Asian Studies

Director: Carpenter (TRS)

Advisory Board: Abbas (HIS), Balasubramaniam (ECN), Carpenter (TRS), Carter (HIS), Fukuoka (POL), Yu (MCL)

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary major and minor that encourages, facilitates, and recognizes the study of Asia, broadly defined as the region from the Persian Gulf to the Philippines, including the present states of China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and the Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union.

Asian Studies students prepare themselves for graduate study or professional work by studying the language, history, culture, and politics of the region. Currently, departments including Fine and Performing Arts, History, Political Science, Theology and Religious Studies, Non-Native Languages, and Economics offer Asian Studies courses. Students are encouraged to study abroad in the region as part of their university program. The program offers a limited number of scholarships in support of such study.

Students are required to register and consult with the Director of the Asian Studies program, and may earn a major or minor in Asian Studies.

Asian Studies: Learning Goals and Objectives

**Goal 1:** Students will achieve Intermediate Low Oral Proficiency in an Asian language (by ACTFL standards).

**Learning Objective 1.1:** Students will be able to communicate effectively in an Asian language

**Goal 2:** Students will explore Asia’s importance in the world through interdisciplinary investigation of the histories, political systems, economies, cultures, and societies of Asia.

**Learning Objective 2.1:** Students will be able to apply a variety of tools, methods, and perspectives to investigate and interpret important aspects of the history, politics, geography, economics and culture of contemporary Asian societies.

**Goal 3:** Students will conduct research about Asia, evaluate data generated by multiple methodologies, and present their findings effectively.

**Learning Objective 3.1:** Students will be able to apply a variety of tools, methods, and perspectives to investigate and interpret important aspects of the history, politics, geography, economics and culture of contemporary Asian societies.

Requirements for the Asian Studies Major

**GEP Signature Courses (See Curricula): six courses**

**GEP Variable Courses (See Curricula): six to nine courses, including**

**GEP Overlays (See Curricula)**

**GEP electives**

**Major Concentration:**
The core of the Asian Studies program is the major. The Asian Studies major requires the following:

Intermediate language competency in an Asian language

Two “Foundational Heritage” courses

Seven electives courses

A Senior Seminar in Asian Studies

**Foundational Heritage**

HIS 206  Historical Introduction to East Asia
HIS 207  Historical Introduction to South Asia

These courses provide a broad overview of Asia, and will emphasize the fundamental background on which students will build in their later courses, including the basic linguistic, geographic, cultural, religious, and historical trends that have shaped East and South Asia.

**Electives and Concentration**
Students must complete a minimum of seven elective courses, reflective of their geographical area of concentration and exclusive of language courses at or below the intermediate level.

Geographic concentration: students must complete a geographical focus, with four elective classes in one of two geographical concentrations: East Asia or South Asia. This requirement may also be
satisfied by at least one semester of study abroad in the area of concentration.

To insure interdisciplinary breadth, elective courses must be selected from at least four different departments. In addition, electives must be distributed to ensure breadth of study, with at least one course taken from each of three categories:

Art (e.g., Asian Cinemas), Literature (e.g. Literature of South Asia) and Language (e.g., Japanese Film and Culture)

Philosophy and Theology and Religious Studies (e.g., Mahayana Buddhism)

Social Sciences (e.g., Asian Economies; Japanese Politics) and Business

To insure geographical breadth at least two elective courses must be taken outside the student’s concentration (whether East Asia or South Asia).

**Asian Studies Integrated Learning Requirement**

Asian Studies majors are required to take three integrated learning courses. Two of these courses must be Area Studies courses dealing with areas outside Asia. A third course must focus on methodology.

**Area Studies courses (2):**

These classes, which parallel the interdisciplinary nature of the major, afford students the opportunity to explore other major Area Studies fields (African Studies, Latin American Studies, European Studies) taught at SJU. This component complements the major by exposing students to comparative perspectives on history, culture, politics and economics, broadening their understanding of the world and of the place of Asia within it. Note that some of these courses have pre-requisites. These two courses should be selected from any two of the following three areas:

**African Studies:**

ECN 460: African Economies
ENG 482: Literature of South Africa
HIS 210: Historical Introduction to Modern Africa
HIS 211: Historical Introduction to Pre-Modern Africa
HIS 343: African Ethnicities
POL 335: South Africa and the Politics of Transition
REL 271: African and Caribbean Religions

**Latin American Studies:**

HIS 203 Historical Introduction to Latin America
HIS 303 History of Modern Mexico
HIS 304 Social Protest in Latin American History
THE 356 Liberation and Political Theologies

**European Studies:**

HIS 317 The Rise of the West 400-1000
HIS 318 The Italian Renaissance 1100-1600
HIS 319 Reform and Revolution in Europe 1510-1650
HIS 327 Transformations in Early Modern Europe, 1400-1800
HIS 329 Crime and Punishment in European History, 1200-1840
HIS 330 England from Danes to Tudors, 700-1485
HIS 337 History of Russia to 1861
HIS 338 History of Russia and the Soviet Union, 1861-1991
HIS 339 The Mongol Empire 1100-1500
HIS 340 Stalinism
HIS 348 Witchcraft, Law, and the Supernatural in Early Modern Europe
POL 334 Russian Politics

**Methodology Course (1)**

Asian Studies majors must also take a methodology course. Students will select from a menu of courses designed to introduce them to fundamentals of social science theory. The intent of this course will be to equip students with analytic tools that they may make use of in their Asian Studies courses. Note that some of these courses have pre-requisites. This course may be selected from the following:

ECN 101 Intro. Micro
ECN 102 Intro. Macro
ECN 311 Economic Statistics
ECN 321 International Trade
ECN 322 International Macroeconomics
ENG 415 Postcolonial Studies
ENV 105 The Environment
ENV 102 Environmental Theory and Ethics Seminar
MAT 118 Intro. Statistics
POL 113 Intro. Comparative Politics
POL 115 Intro. Global Politics
POL 117 Intro. Political Thought
POL 302 Machiavelli v. the World
POL 305 Politics, Ideology, and Film
POL 368  Global Gender Issues
POL 351  International Law & Organization
POL 352  Global Political Economy
POL 361  Theories of International Relations
POL 367  Ethics in International Affairs
SOC 211  Classical Sociological Theory

Senior Seminar in Asian Studies
The senior experience is designed to enable students to synthesize what they have learned during their time at SJU, and will typically take the form of a research seminar and/or thesis. The expectation is that these papers would be nominated to be presented at the Greater Philadelphia Asian Studies consortium conference each spring.

Language Requirement
All majors are required to attain intermediate language competency in their area of concentration. The language requirement may be satisfied in one of three ways.
1. Two sequential intermediate classes (1200-level) in the same Asian language (each course consisting of a minimum of three semester credit hours) at SJU or another US institution.
2. Language examination confirming intermediate-level competency
3. One semester language intensive study-abroad experience.
This requirement is seen as a minimum. The program encourages majors to attain fluency in an Asian language. Ideally, students will augment language study at SJU with an immersion experience of a semester or more. Part of the program’s endowment will be dedicated to funding student needs for study abroad.
For languages not offered at SJU (Hindi, Urdu, Korean, etc.), the program will help interested students find appropriate instruction at other institutions or abroad, unless and until SJU is able to offer these languages on campus.

Study Abroad
The Asian Studies program considers experience in Asia to be an essential means of understanding. All Asian Studies majors are expected to spend at least one term (fall, spring, or summer) in a study-abroad program in Asia. This requirement can frequently be met through programs with existing ties to SJU, including The Beijing Center (operated by a consortium of Jesuit universities) and Sofia University in Tokyo.

Minor
Students completing the Minor in Asian Studies fulfill a six-course requirement. To ensure the interdisciplinary nature of the program, courses must be taken from at least three departments, and no more than three courses from any one department may count for credit toward the minor. Although language competency is not required for the minor, language study is encouraged.

List of Approved Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ART 105</td>
<td>Arts of East Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHN 101-102</td>
<td>First-year Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHN 201-202</td>
<td>Second-year Chinese</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHN 301-302</td>
<td>Chinese conversation and composition</td>
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<td>CHN 310</td>
<td>Selections in Chinese literature</td>
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<td>CHN 470</td>
<td>Experiencing China</td>
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<td>ECN 475</td>
<td>Asian Economies</td>
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<td>ECN 477</td>
<td>Chinese Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>JPN 101-102</td>
<td>First-year Japanese</td>
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<td>JPN 301-302</td>
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<td>JPN 310-311</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 206</td>
<td>Historical Introduction to East Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIS 207</td>
<td>Historical Introduction to South Asia</td>
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<td>HIS 350</td>
<td>Exchange and Conquest in Modern East Asia</td>
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<td>HIS 351</td>
<td>Gender, Ideology, and Revolution in Modern East Asia</td>
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<td>HIS 352</td>
<td>Late Imperial China</td>
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<td>HIS 353</td>
<td>Modern China</td>
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<td>HIS 354</td>
<td>Japan Since 1800</td>
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<td>HIS 355</td>
<td>Colonialism and Nationalism in Southeast Asia 1600-1960</td>
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<td>HIS 356</td>
<td>Modern South Asia</td>
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<td>HIS 358</td>
<td>Contemporary China</td>
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<td>HIS 359</td>
<td>India and Pakistan: From Colony to Nation</td>
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<td>HIS 476</td>
<td>Seminar in Asian History</td>
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<td>HIS 481</td>
<td>Directed Readings in Asian History</td>
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<td>POL 332</td>
<td>Politics of Japan</td>
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<td>POL 364</td>
<td>The International Relations of East Asia</td>
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<td>REL 241</td>
<td>*Islam</td>
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<td>REL 251</td>
<td>Religions of Ancient India</td>
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<td>REL 261</td>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<td>REL 350</td>
<td>Yoga: Ancient and Modern Paths to Freedom</td>
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<td>REL 351</td>
<td>Indian Buddhism</td>
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<td>REL 352</td>
<td>Mahayana Buddhism</td>
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<td>REL 355</td>
<td>Immortals, Ancestors, Ghosts and Gods, Superhumans in Chinese Religion</td>
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<td>REL 356</td>
<td>Death and the Afterlife in Chinese Religion</td>
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<td>REL 357</td>
<td>Food Practices in Chinese Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 370</td>
<td>Blood, Sacrifice and Compassion: Female Deities in Chinese Religions</td>
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* These courses may be counted as auxiliary courses. To receive Asian Studies credit, a student must petition the committee on Asian Studies, which may approve the course if a substantial part of the student's work in the course emphasizes Asia.