a clearer understanding of one’s own highest ideals.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 240 (PHIL 240) Figures/Themes in Eastern Philosophy 4 Credits
This seminar course will involve in-depth focus upon a major figure in Eastern thought or upon the Eastern treatment of a particular theme or set of themes. Content varies. Course Requirement: One HU-designated course in Philosophy at 100-level or higher.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

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 263  (IR 263) Japanese Foreign Policy 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 264 (GCP 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