Asian Studies (ASIA)

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 across Asia and globally. 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 (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 048 (FILM 048, HIST 048, MLL 048) Understanding Hong Kong 4 Credits
This course introduces Hong Kong, from its history as a vibrant British colony to its current status as a bustling territory mediating between China and the world. The learning objectives and outcomes consist not only of a knowledge of Hong Kong’s significance for global commerce and culture but also of the ability to analyze primary and secondary sources as well as to conduct independent research. Course materials are all available in English.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 053 (THTR 053) Bollywood Dance 2 Credits
Bollywood is a term compounded from “Bombay” (now Mumbai) and “Hollywood.” Bollywood dance is the movement form used in Indian films - a unique and energetic style inspired by Indian folk dance and Indian classical dance, Middle Eastern, and modern dance. Explore how each of these unique styles combine to create modern Bollywood dance. Learn the fundamental movements, gestures, and expressions that create the Bollywood dance aesthetic, and how they are applied in choreographed sequences.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 055 (THTR 055) Indian Classical Dance 2 Credits
Introduction to the history and practice of Bharatanatayam, a classical dance style of India. Understanding basic footwork, hand gestures, and body movements, and how they are combined to convey emotion, meaning, and imagery. Traditional repertoire, music, terminology, and the spectator’s experience of the dance.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 057 Globalization in Asia through Time and Space 4 Credits
Have you ever wondered about Asia? It covers a vast geographic territory; it is divided into East, South, and Southeast Asia and each sub-region contains numerous different ethnic groups, cultures and nations. The time span for these cultures is similarly vast going back to pre-history and continuing through modern times. The topics we investigate range from popular culture to technology, music, gender, languages, and so on. Students will have a chance to participate in hands-on experience sessions on these topics.
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 sales 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.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

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

ASIA 072 (MLL 072) Ghosts, Monsters, and J-Horror 4 Credits
What’s behind our fascination with the ghost stories? What are some of the social issues that the horror stories examine? What makes us afraid? Examining Japan’s long tradition of horror stories of ghosts and monsters, this course introduces students to various Japanese horror stories, ranging from the classical texts to “J-Horror,” and explores how contemporary forms of popular culture such as anime, manga, and films draw on, or depart from, the traditional images of supernormal beings.
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
This course reviews the evolution of Chinese culture from the Neolithic up to the end of the imperial age in 1911. While the framework is historical, students are exposed to all facets of what defines civilization, including social traditions, philosophy, religion, material culture, literature, art and architecture, military science, education, law, and institutional history. Students are encouraged to continue their study of China afterwards with the course on Modern Chinese Civilization.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

ASIA 076 (HIST 076, MLL 076) Modern Chinese Civilization 4 Credits
This course is an introduction to modern Chinese civilization from the end of the last dynasty, the Qing, to present times. Course objectives include understanding China’s tradition from dynastic empire to global powerhouse, reading and analyzing both primary and secondary materials, and debating critically on topics of broad concern in politics, economics, and culture. This course, though picking up where the fall course Chinese Civilization leaves off, can be taken independently.
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 099 Special Topics in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
A topic, genre, or intensive, research-oriented study of a subject or issue in Asian Studies not covered in other courses. Consent of Program Director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

ASIA 110 (MLL 110, REL 110) Drinking and Immortality 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 immortality - 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 115 (MLL 115, WGSS 115) 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 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 women artists, and writings on sex workers, impacted by the Japanese empire. Students will be exposed to feminist theories in this course; taking WGSS001 is recommended prior.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

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 130 (MLL 130, REL 130) Monkey Business 4 Credits
Read and discuss in English the premodern Chinese enlightenment odyssey, the Journey To The West, featuring the famous mischievous and magical martial arts master, the Monkey King. Familiarize yourself with a cultural icon that has entertained and inspired since the 16th century and continues to inspire spin-off dramas, comics, acrobatic and TV shows, movies, and video games.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

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 processes; policy toward major regional players; foreign economic policy; current grand strategic debates. Students may not receive credit for both IR/ASIA 066 and IR/ASIA 164.
Prerequisites: IR 010 or IR 061 or IR 063
Attribute/Distribution: SS

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 169 (REL 169) Enlightening Lives: Buddhist Auto/Biography in Asia and the US 4 Credits
How do Buddhists imagine a "good life"? Buddhist biographies, autobiographies, poems, paintings, and films from Asia and the US reveal how Buddhists describe an ideal human life, addressing love, art, war, religious awakening.
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 explores 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 173 (REL 173, WGSS 173) Sex, Celibacy and Sainthood: Gender and Religion in East Asia 4 Credits
This course explores themes of sexuality, celibacy, gender, and sainthood in East Asian religions. We will pay special attention to the experiences of religious women from many walks of life and time periods, from traditions including Buddhism, Daoism, and shamanism. Through film, poetry, autobiography, philosophical writing, visual art, and descriptions of visionary experience, students will encounter Buddhist and Daoist nuns, lay women, mothers, shamanic healers, oracles, activists, and royalty, from Tibet, Korea, Japan, China, and the U.S.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 186 (SOC 186) Understanding China through Films 4 Credits
We will use documentary and feature films to demonstrate how Chinese people experience and interpret social, political, economic and cultural changes. Through sociological interpretation of film, we will focus on education provision, migration, environmental concerns, gender relations, poverty, and changing cultural norms and values. We will explore how these social issues have been intensified with economic reform and how they intersect with major historical hierarchies in China.

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

ASIA 199 Special Topics in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
A topic, genre, or intensive, research-oriented study of a subject or issue in Asian Studies not covered in other courses. Consent of Program Director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

ASIA 201 (GS 201, POLS 201) South Asian Politics 4 Credits
Examines the politics of countries in South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives). Some of the key themes are 1) the lasting legacy of colonialism, 2) ways in which ethnic and religious diversity is managed, 3) distinctiveness of political institutions like parliament and constitutions in South Asia, and 4) how politics, economics, and culture relate to one another. The focus of the course changes each year in order to reflect current developments and student interest.
Attribute/Distribution: SS

ASIA 213 (MUS 213) Drums and Gongs: Asian Musical Cultures 3 Credits
A study of Asian music history, theory, aesthetics, and cultures through hands-on performance workshops, lectures, and seminars.
Attribute/Distribution: HU
ASIA 220 (REL 220) Poet, Meditator, King: Classics of East Asian Religion 4 Credits
Classic texts of East Asia and an introduction to the traditions they represent. What do these texts teach about reality, humanity, divinity, virtue and society? How is the path of personal and social transformation presented?
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 240 (PHIL 240) Eastern Philosophy Seminar 4 Credits
Advanced seminar in Eastern Philosophy. Content varies. Check department website for term-specific content. May be repeated for credit if the content differs. Student must have completed at least one Philosophy course at the 100-level.
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, ETH 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 256 (HIST 256, MLL 256, WGSS 256) Women in Pre-Industrial China 4 Credits
This seminar focuses on the role of women as defined by medical, philosophical, legal, historical, religious, literary and other Chinese texts from ancient through early modern times. Attention is how women contributed to the evolution of traditional Chinese civilization and culture. The course materials are in English.
Attribute/Distribution: HU

ASIA 257 (HIST 257, HMS 257, MLL 257) Traditional Chinese Medicine: Historical Perspectives 4 Credits
This seminar focuses on conceptions of the human body and health that evolved from the ancient through early modern times. Special attention is paid to healing strategies, the roles of healers and patients, and the evolution of a medical canon. The course materials are in English.
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 299 Special Topics in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
A topic, genre, or intensive, research-oriented study of a subject or issue in Asian Studies not covered in other courses. Consent of Program Director required.
Repeat Status: Course may be repeated.
Attribute/Distribution: HU, SS

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 339 (POLS 339) The Rise of the State in Modern East Asia 4 Credits
An examination of Asian nationalism in the construction of the modern state form in Asia.
Attribute/Distribution: 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 343 (AAS 343, GS 343, POLS 343) Global Politics of Race: Asia and Africa 4 Credits
An examination of the concept of “race” and its impact on domestic and international politics.
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 369 (GS 369, POLS 369, WGSS 369) Women’s Movement in China 4 Credits
We will examine the state-sponsored, state-directed mass movement for the liberation of Chinese women. Beginning with Confucian notions of mother/daughterhood, to imperial system, to the role of women in the founding and establishment of the Communist Party of China, to the participation of women and girls in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Gender equality issues have been a central focus of the Party. The class will look at post-reform era women's status and ask, “did the Party liberate women?”
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 381 Special Topics in Asian Studies 1-4 Credits
Advanced study of aspects of Asian studies not covered in regular course offerings. Individual faculty supervision. Research paper required. 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.
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