

Asian Studies

Interdisciplinary

The Asian Studies Concentration at Kenyon is an interdisciplinary program that integrates coursework 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 understand 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 integrate their studies of the histories, cultures, and societies of Asia in a comparative and interdisciplinary format, through their participation in the senior seminar.

FACULTY

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

Joseph A. Adler, Professor of Asian Studies

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, NEH Distinguished Teaching Professor of Religious Studies

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

Anna Xiao Dong Sun, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Asian Studies

Hideo Tomita, Professor of Japanese

Yang Xiao, Associate Professor of Philosophy

Yan Zhou, Visual Resources Curator and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art History

BEGINNING ASIAN STUDIES

First- and second-year students may begin with any introductory course about Asia in history or religious studies or art history, for example, with relevant language study, or with ASIA 201, *The Silk Road*. For additional options, see the list of approved Asian studies courses, found at the end of the course description section.

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. Kenyon also has periodically offered courses in Classical Chinese. (See the program director with questions about using Classical Chinese to fulfill the language requirement.) 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 COURSES

ASIA 201 The Silk Road*Credit: .5 unit*

“The Silk Road” refers to a vast network of trade routes that connected East, South, and Southeast Asia with the Mediterranean region, North Africa, and Europe. While silk was one of the major products transported from China to the West as far back as the Roman Empire, the trade, especially in such other luxury goods as spices (from India) and gemstones (from western Asia), was active in both directions. Along with the trade in material goods, the Silk Road was the medium for cultural exchange. One of the prime examples of this was the spread of Buddhism from India into Afghanistan, China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. As an extensive and many-layered system of economic and cultural exchange, the Silk Road can therefore be considered a premodern example of what today we call globalization.

This course will survey the history of economic and cultural exchange along the Silk Road from prehistoric times to the present day. We will specifically examine geographic factors, the various ethnicities and empires that contributed to Silk Road history, the exchange of goods and technologies, the religions of the Silk Road, and the spread of artistic traditions across Asia. The general aims will be to enable students to think critically about Asia (or Eurasia) in a more holistic way, to understand the interconnections of our various academic disciplines, and to appreciate some of the rich cultural heritages and exchanges that have contributed to our world. No prerequisites. Offered every year.

*Instructor: Adler, Staff***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. Offered every spring.

COURSES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CONCENTRATION

ANTH 113.01: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ARHS 114: Introduction to Asian Art

ARHS 235: Art of China

ARHS 239: Contemporary Chinese Art

CHIN 111: Elementary Classical Chinese

CHIN 112: Elementary Classical Chinese

CHIN 115: Classical Chinese Literature in English

CHIN 211: Intermediate Classical Chinese

CHIN 212: Intermediate Classical Chinese

CHIN 371: Advanced Classical Chinese

CHIN 372: Advanced Classical Chinese

CHNS 111Y-112Y: Intensive Introductory Chinese

CHNS 213Y-214Y: Intermediate Chinese

CHNS 321: Advanced Chinese Language and Culture

CHNS 323: Literature and Culture: Chinese Heroes

HIST 156: History of India

HIST 160: Modern East Asia

HIST 161: East Asia to 1850

HIST 250: Special Topics: East Asia to 1800

HIST 258: Ottoman Empire

HIST 261: The Mongol Empire in World History

HIST 166: History of the Islamic World

HIST 262: Japan to 1850

HIST 353: Tibet Between China and the West

HIST 356: Vietnam

HIST 358: Imagined India

HIST 365: Middle East through Film and Fiction

HIST 370 Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East

HIST 450: Topics in Chinese History

HIST 452: Women, Gender, and State in China

INST 131: China in Transition

JAPN 111Y-112Y: Intensive Introductory Modern Japanese

JAPN 213Y-214Y: Intermediate Modern Japanese

JAPN 321: Advanced Japanese

JAPN 322: Advanced Japanese: Language and Culture

JAPN 325: Introductory Japanese Linguistics

MLL 101Y-102Y: Beginning Arabic

MLL 201Y-202Y: Intermediate Arabic

MUSC 206: Seminar in Ethnomusicology

MUSC 485: Asian Music Ensemble

PHIL 212: Early Chinese Philosophy

PSCI 346: Riots, Ballots, and Rice: Comparative Asian Politics

RLST 240: Classical Islam

RLST 250: South Asian Religions

RLST 260: Buddhist Thought and Practice

RLST 270: Chinese Religions

RLST 275: Japanese Religions

RLST 360: Zen Buddhism

RLST 440: Seminar on Sufism

RLST 443: Voices in Contemporary Islam

RLST 447: Islam in North America

RLST 471: Confucian Thought and Practice

RLST 472: Taoism

SOCY 221: Religion in Global Society

SOCY 249: Knowledge of the Other: Journey to the East