About the Program

The Asian Studies Program provides courses on Asian cultures, civilizations, and societies, in a broad range that includes East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, as electives for all students. The underlying assumption of all aspects of the Asian Studies Program is that the vast region labeled “Asia” is complex and diverse and that varied Asian peoples and institutions have greatly influenced, and continue to influence, human experience throughout the world. Faculty members with Asian language and area expertise are members of many different departments, and the Asian Studies Program brings together courses from multiple departments and programs for interdisciplinary engagement. In the subsidiary program of Asian Languages and Cultures (see below), students may major or minor in Chinese or Japanese. The program also offers the university’s unique Pacific Rim Study Abroad Program (see below).

The Asian Studies Program offers an Interdisciplinary Minor in Asian Studies. Students in the minor who demonstrate academic excellence and complete a one-semester senior thesis will achieve the added designation of Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar.

Students who graduate with the Interdisciplinary Minor in Asian Studies will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the cultural traditions and contemporary societies of Asia, and understand those cultures and societies within the Asian and world contexts;
2. Analyze, understand, and discuss coherently difficult texts about those Asian cultures and societies;
3. Formulate abstract ideas and write logically and clearly in English about those Asian cultures;
4. Make informed judgments about a world of many cultures and about their own society as viewed by others.

Subsidiary Programs

Asian Languages and Cultures Program

The Asian Languages and Cultures Program offers majors and minors grounded in a strong foundation of language and draws on the broad range of culture courses offered by the Asian Studies faculty. The program offers two majors and two minors, as well as Chinese and Japanese literature courses that fulfill requirements toward the Asian Studies Minor, and language courses that meet the university’s foreign language requirement. For information on major requirements, see the Asian Languages and Cultures section of this bulletin.

PacRim Program

The Pacific Rim Study Abroad Program (PacRim) is scheduled every three years, and offers a full academic year of courses taught at different locations in Asia. Students participate in the program through a process of formal application. Participants prepare in advance of the scheduled study-travel year by passing specified prerequisite courses in the Asian Studies Program.

Additional Opportunities

In addition to Asian Languages and Cultures and PacRim, the Asian Studies Program offers special opportunities for all students, including Charles Garnet Trimble Scholarships for continuing upper division students seeking the Asian Studies Minor or majoring in Japanese or Chinese, and Trimble scholarship grants for study abroad in Asia. Furthermore, the program provides a context for the Miki Fellowship for a post-graduate year in Japan and offers a postgraduate English-instructorship at Hwa Nan Women's College in Fuzhou, China. For students seeking to become Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholars (described below), Trimble summer research grants prior to the senior thesis are also available.

University Requirements

Asian studies courses are represented in the First-Year Seminar program (see list of courses, below), although these do not count toward the Asian Studies Minor. Several courses in the Asian Studies program are options in the core curriculum (in Artistic and Humanistic Approaches, as well as Connections), and Chinese and Japanese language courses meet the university’s foreign-language requirement. In general, any student may take any course offered in the program without related prior study (although some upper level courses have prerequisites, as indicated in departmental listings).

Requirements for the Minor

To qualify for the Asian Studies Minor, a student must meet the requirements specified below. While students self-select their participation in the Asian Studies Program through declaration of the Minor with the Academic Advising office, each student seeking the Minor should coordinate her or his program with the Director of the Asian Studies Program and is encouraged to select a primary or secondary advisor from among the faculty members in the program.

Minor in Asian Studies

The Asian Studies minor consists of five units, of which four are elective courses. Of the four electives two must be from the Humanities and two from the Social Sciences. One of the four elective courses must also be a core course chosen from a designated list. Detailed requirements are:

1. A total of four elective Asian Studies courses, two of which must be in the Social Sciences, and two in the Humanities.
2. Among these four electives, one must be a core course chosen from those listed below:
   a. ALC 205 Great Books of China and Japan (Humanities)
   b. ARTH 278 Survey of Asian Art (Humanities)
   c. PG 323 Asian Political Systems (Social Science)
   d. IPE 333 Political Economy of Southeast Asia (Social Science)
   e. A total of three units from the following:
      1. Asia 344.
      2. No more than two electives can be used to fulfill the requirements of a major or another minor.
      3. At least two of the four elective courses must be taken at the 300 or 400 level.
      4. Good academic standing upon entering the program, overall GPA in the program of 2.5 or above, and grades of C- or better in all program courses (no Pass/Fail).
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7. Upon approval of the Asian Studies Program Director, students may complete up to two of the required units of study for the minor when enrolled in a study abroad program in Asia.

Students pursuing the Asian Studies minor are encouraged, but not required, to participate in experiences such as internships, international work and study, or field research in Asia.

Variation of requirements is possible, as arranged with the Asian Studies Committee by way of the Director of the program. Courses applicable to the Asian Studies minor have no time limit.

Humanities Elective Courses in Asian Studies:
- ALC 205 Great Books of China and Japan (core course)
- ALC 215 Stories of the Strange: From Fox Spirits to the Monkey King in Chinese Literature
- ALC 225 Visualized Fiction: Cinematic Adaptations of Traditional Chinese Literature
- ALC 310 Death and Desire in Premodern Japanese Literature
- ALC 320 Self and Society in Modern Japanese Literature
- ALC 325 Chinese Cinema: Ideology and the Box Office
- ALC 330 Writing the Margins in Contemporary Japanese Literature
- ALC 345 Revenge and Retribution in Chinese Literature
- ARTH 278 Survey of Asian Art (core course)
- ARTH 367 Chinese Art
- ARTH 368 Japanese Art
- ARTH 369 Twentieth-Century Chinese Art
- ARTH 370 Buddhist Art
- ARTH 371 East Asian Calligraphy
- ENGL 356 Bollywood Film
- ENGL 361 South Asian Fiction
- HIST 245 Chinese Civilization
- HIST 248 History of Japan: 1600 to Present
- HIST 343 Law, Society, and Justice in China
- HIST 344 Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution in China, 1800 to the Present
- HIST 349 Women of East Asia
- HUM 330 Tao and Landscape Art
- MUS 321 Music of South Asia
- PHIL 311 Classical Chinese Philosophy
- REL 208 Yoga and the Ascetic Imperative
- REL 231 Korean Religions and Culture
- REL 233 Japanese Religious Traditions
- REL 234 Chinese Religious Traditions
- REL 300 Japanese: Power, Knowledge, and Spirituality at the Intersection of Species
- REL 328 Religion, the State, and Nationalism in Japan
- REL 332 Buddhism
- REL 333 Asian Women and Religion
- REL 334 Vedic Religion and Brahmanism
- REL 335 Classical Hinduism
- REL 336 Tantra and Alchemy

Social Science Elective Courses in Asian Studies:
- BUS 471 Business in Asia
- BUS 474 Business in India and South Asia
- CONN 395 China and Latin America: A New Era of Transpacific Relations
- IPE 323 Tourism and the Global Order (cross-listed as SOAN 323)
- IPE 333 Political Economy of Southeast Asia (core course)
- IPE 388 Exploring the Chinese Economy
- PG 323 Asian Political Systems (core course)
- PG 372 Japanese Political Economy
- PG 378 Chinese Political Economy
- SOAN 222 Culture and Society of Southeast Asia
- SOAN 225 Asian Medical Systems
- SOAN 304 Gender and Sexuality in Japan
- SOAN 335 Third World Perspectives
- SOAN 380 Muslim Cultures and Communities
- SOAN 416 Modern India and Diaspora

Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar
To qualify as a Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar, a student must meet the following requirements:
1. All requirements, as listed above, for the Asian Studies minor;
2. One-semester senior thesis: ASIA 489, or approved research seminar course in a department participating in the program (Art, Business and Leadership, Sociology and Anthropology, Economics, English, History, International Political Economy, Politics and Government, or Religious Studies);
3. Overall GPA in Asian Studies courses of 3.5 or above, grades of C- or better in all program courses (no Pass/Fail), and a grade of B- or above in ASIA 489 (or equivalent).

Pacific Rim Study Abroad Program Prerequisites
PacRim students must enroll and participate in ASIA 401, a Fall semester 0.25 orientation course, and ASIA 402, a full-unit preparation course taken by all PacRim students in the Spring semester before the travel year. PacRim students must also ensure that they have taken one additional prerequisite course beyond ASIA 401 and 402. This additional prerequisite course can be an Asian foreign language course (not including Arabic), or any course that counts towards the Asian Studies Minor (including ALC courses).

By completing all requirements for the PacRim Program, PacRim students will have fulfilled most requirements for the Asian Studies Minor or the Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar distinction.

Course Offerings
Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see “Frequency of Course Offerings” on page 10.


- SSI1 129 Mao's China: A Country in Revolution
- SSI1 130 Chinese Popular Stories to Awaken the World
- SSI1 145 Anime Bodies: Metamorphoses and Identity
- SSI2 157 Chinese Painting in the West
- SSI2 168 Zen Insights and Oversights

Connections courses. See Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this Bulletin for course descriptions (page 24).

- ASIA 344 Asia in Motion
- HUM 330 Tao and Landscape Art

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344 Asia in Motion This course explores the interactions of Asian peoples and the commodities, social practices, and ideas which they produce across borders, both political and imagined. The course crosses disciplinary borders, as well, drawing upon divergent materials from the humanities and social sciences in an attempt to do justice to
a contemporary context that could be called 'Asia in motion.' An under-
lying thesis holds that, since nineteenth-century colonialism, nations
in the 'West' and 'Asia' participate in a global, dialectical movement in
which notions of identity (national, cultural, ethnic, religious, territorial,
linguistic) share moments of fluidity and fixity. Satisfies the Knowledge,
Identity, and Power graduation requirement. Satisfies the Connections
core requirement.

401 PacRim Orientation 25 unit This course provides preparation and
pre-trip orientation for students selected to participate in the PacRim
Program. This course is the first part of a two-course sequence required
for PacRim students: in the Spring semester of the year prior to studying
and traveling in Asia, PacRim students will also enroll in ASIA 402, a full
unit course aimed at providing a shared academic foundation for course-
work on PacRim. Asia 401 will begin to prepare students to participate
in PacRim by ensuring that sufficient time and attention are devoted to
im-portant logistical, academic, and inter-personal issues. Prerequisite:
acceptance into PacRim program. Offered every three years.

402 Innocents Abroad: A PacRim Preparation Course The purpose
of this course is to prepare students for the year of study and travel
in Asia. The focus of this course is primarily on academic preparation
for the study-travel year in Asia, but will also include some practical
matters. Because PacRim welcomes and encourages stu-dents from a variety of majors and with varying background on Asia, this course
serves to ensure that all students on the trip have a shared foundation
for course-work on PacRim, most especially preparing students for
ASIA 495, the Independent Experiential Learning Project. This course
is required for all students participating in the PacRim Program and
serves as one of the two Asian Studies pre-requisite cours-es required
of PacRim students. Prerequisite: acceptance into PacRim program.
Offered every three years.

489 One-Semester Senior Thesis This course consists of inde-
pendent research and the preparation of a significant paper of original
scholarship. Each student seeking the Minor in Asian Studies as Robert
Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar must initiate a topic, identify a su-
pervising instructor in the Asian Studies Program, and develop a plan for
research, writing, and public presentation of the project. Alternatively,
a student may meet the one-semester thesis requirement for the
Distinguished Asia Scholar distinction in Asian Studies by an approved
research seminar in a department participating in the Asian Studies
Program.

491 PacRim Independent Field Research Students trace a topic in
multiple PacRim countries in order to develop a comparative, capstone
project. Course deepens intercultural comprehension and deploys eth-
nographic methods of data-collection and observation. Prerequisite:
Open to PacRim students only.

495 Independent Study An independent study allows a student to
pursue a specific topic not covered in existing courses, under the su-
pervision of a faculty member. A written proposal must be submitted
and agreed upon by the faculty independent study advisor. Prerequisite:
junior standing, a contract with a supervising professor, and department
approval.

Course Offerings: Asian Languages and Cultures
See listings under the Asian Languages and Cultures Program for
course descriptions and other relevant information.

ALC 205 Great Books of China and Japan (Asian Studies Minor
core course and Artistic Approaches Core)
ALC 215 Stories of the Strange: From Fox Spirits to the Monkey
King in Chinese Literature (Humanistic Approaches Core)
ALC 225 Visualized Fiction: Cinematic Adaptations of Traditional
Chinese Literature (Humanistic Approaches Core)
ALC 310 Death and Desire in Premodern Japanese Literature
(Humanistic Approaches Core)
ALC 320 Self and Society in Modern Japanese Literature
(Humanistic Approaches Core)
ALC 325 Chinese Cinema: Ideology and the Box Office (Humanistic
Approaches Core)
ALC 330 Writing the Margins in Contemporary Japanese Literature
(Humanistic Approaches Core)
ALC 345 Revenge and Retribution in Chinese Literature
(Humanistic Approaches Core)
CHIN 101/102 First Year Chinese
CHIN 201/202 Second Year Chinese
CHIN 216 Chinese Corner: Conversation
CHIN 230 Grammar and Articulation
CHIN 250 Culture and Communication
CHIN 260 Situational Oral Expression
CHIN 301 Across the Strait: Cultures in China and Taiwan
CHIN 303 Greater China: Commerce and the Media
CHIN 305 From Bamboo Grove to Cyberspace: Chinese Literary
Texts Now and Then
CHIN 307 Old and New China Through Film
CHIN 309 Phoenix Claws and Lion’s Head: Food and Chinese
Culture
CHIN 311 Chinese Thought: From the Dao to Mao
JAPN 101/102 First Year Japanese
JAPN 201/202 Second Year Japanese
JAPN 230 Kanji in Context
JAPN 250 Popular Culture and Society
JAPN 301 Third Year Japanese
JAPN 311 Communicative Japanese: The Harmony of Writing and
Speaking
JAPN 325 Shibuya Scramble Crossing: Developing Listening Skill
Through TV Drama
JAPN 360 Japanese through Fiction and Film
JAPN 380 Reading Modern Japanese Prose
JAPN 385 Not Lost in Translation: English to Japanese Translation