

Asian Studies

Interdisciplinary

The Asian Studies Concentration at Kenyon is an interdisciplinary program that incorporates a variety of courses in anthropology, art history, history, language, music, philosophy, political science, religious studies, and sociology. The program also sponsors films, invites speakers to the College, and promotes other social and cultural events to stimulate campus awareness of the societies of East and Southeast Asia, India and its neighbors, and the Islamic world.

With Asia as its point of reference, the curriculum encourages students to deal with Asian peoples as actors on the scene of regional and world history, rather than as objects of non-Asian peoples, enterprises, and observations. An important goal of the concentration is the development of a critical understanding of the ways in which people of the interrelated regions of Asia have historically defined and expressed themselves.

The concentration in Asian studies comprises three elements: (1) at least one year of language study; (2) 1.5 units of coursework in selected areas of Asian culture, including an approved foundation course; and (3) a one-semester senior seminar. The concentration enables students to study formally the histories, cultures, and societies of Asia in a comparative and interdisciplinary format.

FACULTY

Ruth W. Dunnell, Director, James P. Storer Associate Professor of Asian History

Joseph A. Adler, Professor of Asian Studies (on leave)

Jianhua Bai, Professor of Chinese

Sarah Blick, Associate Professor of Art History

Nurten Kilic-Schubel, Assistant Professor of History

Maria E. Mendonca, Luce Assistant Professor of Asian Music and Culture

Vernon J. Schubel, Professor of Religious Studies

Wendy F. Singer, Roy T. Wortman Distinguished Professor in History

Anna Xiao Dong Sun, Instructor of Sociology and Asian Studies

Hideo Tomita, Professor of Japanese

Yang Xiao, Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Jie Zhang, Assistant Professor of Chinese

BEGINNING ASIAN STUDIES

First- and second-year students may begin almost anywhere. See the list of approved Asian studies courses.

Students hoping to spend all or part of their junior year in China or Japan should certainly begin to study the appropriate language in their first two years at Kenyon. New students interested in Asia who have not yet declared a major or a concentration are welcome to seek specific advice from any of the Asian-studies faculty members.

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS AND CURRICULUM

1. Language study

One year of instruction in a relevant Asian language is required. This requirement can be met by taking two semesters of Modern Chinese (CHNS), Japanese, or Sanskrit at Kenyon. The equivalent of one year of approved college-level Asian language instruction at another accredited academic institution will also meet the requirement, as will some intensive summer programs. With the prior approval of the director of the Asian Studies Concentration, a student may use a semester of intensive language study abroad to fulfill the language requirement. In the case of transfer students, credit will be accepted for a year of Asian language study with a grade of C+ or better pursued at another institution. If the program committee determines that a student possesses native proficiency in an Asian language, it will waive the requirement.

The program committee strongly recommends that students continue language study beyond the first year.

2. Area and disciplinary coursework

Students are required to take 1.5 units (three semester courses) about Asia other than language courses. These courses must be from the list of courses offered under Asian studies at Kenyon but may also include relevant courses taken in study-abroad programs. Students are strongly encouraged to build comparison into their curricular choices by taking at least one course representing a region of Asia different from that of their language study.

Courses not specifically focused on Asia will not be counted toward the concentration. Where any doubt arises, please ask a member of the Asian-studies faculty. Double-counting for the major and the concentration is permitted.

3. Senior Seminar: Asia in Comparative Perspective

This .5-unit course is required for students fulfilling the requirements for the Asian Studies Concentration and is open to other students on a permission basis. The course will be offered every spring under the direction of a selected Asian-studies faculty member and will meet in a seminar format.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Off-campus study in Asia is not required, but it is highly recommended. Students should consult Asian-studies faculty members and the director of international education for the numerous opportunities available to Kenyon students to study in Asia for one semester or a year. Summer language-study programs are also available for students who need to prepare for off-campus study or desire to learn an Asian language not offered at Kenyon (e.g., Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Vietnamese).

ASIAN STUDIES COURSE

ASIA 490. Senior Seminar: Asia in Comparative Perspective

Credit: .5 unit

The Asian studies capstone seminar is taught by Asian studies program faculty in rotation, and organized around a common theme that integrates the various disciplines and regions of Asia. Through readings, films, guest lectures, and other activities, the course will lead students to synthesize their academic and personal (e.g., off-campus) experiences in a broader comparative perspective. Students will produce work that examines one or more topics of their own special interest within the comparative Asian framework. Open to Asian studies concentrators and other students on a space available basis. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

COURSES THAT MEET ASIAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

CHNS 321. Advanced Chinese
 CHNS 323. Literature and Culture: Chinese Heros
 CHNS 324. Modern China Through Film and Fiction
 CHNS 111Y-112Y. Intensive Introductory Chinese
 CHNS 213Y-214Y. Intermediate Chinese
 HIST 156. History of India
 HIST 160. Modern East
 HIST 250. East Asia to 1800
 HIST 258. Ottoman Empire
 HIST 260. Medieval Islamic Empires
 HIST 262. Japan to 1850
 HIST 356. Vietnam
 HIST 452. Women and Gender in Chinese History
 INST 121. Globalization and Migration at Home
 INST 131. China in Transition
 JAPN 321. Advanced Japanese
 JAPN 322. Advanced Japanese
 JAPN 325. Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
 JAPN 111Y-112Y. Intensive Introductory Modern Japanese
 JAPN 213Y-214Y. Intermediate Modern Japanese
 MUSC 485. Indonesian Music Ensemble
 PHIL 212. Early Chinese Philosophy
 RLST 240. Classical Islam

RLST 250. South Asian Religions
RLST 260. Buddhist Thought and Practice
RLST 270. Chinese Religions
RLST 275. Japanese Religions
RLST 325. Women and Islam
RLST 350. The Mongols and the Medieval World
RLST 360. Zen Buddhism
RLST 440. Sufism
RLST 441. Islam in Central
RLST 443. Voices in Contemporary Islam
RLST 471. Confucian Thought and Practice
RLST 472. Taoism
SOCY 249. Knowledge of the Other

