Program in Asian Studies
(Div I & II)
Chair: Anne Reinhardt, Professor of History

Advisory Committee:
- Sarah Allen, Chair and Associate Professor of Comparative Literature
- George Crane, Edward S. Greenbaum 1910 Professor of Political Science
- Kim Gutschow, Senior Lecturer in Religion and Anthropology/Sociology
- Aparna Kapadia, Associate Professor of History
- Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies
- Joel Lee, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- Man He, Assistant Professor of Chinese
- Christopher Nugent, Professor of Chinese
- Annie Reinhardt, Professor of History
- Li Yu, Professor of Chinese

The interdisciplinary Program in Asian Studies invites students to explore the vast and diverse area that is Asia through individually designed concentrations that can include coursework in anthropology, art, history, language, performance, political science, religion, and literature.

Students will have the opportunity to:
- Gain knowledge about the societies and cultures of Asia.
- Appreciate the diversity in, connections among, and interactions between, different regions of Asia.
- Develop in-depth knowledge of a particular aspect of Asia—thematically, disciplinarily, or geographically.
- Understand how “Asia” and “Asian Studies” have been constituted.
- Hone skills in research or creative endeavor.

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

The concentration is composed of six courses:
- one (1) required course: ASIA 210. This course draws upon interdisciplinary work from the humanities and social sciences that critically investigates how “Asia” and “Asian Studies” have been conceived and, in the case of “Asian Studies,” practiced as a field of inquiry. Ideally this course would be taken in the sophomore or junior year, after students have taken at least one Asian Studies related course.
- a three (3) course curricular focus, which could center either on a region or country interdisciplinarily (e.g. South Asia via history, anthropology, and art) or on a theme inter-regionally (e.g. Imperialism/Colonialism in Asia; Art and Performance in Asia). Each student would specify a curricular focus in consultation with a faculty advisor.
- two (2) additional courses relating to Asia. These courses may be used to further develop the chosen curricular focus, or to bring greater disciplinary or geographic breadth to the concentration. One or both of these courses may be Asian language courses.
- a research or creative project capstone and symposium. A research paper or performance/exhibit done within one of the courses included in the concentration. (This is not an extra course, but a requirement for a research or performance project as a part of the concentration). Senior concentrators will present their work to a gathering of fellow concentrators and faculty at the Senior Asian Studies Symposium, to be held in the Spring semester of each year. They will be asked to reflect upon how their projects fit into their Asian Studies concentrations, which will give them the opportunity to tie that work into their goals within the concentration and what they have gained from the concentration more broadly.

In order to maximize breadth, among the five classes that comprise the curricular focus and electives at least two (and not necessarily more) different disciplines and at least two regions or countries of Asia (China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia) must be covered.

STUDY ABROAD

With permission of the faculty advisor, as many as two courses from a study abroad program may be counted toward the concentration.
FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your program typically pre-approve courses for concentration credit?

Yes.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, complete syllabus including readings/assignments.

Does your program place restrictions on the number of concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes, two courses.

Does your program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your concentration?

Approved courses only.

Are there specific concentration requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes. ASIA 210 must be taken at Williams.

Are there specific concentration requirements in your program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

Not in particular. Students are always strongly encouraged to consult with the program faculty ahead of time to plan on what courses to take during study away and what courses to take upon return.

HONORS

For students interested in graduating with honors in Asian Studies, a thesis completed over one semester and a Winter is required, above and beyond the six-course concentration. Thesis proposals are due to the Advisory Committee in the Spring for a fall thesis in the next academic year, and in the Fall for a spring thesis in that academic year.

ASIA 103  (F)  Introduction to East Asian Art

Cross-listings:  ARTH 103

Secondary Cross-listing

This course offers an introduction to the artistic traditions of China, Korea, and Japan, from the prehistoric era to the present day. Following a chronological order, the course surveys important artworks that represent major developments in medium, style, and subject matter in the three cultures, while paying attention to the movement of objects and art techniques across the region. Key themes of the course include bronzes, lacquerware, ceramics, tomb building, Buddhist reliquaries, ink painting, wood-block printmaking, and timber frame architecture. Students will learn about the development of art and artisanal practices in East Asia, while gaining a broader understanding of the continuity and discontinuity of the local artistic traditions in relation to the region's history, politics, religion, and culture. East Asia boasts a history of art that stretches five thousand years. In addition to gaining an overview of important artistic traditions in the region through the lectures, students will develop visual analysis skills and engage with critical methodologies in East Asian art through closelooking exercises and discussion-driven case studies during sections. The course pays special attention to how the constant cross-cultural exchanges between China, Japan, and Korea contributed to the development of art in unique ways across time. What is the shape of "East Asian art"? How does art help define East Asia culturally? And what does it tell us about East Asia's past, present, and future? Exploring these questions through art, students gain an objectbased understanding of the civilizations in East Asia. The curriculum also integrates objects from the Williams College Museum of Art.

Class Format:  A viewing session at the Williams College Museum of Art.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Attendance and participation (25%), two 2-3 page artwork analysis essays (20%), four quizzes (10%), a midterm exam (20%), and a final exam (25%).

Prerequisites:  None

Enrollment Limit:  45

Enrollment Preferences:  Art history majors are prioritized if the course over-enrolls.

Expected Class Size:  30

Grading:  yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Secondary Cross-listing

South Asia, which includes the modern-day nations of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives, is often compared to the European continent. Regional societies in the Indian "subcontinent" are as distinct from each other as those of Italy, Germany and France. Similarly, they also differ in their language, dress, diet, rituals and politics. However, parallel to the wealth of diversity, South Asia also demonstrates a rich history of interconnectedness. This complex web of culture, language, religion and politics is best manifested in the arts of the region. How does visual culture reflect regional variations? How does a survey of artistic style and iconography help uncover networks of exchange across South Asia? What role did the arts play in the expression of religious traditions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Islam? With these questions in mind, this course is designed as a survey of the arts of South Asia starting with the height of the Indus Valley Civilization in 2600 BCE and ending in 1857 CE, a date that marks the cessation of independent rule in South Asia. Using the study of architecture, painting, sculpture and textiles, students will learn how to make stylistic and iconographic analyses, while also improving their art historical writing and analytic skills.


Prerequisites: none, open to all students

Enrollment Limit: 60

Enrollment Preferences: First years, sophomores and juniors

Expected Class Size: 48

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 105(D1) ARTH 105(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: In addition to a survey, the course also highlights the conceptual differences between the arts of South Asia and Western constructs of art and culture. The survey will analyze how South Asian art was codified and examined during the colonial and post-colonial periods, and how that understanding has come to define the field over the last century. The course will encourage students to challenge longstanding biases and assumptions when studying these artworks.

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 109 (S) The Art of Yoga: Practice, Philosophy, Politics, Possibilities (DPE)

Secondary Cross-listing

This course offers an immersive, interdisciplinary approach to hatha yoga, the branch of yoga that emphasizes bodily techniques for channeling energy, and achieving balance and quietude. It has been practiced and theorized variously in South Asia since ancient times. More recently, beginning in the late 19th century, it has been popularized throughout the globe, and has served as a source of inspiration for artists in various disciplines, including the theatre. Our work will follow four interrelated paths that will provide a broad context for our own experience and offer us tools for developing creativity: 1) We will dedicate ourselves to the careful study of the physical practice of yoga asanas, giving emphasis to biomechanical principles of alignment. Our study will include some basics of yoga anatomy; 2) We will study some allied philosophical principles, as they emerge from the Sanskrit text, Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, and some current commentaries on that text, by means of expanding the significance of our practice to
all areas of our lives; 3) We will attend to the cultural politics of yoga by discussing new scholarship on its ancient origins as well as critical inquiry about how issues of appropriation, Orientalism, and racism shape its current manifestations; 4) We will examine how artists have incorporated elements of yoga into their practice. To explore how yoga might support our own artistic and innovative thinking, we will pair our practice with creative exercises. In this way, the course aims to explore the relationship of theory and practice. It will be of interest to students in the arts and anyone interested in fostering artistry and the imagination. Students must be prepared to engage in a physical practice of asana, as well as commit to reading, writing, and discussion. No previous experience with yoga is required.

Requirements/Evaluation: Students will write 3-page weekly papers, either in response to readings or embodied exercises, or the tutorial partner's essay. Written feedback will be given by instructor. Students will be expected to demonstrate that they are regularly practicing outside of class both by the quality of questions they bring to our sessions together, as well as their continuous refinement of the poses. Students will not be evaluated in relation to a standard, but according to their own dedicated and steady progress with respect to the experience of yoga practice. The evaluation process includes attendance.

Prerequisites: Prospective students will be asked to submit an online form with questions about their interest in the class.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Preference will be given to first-year students.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Materials/Lab Fee: $50 for yoga mat, belt, and balls.

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
THEA 109(D1) ASIA 109(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout the course we will reflect on the ways in which the knowledge created through yogic practice and philosophy disrupts and provincializes European epistemological systems. Moreover, we will engage in critical inquiry into the ways in which the global popularity of yoga is shaped by colonial legacies of Orientalist representation, as well as contemporary modes of cultural appropriation and consumerism.

Spring 2025
TUT Section: T1 TBA Shanti Pillai

ASIA 111 (S) The Asia-Pacific War (WS)

Cross-listings: HIST 112

Secondary Cross-listing

The "Asia-Pacific War," as it is known in Japan, raged from the full-scale Japanese invasion of China in 1937 until Japan's total defeat in 1945. This war, though certainly tied to the Allied war against Germany and Italy, was viewed by many participants at the time as truly a war apart due to the immense distances involved, the gleeful, racism-fueled brutality on both sides of the conflict, and the resultant abuses of POWs, use of atomic weapons, and other atrocities. Students will explore the intersection of colonialism, racism and opportunism that fed the conflagration, and the remarkable rapprochement between American and Japanese former enemies immediately after the war. It will examine in depth the roles of China and the USSR in this conflict, which are often mentioned but functionally ignored in the West. It will cover the various warzones and home fronts, focusing as much as possible on conveying the experiences of participants through primary sources. It will likewise seek to bridge the analysis of the military and socio-political sides of this conflict, which are often treated as distinct, by drawing on key academic works in the field.

Requirements/Evaluation: Weekly meetings with professor and one peer partner; 5-page papers (6 total); 2-page critiques of partner's papers (6 total)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: History majors and Asian Studies concentration students, then everyone else.

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 112(D2) ASIA 111(D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will alternate weekly between writing 5-page tutorial papers and 2-page critiques of their peers' writing. Formal writing assignments throughout the semester will total at least 40 pages. Students will receive regular written feedback on their writing from the professor, as well as oral critiques from the professor and tutorial partners.

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Spring 2025

TUT Section: T1  Cancelled

ASIA 112  (S) Musics of Asia

Cross-listings: MUS 112

Secondary Cross-listing

This course offers an introduction to the great diversity of Asian music. Our survey will span from East Asia (China, Korea, and Japan) to Southeast Asia (Thailand and Indonesia) to the Indian subcontinent, Central Asia (Tibet and Afghanistan), to the Middle East (Iran and the Arabian peninsula), and will end with the extension of Asian music across North Africa and into Eastern Europe. Within this broad survey, we will focus on selected and representative musical cultures and genres. In each section of the course, aspects of cultural context (including music's function in religious life and its relationship to the other arts), will be emphasized. While our focus will be on the traditional and classical musics of these cultures, we will also consider the current musical scene. Encounters with this music will include attendance at live performances when possible.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on four tests and two papers

Prerequisites: none; no musical experience necessary

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: if overenrolled preference will be given to sophomores and juniors

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

MUS 112(D1) ASIA 112(D1)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies  MUS Ethnomusicology

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  W. Anthony Sheppard

ASIA 117  (F) Bombay/Mumbai: Making of a Modern Metropolis  (WS)

Cross-listings: GBST 117 / HIST 117

Secondary Cross-listing

Bombay or Mumbai is India's foremost urban center and is well known today as a truly global city. It is the heart of India's commercial life comparable in vibrancy and multiculturalism with the world's emerging cities like Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sao Paulo. What are the historical elements that contributed to the making of India's most modern and global metropolis? What are the antecedents of the modernity, the vibrant culture, dark underbelly and economic diversity that characterize Bombay today? What does the history of Bombay tell us about modernity in India and the emerging countries of the third world in general? This seminar will help students to answer these questions through historical materials on Bombay as well a wide range of multimedia sources including cinema, photography and literature. With a focus on the 19th and 20th centuries, we will explore themes like the commercial culture of a colonial port city, the modern public sphere, theatre and film, labor migration, public health and prostitution to understand what went into the making of this modern metropolis. The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to a wide range of historical sources and ways of interpreting them. The other objective is facilitating their understanding of the history of colonial and modern India through the history of its most important city.
**Requirements/Evaluation:** assessment will be based on class participation and weekly written responses to readings (2 pages), 2-3 short papers (4-5 pages), leading to an oral presentation and final paper (10-12 pages). All writing assignments are structured to build up the final paper.

**Prerequisites:** First years and sophomores only

**Enrollment Limit:** 19

**Enrollment Preferences:** first-years, and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar.

**Expected Class Size:** 12-15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (WS)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ASIA 117(D2) GBST 117(D2) HIST 117(D2)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Weekly reading response (2 pages), several short papers leading to a final research paper. Peer reviews and instructor feedback of all written work to improve writing skills and opportunities to write several drafts.

**Attributes:** GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies  GBST Urbanizing World  HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year

**ASIA 127 (F) Spring Grass: A Peek into Inequality in China (DPE) (WS)**

**Cross-listings:** WGSS 127 / CHIN 427

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Spring Grass (Chuncao) is a Chinese novel written by award-winning author Qiu Shanshan (1958-). Using the literary techniques of social realism, the novel chronicles the life of a young rural woman from 1961 to 2001. Spring Grass, the protagonist of the novel, was born in a rural village to a mother who preferred sons over daughters. At a young age, Spring Grass was deprived of the opportunity to attend school. Against all odds, she managed to marry for love, venture into the city, and become an enterprising migrant worker. This novel not only reflects the struggles of women in contemporary China but also captures the economic transformation of modern China since 1978 when the Reform and Open-Door Policy (gaige kaifang) was initiated. The novel was adapted into a television drama series and became an instant hit in 2008. This course takes an interdisciplinary, cultural studies and humanistic approach to studying a literary text, using literature as a means to help students better understand social and cultural issues. Through close readings of the novel, the eponymous TV drama series, documentaries, and films depicting rural life and women's roles in China, as well as in-depth discussions of both primary and secondary sources that deal with the cultural, historical, and socioeconomic background of the unfolding story of Spring Grass, this course aims to provide a window for students to examine the issues of inequality in the Chinese village and society at large. Why would mothers be harsh to their own daughters and bar girls' right to education? Why would young people leave their village and migrate to the city? Why would migrant workers leave their children behind in the village? Why would economic developments in China exacerbate the problem of gender inequality in society? Why would the ideology and cultural logic behind Mao Zedong's proclamation "women can hold up half of the sky" add more burden to women rather than truly liberate them? Why would city people discriminate against country folks? After taking this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the issues related to gender inequality (nannü bu pingdeng) and the urban/rural-gap (chengxiang chabie) in China. Throughout the course, they are also encouraged to critically think about how to achieve equity in different societies. This tutorial is conducted in either Chinese or English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST or WGSS and language learners wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** For all students, active participation in tutorial meetings and an online writing portfolio as the final project. For CHIN students, four 4- or 5-page tutorial papers and revisions in Chinese, four 2-page critiques. For ASIA/WGSS students, five 5-page tutorial papers in English, five 2-page critiques, one revised paper.

**Prerequisites:** For students registering under CHIN, the prerequisite is CHIN 402 or a language proficiency interview conducted by the instructor. For students registering under ASST or WGSS, there is no prerequisite.

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Enrollment priorities will be given to Chinese language learners who register under CHIN, and to freshmen and sophomores who register under ASST or WGSS.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
WGSS 127(D2) CHIN 427(D1) ASIA 127(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Writing is taught using the writing-as-process pedagogical approach. The writing process consists of invention, composition, and revision. Detailed writing prompts will be provided to students to generate and organize ideas for each essay. The instructor gives detailed feedback to students' drafts and students are required to turn in revisions. At the end of the semester, students will compile an online writing portfolio to showcase their best works.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The issue of "inequality," including both gender inequality and regional inequality is the driving force behind the readings and discussions of this tutorial. Students are guided to develop an empathetic way of interpreting a literary work that features a rural woman/migrant worker. They will critically analyze the sources of inequality in the Chinese cultural context and explore ways to address such inequality.

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 130  (S)  Basic Cantonese

Cross-listings:  CHIN 131

Secondary Cross-listing

An introduction to Standard Cantonese, a major regional language of southern China which is spoken by over 70 million people in Hong Kong, Macao, Guangdong, and Guangxi as well as by many overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, Hawaii, and North America. Due to the pervasive influence of Hong Kong as well as the economic transformation of Guangdong Province, the prestige of Cantonese within greater China rose steadily in the period 1980-2010 and it continues to be an important language today. Our focus in this course will be on developing basic listening and speaking skills, though some attention will also be paid to written Cantonese, including the special characters which have been used for centuries to write colloquial Cantonese, which have become even more widely used in Hong Kong since 1997. Since students will ordinarily possess prior proficiency in Mandarin, a rather closely related language, they should be able to attain in one semester approximately the same proficiency level that is attained in the first two semesters of Mandarin.

Class Format: dialog performance, drills, communicative exercises, oral reading, questions, and discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation is based on classroom performance, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam.

Prerequisites:  CHIN 202 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit:  12

Enrollment Preferences: Chinese and East Asian Languages & Cultures majors as well as Asian Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size:  12

Grading:  no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 130(D1) CHIN 131(D1)

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 131  (F)  Introduction to Japanese Formal Linguistics

Cross-listings:  JAPN 131

Secondary Cross-listing

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the theoretical study of the Japanese language. We will delve into various aspects of linguistic theory, exploring speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meaning (semantics). Throughout, we will primarily juxtapose Japanese with English to deepen our understanding. By the end, we will not only grasp the fundamentals but also gain practical skills to delve into applied linguistics with confidence. This includes areas such as language acquisition, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, language change, and cross-linguistic variation. While there is no prerequisite, having some proficiency in Japanese would enhance your experience.

Class Format: combination of lecture and discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, problem sets, a paper, a presentation, a mid-term exam, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

JAPN 131(D1) ASIA 131(D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

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Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01   TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm   Masashi Harada

ASIA 152 (S) Basic Taiwanese/Southern Min

Cross-listings: CHIN 152

Secondary Cross-listing

This course constitutes an introduction to Taiwanese, the majority language of Taiwan, which is essentially the same as the native language of Xiamen, China and environs. Different varieties of this language, which is also known as Amoy, Hokkien, Fukienese, and Southern Min are spoken by about 50 million people in Taiwan, southern Fujian, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore. Suppressed in Taiwan by the Japanese from 1895-1945 and by the KMT Chinese government from 1945 through the 1970s, Taiwanese—in both its spoken and written forms—has been experiencing a fascinating revival in recent decades. The most divergent of all the Sinitic languages, this language is of special linguistic interest because it has preserved a number of features of Old Chinese. Our focus will be on developing basic listening and speaking skills, though we will also study some of the special characters used to write Taiwanese. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Since students in the course will ordinarily possess prior proficiency in Mandarin, a related language, we should be able to cover in one semester about as much as is covered in the first two semesters of Mandarin. Classes will include dialog performance, drills, communicative exercises, and oral reading and discussion of written Taiwanese.

Requirements/Evaluation: classroom performance, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam

Prerequisites: CHIN 301 or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: if course is over-enrolled, preference given to majors in CHIN, EALC, JAPN and concentrators in Asian Studies

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 152(D1) CHIN 152(D1)

Not offered current academic year

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ASIA 153 (F) Japanese Film

Cross-listings: COMP 153

Secondary Cross-listing

From the swashbuckling samurai films of Kurosawa and delicate family dramas of Ozu to edgy cinematic experiments and a breathtaking range of animation, Japan has one of the most varied and exciting film traditions in the world. This course will introduce you to major periods, genres, and directors in that tradition. We will read film criticism that represents a range of approaches, but we'll focus particularly on learning and practicing the kind of close visual analysis that will allow you to build your own original descriptions of how a given scene "works." Throughout the course we will consider the relationship between classic cinema and popular genres like sword flicks, melodramas, psychological thrillers, and anime, focusing particularly on directors whose work seems to borrow equally from genre film and the artistic avant-garde. All texts are translated or subtitled. All levels welcome.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance & participation, a few short response assignments, two 5-page papers, in-class test
ASIA 162  (S)  Languages of East Asia

Cross-listings:  ANTH 162 / CHIN 162 / GBST 162

Secondary Cross-listing
A survey of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages in their linguistic and cultural context. Working with various types of multimedia including audio, video, animation, and texts, we'll take up the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and lexicon of these three major East Asian languages, including also their history and writing systems as well as how they function in the societies where they are spoken. Though the emphasis of the course is on linguistic description and analysis, there will also be an applied component, as part of which we'll learn several dozen common expressions in each language. Some of the questions to be discussed are: What are the similarities and differences among these three languages? How are and how aren't they related? How did the modern standard form of each develop and what is its relationship to any non-standard languages or dialects? How do these three languages reflect sociolinguistic phenomena such as gender, class, and politeness? How do the writing systems of these languages function and what is the role of Chinese characters in them? What has been the influence of Classical Chinese on Modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean? How have these languages changed due to influence from English and other languages? How are they used in Asian American speech communities? And what are the prospects for their future development, including the influence of computers and digital communications? While this course is not intended as a comprehensive introduction to linguistics, it does introduce many basic terms and concepts from that discipline.

Class Format: combination of lecture, discussion, and language practice
Requirements/Evaluation: three quizzes, two 2- to 3-page papers, an oral presentation, and an 8- to 10-page term paper
Prerequisites: none (lectures, class discussions, and readings in English; no prior background in linguistics or any Asian language required)
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: open to all with preference to first-year students and sophomores as well as majors/concentrators in CHIN, JAPN, EALC, ANTH, ASIA and GBST
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ANTH 162(D2) ASIA 162(D1) CHIN 162(D1) GBST 162(D2)
Attributes: Linguistics
Not offered current academic year

ASIA 195  (F)  Elementary Korean

Cross-listings: SILP 105

Secondary Cross-listing
Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language, be able to hold simple conversations, use a range of vocabulary related to daily activities and transactions, and gain familiarity with basic, frequently used grammatical structures and the writing system of the language. Students must be highly motivated in
self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

**Class Format:** Twice-weekly review sessions

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Written and oral mid-term and final exam.

**Prerequisites:** Sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Self-Instructional Languages Program in April.

**Enrollment Limit:** 6

**Enrollment Preferences:** Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study to receive credit.

**Expected Class Size:** 2-6

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** Minimum of two students, plus contracted tutor/examiner in order to schedule the course

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

SILP 105(D1) ASIA 195(D1)

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**Fall 2024**

LEC Section: 01 TBA Shaina Adams-El Guabli

**ASIA 196 (S) Elementary Korean**

**Cross-listings:** SILP 106

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Continuation in developing communicative skills, vocabulary building, and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures and writing. *Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course.* Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language, be able to hold simple conversations, use a range of vocabulary related to daily activities and transactions, and gain familiarity with basic, frequently used grammatical structures and the writing system of the language. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

**Class Format:** Twice-weekly review sessions

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Written and oral midterm exam and final exam.

**Prerequisites:** CRKO 101

**Enrollment Limit:** 6

**Enrollment Preferences:** Students who have completed CRKO 101.

**Expected Class Size:** 2-6

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** minimum of two students in order to schedule the course

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ASIA 196(D1) SILP 106(D1)

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**Spring 2025**

LEC Section: 01 TBA Shaina Adams-El Guabli

**ASIA 197 (F) Elementary Hindi-Urdu**

**Cross-listings:** SILP 103
Secondary Cross-listing

Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language, be able to hold simple conversations, use a range of vocabulary related to daily activities and transactions, and gain familiarity with basic, frequently used grammatical structures and the writing system of the language. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site. Both the Devanagari script of Hindi and the Nastaliq script of Urdu will be introduced throughout the year-long course.

Class Format: Twice-weekly review sessions

Requirements/Evaluation: Written and oral midterm and final exams.

Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Self-Instructional Languages Program in April.

Enrollment Limit: 6

Enrollment Preferences: Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study to receive credit.

Expected Class Size: 2-6

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: Minimum of two students in order to schedule the course.

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SILP 103(D1) ASIA 197(D1)

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 TBA Shaina Adams-El Guabli

ASIA 198 (S) Elementary Hindi-Urdu

Cross-listings: SILP 104

Secondary Cross-listing

Urdu script will be introduced as the course continues to develop communicative skills, vocabulary building, and familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures and writing in both scripts. Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. Students must be highly motivated in self-instructional learning, and will work with an outside tutor/examiner. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Class Format: Twice-weekly review sessions

Requirements/Evaluation: Written and oral midterm and final exams.

Prerequisites: CRHI 101

Enrollment Limit: 6

Enrollment Preferences: Students who have completed CRHI 101.

Expected Class Size: 2-6

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: Minimum of two students in order to schedule the course.

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 198(D1) SILP 104(D1)

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 TBA Shaina Adams-El Guabli
ASIA 201  (F)  Accelerated Chinese on Special Topics for Heritage Speakers

**Cross-listings:**  CHIN 200

**Secondary Cross-listing**

This course is tailor designed for students who already possess intermediate-level proficiency in speaking Chinese but lack the basic reading and writing skills, commonly referred to as heritage speakers of Chinese. They will make accelerated progress in their literacy skills through this course and be able to take either CHIN 202 or CHIN 302 in the spring semester. Adopting a semi-tutorial format (a mix of group classes and two/three-people classes), this course aims to provide differentiated instruction to heritage learners of varying proficiency levels whose Chinese speaking and listening abilities exceed their reading and writing skills. This tailored course will help students effectively expand their literacy skills while helping to solidify the linguistic foundation for continuous proficiency advancement. The main theme of the course is focused on the experiences of Chinese Americans in a global context. Students will gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture by way of individual projects that are meaningful and relevant to their intellectual interests. Students who are placed into CHIN 102 or 202 at the beginning of the fall semester should consider taking this course in the fall.

**Class Format:** Semi-tutorial format, students will meet as a large group in most weeks for linguistic development and two-to-three-people groups in some weeks for project-based discussions.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Active participation in class, homework, quizzes, essays, oral presentations, and a final project

**Prerequisites:** Students must complete the Chinese Placement Evaluation in GLOW before registering for this course

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Enrollment priority goes to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, concentrators in the Program of Asian Studies, and then to first-year students and sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 201(D1) CHIN 200(D1)

Fall 2024
LEC Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Cecilia Chang

ASIA 202  (F)  De-Centering Imperial China, 960-1800

**Cross-listings:**  HIST 212

**Secondary Cross-listing**

The history of China from 960-1800 can be told as the story of a continuous, enduring culture and polity. This long period was nevertheless one in which the definition and contours of "China" were constantly contested. In this survey course, we will examine the political forms, institutions, and developments in culture, society, and economy that are characteristic of the Song (960-1279), Yuan (1279-1368), Ming (1368-1644), and early Qing (1644-1800) Dynasties alongside the Inner, Central, East, and Southeast Asian polities and cultures which interacted with, accommodated and repeatedly conquered centers of Chinese power over this time (Tanguts, Khitans, Mongols, and Jurchens/Manchus, among others). Gaining a historical perspective on power relationships within this diverse region will help us to understand the different ways in which Asia participated in changing world systems throughout this period. This course combines brief lectures with discussion of predominantly primary source readings.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 3 short essays, midterm quiz, final exam or paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 40

**Enrollment Preferences:** History majors and Asian Studies concentrators if overenrolled

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 203 (S) Modern Japan

Cross-listings: HIST 203

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is intended to familiarize you with the history of modern Japan, the world's third-largest economy and a dynamic influence on global culture. We will begin during the Edo Period (1600-1868), during which feudal (e.g., the status system) and more modern (e.g., a consumer society) features of Japanese life developed alongside each other. We will then examine the Meiji Restoration and explore how the Imperial Japanese state led Japan through modernization into total defeat by 1945. The course then looks at economic recovery and societal change during the postwar period, taking us up to the present day. Students will become familiar with several significant shifts in interpretation of key aspects of Japanese history. We will cover the rise and demise of the erroneous "national seclusion" narrative, the legislation of Japanese Emperor's divinity, and the debate over Japan's supposed ethnic and cultural distinctiveness. We will focus especially closely on the roles of class, gender, imperialism and foreign contacts in modern Japanese history. You are expected to critically analyze assigned primary and secondary sources and to communicate your ideas to your classmates effectively both orally and in writing. You are also expected to collaborate with your classmates to complete group activities. You will also conduct limited original archival research.

Class Format: This class features an immersive simulation, in which students will simulate the Meiji Restoration. The final project is a collaborative research project and presentation working with Japan-related sources from Williams's Special Collections.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation, two 5-6 page essays, immersive simulation midterm, collaborative final research presentation

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: History majors, Asian Studies concentrators, then all others

Expected Class Size: 20-25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 203(D2) ASIA 203(D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 206 (S) Chinese Painting

Cross-listings: ARTH 208

Secondary Cross-listing

This course surveys the Chinese painting tradition, from the second half of the first millennium BCE to the present. Following a dynastic timeline, the course covers important painting genres including funerary, religious, figures and portraiture, landscape, ink, bird-and-flower, and oil painting and considers them in relation to the shifting historical and cultural context of China. Key themes of the course include the relationship between the art of painting and religious beliefs, political ideology, self-expression, premodern painting theories and criticism, and encounters between the East and the West. As is the case with other cultures, the art of painting in China is shaped by both the painter and its time. In addition to an overview of the history of Chinese painting, students will develop skills in visually analyzing the style, the composition, and the brushstrokes of various painting genres, while gaining an understanding of how painting responded to different historical and cultural conditions in China. The course also pays special attention to primary sources on painting, through which students will learn to think about Chinese painting in its original artistic and intellectual context.

Class Format: A painting viewing session at the Williams College Museum of Art.

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance and participation (20%), ungraded painting responses (due before every session, 20%), a short paper (4-6
pages, double-spaced, 15%), a mid-term exam (15%), and a final research paper with presentation (8-10 pages, double-spaced, 30%).

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Art history majors are prioritized if the course over-enrolls.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 206(D1) ARTH 208(D1)

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800

Spring 2025

LEC Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Ziliang Liu

ASIA 208 (F) The U.S. and Afghanistan: A Post-Mortem (DPE)

Cross-listings: GBST 208 / ANTH 208

Secondary Cross-listing

The United States attacked and defeated the Afghan Taliban regime over in the course of a few short weeks in 2001. Within a few years, the finality of that victory was brought into question as the Taliban regrouped and eventually reasserted itself as a formidable guerrilla army that the U.S. military could not easily defeat. At the same time that it was facing a more difficult military challenge than anticipated, the United States got bogged down in the process of nation-building, as well as efforts at social reform. This course examines the history of American involvement in Afghanistan, beginning with the Cold War when the U.S. used Afghanistan as a test case for new models of political modernization and economic development. We will go on to discuss the U.S. support for Islamist political parties during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s and the consequent rise of the Taliban, and the role of Afghanistan in the September 11th attacks and the "War on Terror" that followed. The course will conclude with a consideration of the impact and legacy of the two decades of nation-building and social reform carried out by the United States since 9/11.

Requirements/Evaluation: grading will be determined by class participation, two short (500 word) essays, and a 15-page research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors, Global Studies concentrators, Political Science and Asian Studies majors will get preference

Expected Class Size: 15-20

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 208(D2) GBST 208(D2) ANTH 208(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Among the topics relevant to power and difference to be considered in this course are the American support and later disavowal of Islamist political parties to advance US geopolitical goals, public relations efforts "to save Afghan women" after 9/11, and the uses and misuses of American military, economic, and political power to build a western-style democratic government and bring western-oriented social reforms to a society radically different from U.S. society.

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 209 (S) The Literature of Early China (WS)

Cross-listings: CHIN 217 / COMP 211

Secondary Cross-listing

From poems on forbidden trysts and tales of bloody battles to aphorisms about filial piety and essays on moral governance, the literature of early China spans a wide range of topics and genres. In this course we will read, discuss, and write about literary works from the period stretching from
approximately 600 BCE to the end of the Han empire in the third century CE, including poems, narratives, and philosophical works. All readings will be in English.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation is based on writing assignments (1 paragraph, 3-4 pages, 5-6 pages, and 8-10 pages) and participation in class discussions.

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; current or prospective majors in Comparative Literature; and current or prospective concentrators in Asian Studies.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: Counts as a core elective for majors in Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 217(D1) ASIA 209(D1) COMP 211(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write a series of progressively longer papers, each involving drafting, commenting, and revising.

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am Christopher M. B. Nugent

ASIA 210 (S) Approaches to Asian Studies

Home to over half of the world's population and to more than twenty of the world's largest cities, Asia has gained global prominence in recent years; the twenty-first century in fact has widely been deemed the 'Asian Century'. But what is Asia? And what does it mean to study this richly diverse region? This seminar will address these questions with the aim of introducing students to important theoretical topics and key concepts that are relevant to the comparative and critical study of Asia. We will consider the different ways of understanding "Asia", both in terms of how the term and the region have been historically constituted as well as facilitate understanding of some of the salient factors (geography, belief systems, economy and polity)--past and present--that make for Asia's coherence and divergences. We will also unpack the troubled notions of "East" and "West" and re-center Asia within the newly emerging narratives of global interconnectedness. Beginning with the evolution of the field, this course will equip students with the methodological tools to critically navigate their own specific regional, inter-regional, or interdisciplinary tracks in the Asian Studies concentration. Students should note that this is a methods course that will allow them to reflect on their engagement with Asian Studies, it is not an introductory or gateway course in Asian Studies. At least one Asian Studies course strongly recommended as a prerequisite.

Requirements/Evaluation: Two short papers (5-6); one longer final paper (10-15); discussion participation.

Prerequisites: At least one prior course related to Asia

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Asian Studies concentrators; seniors; juniors; sophomores

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Anne Reinhardt

ASIA 212 (F) Envisioning the Sacred: Representation and Religion in Christian and Muslim Cultures (WS)

Cross-listings: ARTH 215 / REL 211

Secondary Cross-listing

How did medieval Christians and pre-modern Muslims imagine the sacred and how did they give what they imagined pictorial form? How were these pictures used, both in public and in private life, and why? How did the art of these unique religious traditions forge connections between the visible and
invisible worlds? Paying particular attention to the function and experience of works of art within Christian and Islamic cultures, this seminar examines the evolution of devotional visual expression, while also exploring the problems sacred images generated in these distinct yet often overlapping traditions. Through readings and class discussion, the course will investigate, among other topics: the varied attitudes toward the representability of God in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity; the impact of earlier image traditions on the religious art of medieval Christians and pre-modern Muslims; the cult of the devotional image, concerns over idolatry, and the destruction of images; ideas about spiritual versus physical vision and their influence on the making and viewing of pictures; the relationship of sacred images to relics and to various aspects of organized ritual; and the possible roles played by pictures of the sacred in silencing or giving voice to dissent.

Requirements/Evaluation: Participation in class discussion; oral presentation; five 3-4-page papers, and a final 6-page paper
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Sophomores then juniors, but open to all
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: This seminar will be team taught, by Murad Mumtaz and Peter Low
Distributions: (D1) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 212(D1) ARTH 215(D1) REL 211(D2)
Writing Skills Notes: In this 200-level seminar, students will develop skills of critical reading and focus on how to craft clear and persuasive arguments of their own. To help them achieve these goals, they will receive timely comments on their written work, especially the five 3-4-page papers they will submit, with suggestions for improvement.
Attributes: ARTH pre-1800

Fall 2024
SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Peter D. Low, Murad K. Mumtaz

ASIA 213  (S)  Modern China, 1600-Present
Cross-listings: HISt 213
Secondary Cross-listing
China's presence continues to grow in our world today, but contemporary China also evinces complex contradictions: a market economy promoted by a nominally Communist government, extremes of urban wealth and rural poverty, increasing participation in the international community and intensifying nationalist rhetoric. This course examines China's historical engagement with the modern world to offer perspective on its current conditions. We will begin with the Qing (1644-1911) conquest of China and consolidation of a multi-ethnic empire, and investigate China's encounters with Western and Japanese imperialism, the rise of Chinese nationalism, Republican and Communist revolutions, and the often turbulent history of the People's Republic. Throughout, we will examine themes of social, economic, intellectual, and cultural change through predominantly primary source reading and analysis.
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, two short papers, two essays, a midterm and a self-scheduled final exam
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: open to all; preference to History or Asian Studies majors only if overenrolled
Expected Class Size: 30-40
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 213(D2) HISt 213(D2)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies  HISt Group B Electives - Asia
ASIA 215 (S) Foundations of Confucian Thought (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: CHIN 215 / REL 295

Secondary Cross-listing

How should people treat each other? What constitutes human nature and does it tend towards good or evil? How should we organize society, by focusing on laws and regulations, or on ritual and moral guidance? What is the nature of moral rulership? What is the proper relationship between the individual and larger units of society, from the family to the state? These are some of the key questions that the school of thought that has come to be known as "Confucianism" addresses. As the dominant moral and political philosophy for thousands of years in much of East Asia, Confucianism has shaped our world, past and present, in innumerable ways. In this class we will focus on the foundational texts of the Confucian tradition: the Analects (purported to record the words of Confucius himself), Mengzi (often romanized as "Mencius"), and Xunzi. Beyond those questions noted above, we will further examine how these texts construct their arguments; how they were first composed, compiled, and circulated; how they employ such key concepts as "humaneness" (ren), "moral power" (de), and "ritual propriety" (li); and how they functioned as part of the larger philosophical, linguistic, political, and historical context that we now think of as "early China."

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation is based on writing assignments (3-4 pages, 5-6 pages, and 10-12 pages) and participation in class discussions.

Prerequisites: None.

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Enrollment priority goes to current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; current or prospective Asian Studies concentrators; and Religion majors.

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 215(D1) REL 295(D2) ASIA 215(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Writing will include short writing assignments (1 paragraph, 3-4 pages, and 5-6 pages) that will involve drafts, feedback and revision, and one longer final paper of 10-12 pages that will involve close consultation with the instructor during the writing process.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Throughout the course we will examine how these texts deal with issues of differentials of power, both political and social, in a range of contexts. In particular, we will discuss how these texts conceptualize political and social power and how they see hierarchy and difference functioning in both beneficial and deleterious ways in society.

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 216 (F) Asian/American Identities in Motion (DPE)

Cross-listings: AAS 216 / AMST 213 / DANC 216 / GBST 214 / THEA 216

Secondary Cross-listing

The course aims to explore dance and movement-based performances as mediums through which identities in Asian and Asian American (including South Asian) communities are cultivated, expressed, and contested. Students will engage with how social and historical contexts influence the processes through which dance practices are invested with particular sets of meanings, and how artists use performance to reinforce or resist stereotypical representations. Core readings will be drawn from Dance, Performance, Asian, and Asian American Studies to engage with issues such as nation formation, racial and ethnic identity politics, appropriation, tradition and innovation among other topics. This is primarily a discussion-based seminar course, and might also include screenings, movement workshops, and discussion with guest artists and scholars. No previous dance experience is required.

Requirements/Evaluation: reading responses, in-class writing assignments, participation in discussions and presentations, two 5-6 page essays, and a final cumulative essay assignment.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: first years and sophomores

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AAS 216(D2) AMST 213(D2) DANC 216(D1) GBST 214(D2) ASIA 216(D1) THEA 216(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course introduces students to the role of performance in nation formation in Asia and the history of Asian Americans in the US through analysis of dance practices. Student will explore how race was central to the formation of Asian and the American nations, and how social and legal discriminatory practices against minorities influence identity and popular cultural practices. The assigned material provide examples of how artists address these inequalities and differences in social power.

Attributes: AAS Core Electives AAS Gateway Courses

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01    WF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Munjulika R. Tarah

ASIA 217  (F)  Premodern Japan

Cross-listings:  HIST 217

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is intended to familiarize students with the premodern history of Japan, roughly defined as before the Meiji Restoration of 1868 and the modernizing reforms it unleashed. We will examine the archipelago's natural environment and the human impact thereon. We will explore the creation of "Japan" as a coherent political and cultural unit, key figures and works of Japanese culture and the shift in cultural production from elite patronage to the market. We will examine the Imperial institution and gendered aspects of Japanese private and public life, tracing the changing role Japanese women played in both spheres. We will also pay close attention to the rise of the samurai, both as warriors and political elites, and Japan's relationship with foreign lands and peoples. Students will become familiar with several significant shifts in interpretation of key aspects of Japanese history, such as the growing appreciation of the roles of non-elites in history, and the shift away from the "national exclusion" understanding of Japanese foreign relations.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation; Semester-long immersive simulation, where groups of students produce bi-weekly, 2-page collective response papers (6 total); 5-6 page assigned reading-based and research papers (2 total); Final research presentation or self-scheduled final exam (1 total)

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: History majors, Asian Studies concentration students, then everyone else

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
AAS 217(D2) HIST 217(D2)

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01    Cancelled

ASIA 221  (S)  South Asia: Colonialism to Independence, 1750-1947 CE

Cross-listings:  HIST 221 / GBST 221

Secondary Cross-listing

What did colonialism look like in India, Britain's most valuable and populous possession for over two hundred years? How did the British establish their
rule over the vast subcontinent? And how did the people who lived there experience and finally overthrow colonial rule? This course focuses on the history of South Asia with the aim of providing an overview of the political and social landscape of the region from c. 1750 to 1947. This period spans the decline of the Mughal Empire through British colonial rule, South Asians’ struggle for independence, and the Partition of India. We will explore a range of themes including the rise of colonialism, nationalism, religion, caste, gender relations, and the emergence of modern social and political institutions on the subcontinent. In addition to reading key texts and historical primary sources on the specific themes, we will also work with a variety of multimedia sources including films, short stories and podcasts. One objective of this course is to introduce students to the different political and social processes that led to the creation of India and Pakistan; another is to teach students to think critically about the significance of history and history writing in the making of the subcontinent.

Class Format: This class is combination of lectures and discussions. Student participation will be an essential component of the class and the overall evaluation.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, responses papers (2-3 pages), mid-term and final exam.

Prerequisites: none; open to all.

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: history majors if the the class is overenrolled.

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option.

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 221(D2) HIST 221(D2) GBST 221(D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year.

ASIA 226 (F) Chinese Film and Its Significant Others (DPE)

Cross-listings: CHIN 226 / COMP 296

Secondary Cross-listing

From the first "wows" that the short films invoked at a Shanghai teahouse in 1896, Chinese films have made successive wonders that straddle reality and fantasy, technological modernity and shadow-making craft, aesthetic experiments and monetary yearnings, global investments and local interest. This seminar will explore the evolving relationships between Chinese films and five "significant others" that are central to film and film-making. Roughly following a chronological order, this course will examine 1) the effect of new technological developments (such as photography, sound, color, special FX) on film; 2) the tension between film and traditional modes of public entertainment (such as operas and shadow plays); 3) film's social role to affirm and contest gender, national, and class identities; 4) the need to garner differing sources of financial support (state funding, cultural entrepreneurs, and transnational capital); and 5) the circulation of Chinese films in the global market. Class materials include various genre films (melodrama, horror, martial arts, comedy, etc.), directors' notes, contemporary reviews, and scholarship in China and media studies. All materials and discussions are in English.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on 1) ACTIVE in-class discussion; 2) Pre-class discussion posts based on reading (Graded as Complete or Incomplete); 3) Three short papers (3 pages); and 4) the final group project (including a presentation, and a paper or other form of project. Students will be graded both individually and as a group).

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Comp Lit majors; those with Asian Studies Concentration.

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option.

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

CHIN 226(D1) ASIA 226(D1) COMP 296(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze the clashes and negotiations between Western
media technological modernities and Chinese indigenous understanding of shadows, visuality, and sound. By discussing various films produced from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other diaspora areas from 1920 to now, this course asks students to explore how cinema invokes (and erases) differences, and consolidates (and challenges) hegemonic notions of nation, gender, and class.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

ASIA 228 (S) Present Pasts: The Politics of Memory in Contemporary Chinese Literatures and Films (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: CHIN 428 / COMP 297

Secondary Cross-listing
What happens when memories, already slippery, are further massaged by literary and cinematic narrative strategies? How is the historical "pasts" remembered, forgotten, and subverted in a literary "presence"? This tutorial explores the politics of memory in contemporary literatures and films from the People's Republic of China (post-socialist era, 1978), Taiwan (post-martial law, 1987), and Hong Kong (postcolonial era, 1997). We will look at how literary and cinematic works in each of these "post" societies represent state-sponsored narratives of remembrance, dissidents' collective amnesia, and at the popular level, a playful yet cynical flirtation with politics. With close- and distant- readings of textualized and visualized memories, we will examine themes of nation and locality, public and private, mesology and mythology, amnesia and nostalgia, and diaspora and settlement in the PRC, Taiwan, and Hong Kong from the late 1980s until to today. Course readings include "root-seeking", "new realist", "avant-garde" and "hooligan" novels, examples from the Taiwanese small theater movement, and the transnational cinemas made by the fifth, sixth, and second new wave filmmakers from these three "post" societies. This tutorial is conducted in either Chinese or English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST or COMP and language learners wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, five 5-page papers, five peer-review and critique papers, revisions on selected papers.

Prerequisites: None for students taking the course under ASST and COMP 297; CHIN 402 or permission of the instructor for students taking CHIN 428

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; COMP majors; Asian Studies Concentration

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE) (WS)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 228(D1) CHIN 428(D1) COMP 297(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write a 5-page paper every other week for a total of five papers. On weeks when they are not writing papers, they are expected to critique their tutorial partner's paper as peer reviewers. Detailed writing prompts will be provided to students to generate and organize ideas for each essay. Students are also required to revise key paragraphs, sections, and papers throughout the semester.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course provides students with the opportunity to analyze and critique the following entangled modernist dualisms: present and pasts; memory and representations; diaspora and settlement; transnationalism and localism. By discussing texts produced from the PRC, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and other diaspora areas in these "post" societies, this course asks students to explore how literary and cinematic narratives invoke (and erase) differences, and challenge (and consolidate) borders.

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 230 Performance Practices of India (DPE)
This course explores ancient and contemporary performance practices in India. Our objects of study will include the text and performance of Sanskrit plays, contemporary and experimental theater productions, as well as forms of dance and ritual. We will discuss dramaturgical structure, staging, acting conventions, gender representation, performer training, the experience and role of the audience, as well as mythological and political themes. Thinking historically and ethnographically, we will seek to understand the aesthetics and social purposes of these practices, in addition to the relationship that performance has with everyday life, contested concepts of the nation, and caste. Throughout the semester we will interrogate the
ways in which Western categories such as "classical," "folk," "religious," "traditional," and even the distinction between "dance/theater/music/visual arts" are not indigenous or accurate concepts for organizing thinking about performance in this part of the world.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on participation in discussion, reading responses, an oral presentation, and one 10-page paper.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: preference for seniors and juniors

Expected Class Size: 12

Evaluation will be based on participation in discussion, reading responses, an oral presentation, and one 10-page paper.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: preference for seniors and juniors

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading:

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: We will examine British colonial edicts that prohibited performance practices as a form of social control as well as in the name of Christian morality. From here we will explore how upper-caste Independence era artists and leaders sought to reinvent the arts as vessels of "Indian" identity, at the cost of further marginalizing hereditary performance communities. We will also interrogate how the Indian state has promoted narrow visions of "femininity" and how artists contest religious nationalism.

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 234 (S) Arts of Tibet -- Sacred Abode of the Himalayas

Cross-listings: ARTH 234

Secondary Cross-listing

This course surveys the art and culture of Tibet from the time of the introduction of Buddhism in the seventh century to the modern period. Traditionally understood as the divine abode of Avalokitesvara, the bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all buddha in Buddhist cosmology, Tibet was also fantasized as the immortal realm of "Shangri-la" by western interpreters. In this course, we will begin by examining the imagination and representation of Tibet and its culture in modern western discourses, and then shift the focus to the development of artistic forms of Tibet in the context of Tibet's history and religious movements, from ancient times to the present.

Class Format: A viewing session at museums, possibly at the Williams College Museum of Art, the MFA Boston, or the MET, pending planning and approval.

Requirements/Evaluation: In addition to attendance and participation, students will be graded on two ungraded quizzes, one movie response (1-2 pages, double-spaced), one midterm, and one final project (curating a mock exhibition or a 10-page double-spaced research paper along with a prospectus and a presentation).

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: Majors and concentrations are prioritized if the course overenrolls.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARTH 234(D1) ASIA 234(D1)

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 239 (F) Taswirkhana: Technique and Practice of Indian Drawing and Painting (DPE)

Cross-listings: ARTH 235 / ARTS 244

Secondary Cross-listing

Small in scale but vast in its representation, the world of Indian painting is famous for its stylized naturalism and mastery of line. It is an artistic practice whose legacy stretches back to at least the first century CE. This studio course will introduce students to the technique and practice of traditional Indian drawing and painting. The course is designed as a workshop in which students will learn to use materials and techniques of this art form. By
engaging with a non-western traditional practice, the aim of the course is to expose students to a pluralistic engagement with art making. Students will learn paper and pigment preparation, as well as the basics of traditional drawing and painting techniques. The class will learn from studying a selection of original masterworks of Indian art from the Williams College Museum of Art that will be displayed in the Object Lab. Working with original artworks will help students situate the hands-on study of Indian painting practice alongside exemplary historical examples.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Class participation, discussions and critiques, successful completion of all assignments and attendance

**Prerequisites:** none, open to all students

**Enrollment Limit:** 12

**Enrollment Preferences:** Instructor permissions requires. If the course over enrolls preference will be given to studio art and art history majors.

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $400

**Distributions:** (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 239(D1) ARTH 235(D1) ARTS 244(D1)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** The course invites students to engage with a pluralistic studio practice that is in stark contrast to mainstream modern and contemporary art practices. The course will follow a traditional, Indian workshop-style format which has its own particular rules and unique visual vocabulary. From the material preparation of pigments, paper and brushes, to the techniques of drawing and painting, the course will introduce students to an alternative, non-Western, mode of art making.

Fall 2024

**STU Section:** 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Murad K. Mumtaz

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**ASIA 241 (S) Colonialism and Underdevelopment in South Asia** (DPE) (QFR)

**Cross-listings:** ECON 240

**Secondary Cross-listing**

British colonial rule in South Asia shaped economy and society in fundamental ways. As resistance to colonial rule emerged in the late nineteenth century, "nationalist" writers developed a critique of its economic impact via taxation, fiscal policy, trade, and many other policies. In their turn, supporters of British rule, "apologists," argued that British rule had laid the foundations of economic growth by securing property rights, enforcing contracts, and developing infrastructure. The debate between "nationalists" and "apologists" has never quite ended, but after the recent growth of the Indian economy it has lost some of its emotional charge. We will use this opportunity to revisit the controversy.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** essays (one every other week) and responses to partner's essays will be evaluated

**Prerequisites:** one course in ECON

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Economics major, prior course on South Asia

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2) (DPE) (QFR)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 241(D2) ECON 240(D2)

**Difference, Power, and Equity Notes:** Issues of difference, power, and equity are at the heart of any analysis of colonialism, hence the DPE designation.

**Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes:** Students will write six essays, in which they will employ economic models and engage with quantitative evidence, so the course satisfies the QFR requirement.

**Attributes:** GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies  POEC Depth

Not offered current academic year
Is religious identity necessarily singular and unambiguous? The jinn - Islamic spirits born of fire - are sought out for their healing and other powers not only by Muslims in India, but by Hindus, Christians and Sikhs, as well. In parts of Bengal statues of the Hindu goddess Durga are traditionally sculpted by Muslim artisans. Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Sri Lanka contain tombs of Muslim Sufi saints and shrines of Hindu deities. South Asia - where a fifth of humanity lives - provides some of the most striking examples of pluralism and religiously composite culture in our contemporary world. Yet at the same time, strident religious majoritarianism has been a defining feature of the politics of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for decades, and haunts Nepal and Bangladesh as well. Are these two modes of religious being - pluralistic and composite on the one hand, singular and majoritarian on the other - reflective of two different conceptions of selfhood? What if we turn from questions of community and identity to questions of unseen power and the sacred? This course is an exploration of lived religion in South Asia. It is simultaneously a study of popular Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam and an introduction to the anthropology of religion. Centered on in-depth studies of popular sites of 'syncretic' ritual practice (shared across religious difference) as well as studies of mass mobilizations that seek to align the religious community with the nation, we approach from multiple angles what the sacred might mean in modernity.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly (1 page) posts on readings, two short (5 page) papers, and one (12-14 page) final research paper.

Prerequisites: Interest in the topic!

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Students in all fields of study are most welcome; if overenrolled, priority will be given to majors in Anthropology, Sociology, Religion and Asian Studies.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 242(D2) REL 149(D2) ANTH 249(D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies

Not offered current academic year
**ASIA 244 (S) Mind and Persons in Indian Thought**

**Cross-listings:** PHIL 245 / REL 244

**Secondary Cross-listing**

In this course, we follow the Indian philosophical conversation concerning the self and the nature of consciousness, particularly as they are found in its various Yogic traditions. We start with some of the Hindu views about the self and the mind and consider their ethical implications. We then consider a range of Buddhist critiques of these views, focusing more particularly on the Madhyamaka, which radicalizes the critique of the self into a global anti-realist and skeptical stance. We also examine the Yogacara school, which offers a process view of reality focusing on the analysis of experience. We conclude by considering some of the later Hindu holistic views of the self as responses to the Buddhist critique. In this way we come to realize that far from being the irrational foil of "the West," Indian tradition is a rich resource for thinking through some of the central questions that have challenged philosophers in both traditions.

**Class Format:** discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** full attendance and participation, three short essays (6 pages each)

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 18

**Enrollment Preferences:** selection based on the basis of relevant background

**Expected Class Size:** 18

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 244(D2) PHIL 245(D2) REL 244(D2)

**Attributes:** GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies

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**ASIA 249 (S) Political Power in Contemporary China**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 247

**Secondary Cross-listing**

The People's Republic of China has experienced rapid and extensive economic, social and cultural transformation over the past forty years. Its political system, however, is little changed. The Communist Party still monopolizes power and works hard to suppress organized opposition. Political dissent has taken various forms since 1979 but the regime has found ways to repress and divert it. Yet, in spite of the state's efforts, opposition and dissent continue to bubble to the surface. The course will review the political development of the PRC since 1949 and, then, focus on the dynamics of political contention and regime persistence since the Tiananmen Crisis of 1989.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 2-3 short papers and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Science and Asian Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 252  Comparative Politics of South Asia

South Asia is home to around 2 billion people (over 24% of the world), making it the most populous and densely populated region in the world. The region is also one of the poorest in the world and lags in human development. Ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity is offset by common cultural traditions and practices that serve to unite the people of the Indian Subcontinent. The course introduces students to the comparative politics of South Asia, highlighting the complexities and potential of the region. Every week we explore a different component of South Asian politics. The course covers the creation of the states of modern South Asia, partition and independence, democratization, electoral politics and political parties, economic and social development, ethnic identity and conflict, and the contemporary regional challenges of democratic backsliding and climate change.

Requirements/Evaluation:  three 5-7 page papers or one research paper; presentation; class participation
Prerequisites:  no pre-requisites
Enrollment Limit:  25
Enrollment Preferences:  preference given to political science majors
Expected Class Size:  20
Grading:  (D2)
Attributes:  GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 253  (F)  Love and Death in Modern Japanese Literature and Visual Culture

Cross-listings:  COMP 255

Secondary Cross-listing

Modern Japanese literature is filled with compelling love stories that are variously passionate and poignant, tragic or uplifting, heartwarming or twisted, and sometimes all of the above. This course offers a survey of modern Japanese fiction and visual culture through the lens of the love story, beginning with tales of doomed lovers that were popular in the eighteenth-century kabuki and puppet theaters, and moving through a range of other relationships, including parental love and sacrifice, sex and the occult, and romance at an advanced age. We will focus on novels and short stories by canonical modern authors like Tanizaki, Kawabata, and Mishima, as well as contemporary popular fiction by writers like Murakami Haruki and Murakami Ryu. We will also give significant attention to popular visual culture, including puppet theater, comics, animation, and film. The class and the readings are in English.

Requirements/Evaluation:  attendance and participation, 2-4 short response assignments, one test, one or two 5-page papers, and an ungraded creative project
Prerequisites:  none; no familiarity with Japanese language or culture is required
Enrollment Limit:  25
Enrollment Preferences:  Students majoring or considering a major in Comparative Literature
Expected Class Size:  15
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 255(D1) ASIA 253(D1)
Attributes:  GBST East Asian Studies

Not offered current academic year

Fall 2024
SEM Section: 01    TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Christopher A. Bolton
ASIA 255 (F) Buddhism: Ideas and Practices

Cross-listings: ANTH 255 / REL 255

Secondary Cross-listing
This course introduces students to Buddhism by examining its ideas and practices as they have taken place in actual social contexts rather than as disembodied textual objects. After examining the main ideas and narratives of the tradition, we turn our attention to Thailand where we examine how these ideas and narratives have shaped a whole range of practices, from meditation to shamanistic rituals. We then consider the transformations that Buddhism is undergoing in contemporary society, examining the rise of meditation movement, the changing role of monks and laity, the resurgence of the nun order, the rise of Buddhist social activism and the development of new Buddhist social philosophies. We ask questions such as: How can Buddhism adapt to a modern global consumerist society? What are the transformations involved in this process and the role that Buddhism can play in such a global society? Should Buddhists take advantage of the opportunities of this new global culture or should they adopt a critical stance toward its consumerist values?

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: full attendance and active participation; two essays

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: religion majors or future religion majors

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ANTH 255(D2) ASIA 255(D2) REL 255(D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies  PHIL Related Courses

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01  MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Georges B. Dreyfus

ASIA 258 (F) Buddhism, Social Change, & Reproductive Justice in the Anthropocene (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: REL 258 / ANTH 258 / WGSS 225

Secondary Cross-listing
This course considers how three women profoundly shaped the Buddha's life and legacy in terms of social change & reproductive justice. Our central characters are Maya--the Buddha's mother, who died shortly after delivering him; Pajapati--the Buddha's stepmother & aunt who raised him; and Yasodhara--his wife, whom he abandoned when he left home to seek enlightenment. We explore the classical Buddhist discourses and modern biographies to explore how these three women impacted what the Buddha taught and practiced in terms of social and gender justice. These women helped shape the Buddha's radical decision to found the first renunciate order for women in Asian history and helped shape Buddhist attitudes towards female empowerment, bodily autonomy, and reproductive justice for that past 2500 years. Our historical genealogy will explore how Buddhism continues to disrupt modern hierarchies of sex, gender, caste, & class while claiming reproductive and social justice. Along the way we consider: How did these three women reject existing social hierarchies in the Buddha's day and with what impacts for modern Buddhist practices and institutions? How do the social transformations of the Buddha's day still impact modern struggles for gender justice & reproductive justice in the Anthropocene?

Requirements/Evaluation: Attendance, writing weekly essays or written feedback. There are no grades first half of the semester but weekly feedback on writing.

Prerequisites: none, but a course in ANTH or REL is preferred

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: ANTH, REL, WGSS majors and ASIA concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
Writing Skills Notes: We write every week—either 1500 word lead essays, or written feedback (and oral responses) to the lead essay and weekly text. We have a mid semester 'writing chat' with the instructor where we discuss strengths and weakness of individual student writing.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: We explore the three women who left a lasting legacy on the Buddha's teachings and practices in terms of gender egalitarianism, social justice, and reproductive justice. Our historical genealogy explores how Buddhism continues to disrupt modern hierarchies of sex, gender, caste, & class while claiming reproductive and social justice.

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 266  (S)  Confession and Deception in Japanese Literature

Cross-listings: COMP 266

Secondary Cross-listing

Situated at the origins of Japanese literature are the beautiful and revealing diaries of ladies in waiting at the tenth-and eleventh-century court. Yet one of the most famous of these women turned out to be a man. For the next thousand years, Japanese literary tradition would place a premium on confessional writing, but the distortions and concealments of these narrators (and the authors hiding behind them) would always prove at least as interesting as the revelations. This course examines several centuries of Japanese literature to ask whether you can ever put your true self into writing; along the way I will ask you what you reveal, conceal, discover, or reinvent about yourself when you write about literature for a class like this. Texts will range from classical and medieval court literature by Sei Shônagon and Lady Nijô, through autobiographical and confessional novels by Sôseki, Tanizaki, Mishima, and Abe Kôbô, to documentary and subculture films like The New God and Kamikaze Girls. The class and the readings are in English; no familiarity with Japanese language or culture is required.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, a few short response assignments, one test, two 5-page papers, and an ungraded creative project

Prerequisites: none; no familiarity with Japanese language or culture is required

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or considering a major in Comparative Literature

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

COMP 266(D1) ASIA 266(D1)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 269  (F)  Mindfulness Examined: Meditation, Emotion, and Affective Neuroscience (DPE) (WS)

Cross-listings: STS 269 / REL 269 / ANTH 269

Secondary Cross-listing

This course asks students to practice and study mindfulness while observing their own minds, emotions, and behavior for an entire semester. We examine the historic roots and current applications of mindfulness, both as a Buddhist meditation practice as well as a secular tool to improve our awareness of awareness. Throughout, we are interested in the nexus of mind, brain, and emotions and the ways that mindfulness has been studied within contemplative and affective neuroscience, integrative neurobiology, and evolutionary psychology. How and why has the research on mindfulness and other meditative practices exploded since 2000? How has this research helped us understand and explain how our minds as well as brains shape everyday emotions and behaviors? We examine the ways evolutionary psychologists, clinical psychiatrists, neuroscientists, clinicians, and medical anthropologists have studied and applied mindfulness to better understand human emotions. We consider the applications of mindfulness for clinicians, therapists, and educators--all of whom attend to how emotions impact interpersonal relationships. We will train in a variety of meditation practices all semester, while learning to better appreciate our own minds, emotions, and relationships.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly tutorial papers and discussion

Prerequisites: A prior class or some experience with meditation is recommended

Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: ANTH, SOC, REL, ASST majors; PHLH, STS concentrators; seniors and juniors

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 269(D2) STS 269(D2) REL 269(D2) ANTH 269(D2)

Writing Skills Notes: This class will involve weekly tutorial essays or oral responses, intensive written feedback on every essay, and a mid-semester 'writing chat' with the instructor.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class fulfills the Difference, Power, and Equity requirement because it will explore the ways that mindfulness can address the growing epidemic of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues we find in the US today. We study mindfulness from an intersectional perspective and relate its benefits to intersecting inequities and intergenerational trauma in the US today.

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 275 (S) Acting Out: Performativity, Production, and Politics in East Asian Theatres (DPE)

Cross-listings: CHIN 275 / THEA 271 / COMP 271 / AAS 275

Secondary Cross-listing

"Asian Theaters," for those in the West, can conjure up a variety of exotic impressions: spectacle and cacophony, mysterious masks and acrobatic bodies, exquisite styles and strangely confusing conventions. Although Asian theaters have been studied systematically in the West for at least a century, the West has never truly left its "othering" look at them. Yet, what is "different" for the West is bedrock for Asian cultures. Theatre, one of the most important and dynamic forms of cultural production and communication, has actively involved all strata of Asian societies for a millennium. How to explain theatre's continued presence and relevance for Asian nations? What do the traditions of Kun, Kabuki, and P’ansori reveal about the cultures and communities in which they were created? This course seeks to understand from the Asian perspective, rather than "exoticize" and "other," musical and dance theatres from China, Japan, and Korea. Examining the evolving presentations of signature dramas dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries, we will act out Asian theatres in the following ways: (1) by reading the original plays in translation in tandem with their contemporary and intercultural reproductions, we will explore how Asian theatres fare in the era of globalization within and beyond national borders; (2) by revealing the "technologies" of writing, reading, acting, and staging these plays in different cultural milieus, we will consider what kinds of language and rhetoric, forms of music and movement, as well as visual components are deployed to convey evolving messages; (3) by considering key performances held outside of the proscenium stage, we will gain exposure to alternative theatrical spaces in Asian and diasporic communities that reform performing conventions, reconfigure staging environments, and renegotiate cultural values. In this manner, we will together gain an appreciation for the aesthetic devices, thematic concerns, and production politics of East Asian theatres and their global reproductions. Class materials include drama, production videos, and invited zoom sessions with Asian theatre practitioners and directors who live in the U.S. and other diasporic communities. All materials are in English. No language prerequisite. Funded by the Global Initiatives Venture Fund, this course includes an all-expense-paid travel component, which will bring up to eight Williams students to Nanjing, China during the Spring Break (3/23-4/3/2025). Students will participate in workshops with playwrights and theater-makers in contemporary China and engage in black-box theater productions with students from Nanjing University and Shanghai Theatre Academy. This travel component is OPTIONAL for students taking this course. However, students enrolled in this class will receive priority consideration to be included in the free travel project. Selection criteria include active participation, excellent performance in the course, etc.

Class Format: Funded by the Global Initiatives Venture Fund, this course includes an all-expense-paid travel component, which will bring up to eight Williams students to Nanjing, China during the Spring Break (3/23-4/3/2025). This travel component is OPTIONAL for students taking this course. However, students enrolled in this class will receive priority consideration to be included in the free travel project. Selection criteria include active participation, excellent performance in the course, etc.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on 1) ACTIVE in-class discussion; 2) three small projects (papers and audio/video essays); 3) a take-home midterm; and 4) Poster presentation based on students’ final projects.

Prerequisites: None; open to all. No knowledge of Asian languages required, though students with advanced Asian language proficiency are encouraged to work with primary sources if they wish.

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Theatre majors; Comp Lit
majors; Concentrators in Asian Studies or Asian American Studies.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CHIN 275(D1) THEA 271(D1) COMP 271(D1) ASIA 275(D1) AAS 275(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines the power dynamics of spectacle and cacophony and how theatre provided a cultural space that engaged all strata of East Asian societies, thereby masking class and ethnic divisions within these nation-states, while also presenting a distinct image of "China," "Japan," and "Korea" to be consumed in the West. Students will learn ways in which "traditional" theatre productions affirm or subvert Western biases against Asians.

Attributes: AAS Non-Core Electives GBST East Asian Studies

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01    TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Man  He

ASIA 278  (S)  Tantra

Cross-listings: REL 278

Secondary Cross-listing

Tantra—a term shrouded in mystique and controversy—often finds itself fetishized in the Euro-American imagination, conjuring images of transgressive sex, illicit substances, antinomian violence, and the spiritualization of the erotic, the terrifying, and the sublime. This course aims to demystify Tantra and—by locating it in various political, economic, religious, aesthetic, and philosophical contexts—explore its rich, complex history and practices beyond the sensationalist stereotypes. First and foremost, we also devote significant attention to understanding Tantra’s intricate connection to what is referred to as "Esoteric" Buddhism. Our exploration will also ask, what did Tantra look like in practice? How have tantric traditions related to Hindu, Buddhist, and Occult movements? What philosophical assumptions does Tantra rest on? What ethical issues does it evoke? How has Tantra been connected to transgressive notions of gender and desire? How has Tantra been related to the body? What were its connection to ideals of sovereignty? What has been the relationship between Tantra and magic? By tracing the evolution and adaptation of Tantra and Esoteric Buddhism across different cultures and time periods, this course takes a global historical approach, focusing on three key geographies: South Asia, where Tantra has deep roots and complex entanglements; medieval Japan, where Esoteric Buddhism developed unique forms and practices; and modern international Occult movements, where Tantra has been reimagined and integrated into new spiritual contexts. By critically engaging with primary and secondary sources, and by diving deeply into the philosophical and ethical dimensions of Tantra, this course will challenge students to engage critically with the foundational beliefs and moral dilemmas intrinsic to tantric practices in different cultural and historical contexts. We will scrutinize the philosophical underpinnings that sustain various tantric philosophical systems, including approaches to dualism, the nature of reality and embodiment, the function of language, and the pursuit of enlightenment. Ethical considerations are paramount, as we explore how tantric traditions have navigated the boundaries of societal norms through transgressive practices, raising questions about consent, power dynamics, and the redefinition of purity and impurity. The course will also examine radical tantric notions of gender and desire, challenges to conventional morality, and their potential to subvert established hierarchies and notions of sovereignty. Lastly, we will continuously strive to subvert simplistic ideas of authenticity.

Requirements/Evaluation: Readings, weekly critical responses, 10-12 page research paper.

Prerequisites: none.

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Religion majors and Asian Studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 278(D2) ASIA 278(D2)

Spring 2025
ASIA 279 (S) Islam on the Indian Ocean
Cross-listings: REL 279 / CAOS 279 / ARAB 279

Secondary Cross-listing
While colonial and Eurocentric geographies speak in terms of continental separation, historically the continents of Africa and Asia have been connected to one another through a dual link: Islam and the Indian Ocean. Indian Ocean trade and travel have historically connected East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, South Asia, and South East Asia, shaping the lives of people and communities who lived not only along the coasts but also inland. This course focuses on these transregional connections, looking at the Indian ocean as a connective space that binds people and regions together rather than separating them. The course will also examine the role of Islam as a religious, economic, social and political force that brought together Muslim communities throughout the regions along the Indian ocean. In exploring these connections, the course will cover a broad historical period, from the 7th century with the rise of Islam to European colonialism and the emergence of a global economy in the nineteenth century.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly responses, midterm essay, final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 279(D2) ASIA 279(D2) CAOS 279(D2) ARAB 279(D2)

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 291 (F) Red Chamber Dreams: Reading China's Greatest Novel (WS)
Cross-listings: COMP 291

Secondary Cross-listing
Since it first began to circulate in manuscript in the mid-eighteenth century, Cao Xueqin's novel Story of the Stone (Shitou ji), also called Dream of the Red Chamber (Honglou meng), has captured the imaginations of readers young and old with its sprawling story of the coming-of-age of members of a wealthy family on the cusp of ruin. As critically acclaimed as it is beloved, Story of the Stone is widely regarded as China's greatest novel due to the intricacy of its narrative, the complexity of its characters, and the sophistication with which it deals with themes as varied as romance, enlightenment, sexuality and gender identity, and the construction of public and private spaces. The focus of this tutorial will be reading the 120-chapter novel. Students will have the option to read either in Chinese or English (though papers and class discussion will be in English). We will also read scholarly literature to learn about some of the major critical approaches to the novel, and about its enduring importance in the Chinese literary tradition.

Requirements/Evaluation: Tutorial papers (including revisions); responses to tutorial partners' papers; engagement in in-class discussion.
Prerequisites: None.
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Comparative literature majors and prospective majors; Asian Studies concentrators.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 291(D1) ASIA 291(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will draft a 5- to 7-page paper every other week (for a total of five papers), which they will then revise in response to feedback from their tutorial partners and the instructor. On weeks in which they are not writing, they will critique their partner's paper. Papers will receive substantial individualized feedback on both writing and content from the instructor as well as the tutorial partner.

Not offered current academic year
ASIA 297  (F)  Intermediate Korean
Cross-listings:  SILP 201

Secondary Cross-listing
Intermediate level in developing linguistic abilities and fundamental reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. Students will be able to carry on more sophisticated conversations; use the language to manage logistics of everyday life; and demonstrate more complicated grammatical structures in speaking and writing. Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Class Format: Twice-weekly review sessions
Requirements/Evaluation:  Written and oral midterm and final exams.
Prerequisites:  CRKO 101-102
Enrollment Limit:  6
Enrollment Preferences:  Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study to receive credit.
Expected Class Size:  2-6
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Unit Notes:  Minimum of two students, plus a contracted tutor and examiner in order to schedule the course
Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SILP 201(D1) ASIA 297(D1)

Fall 2024
LEC Section: 01    TBA     Shaina Adams-El Guabli

ASIA 298  (S)  Intermediate Korean
Cross-listings:  SILP 202

Secondary Cross-listing
Continuation of intermediate skills in speaking and writing. Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course. This is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study in order to receive credit. More information can be found on the Self-Instructional Languages site.

Class Format: Twice-weekly review sessions
Requirements/Evaluation:  Written and oral midterm and final exam.
Prerequisites:  CRKO 201
Enrollment Limit:  6
Enrollment Preferences:  Interested students must complete an application through the Self-Instructional Languages Program and have it approved before registering for this course; this is a hyphenated course and requires a full-year of study to receive credit.
Expected Class Size:  2-6
Grading:  no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Unit Notes:  Minimum of two students, plus contracted tutor/examiner in order to schedule the course
Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

SILP 202(D1) ASIA 298(D1)

Spring 2025
LEC Section: 01    TBA     Shaina Adams-El Guabli
ASIA 310 (S) Everyday Modernity in Japan
Cross-listings: HIST 317

Secondary Cross-listing
This course asks one overarching question: What is everyday life like in modern Japan? There, one often hears the words "modern" contrasted with "traditional." When talking about Japan itself, the former is usually coded as "western," and the latter as "Japanese." Many Japanese politicians and cultural authorities, with the help of Orientalist westerners, are happy to highlight this distinction to promote notions of Japanese uniqueness. However, though modernization in Japan did usher in tremendous, often traumatic changes, not every aspect of "modern" Japanese life came from the west, and not all western imports were/are unwelcome. Moreover, many cultural imports, such as concrete buildings and the consumption of red meat, are now interwoven into the fabric of daily life in Japan. This course examines the complex history of modernity in Japan within living memory, highlighting on its presence in the daily lives of ordinary residents of Japan. What do people eat? Where do they live? How do they think about themselves and their neighbors? We will start with the Pacific War (1937-45), but focus especially closely on postwar and contemporary Japan. We will first get a sense of the chronology and major themes in Japanese history from this time period, then explore five units, "sites of modernity" that zoom in on different but interrelated aspects of ordinary Japanese life: 1) Total War, 2) The City, 3) Work, 4) Food, 5) Race and Ethnicity. Sources and data will be drawn from scholarly works, videos, movies, websites, maps, brochures and ephemera, as well as other sources. Students will analyze these sources, discuss them and complete various assignments.

Requirements/Evaluation: Discussion participation, in-class exam, two 6-page analytic essays, job application assignment, syllabus unit design assignment
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: History majors, Asian Studies concentrators, then all others
Expected Class Size: 15-20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 317(D2) ASIA 310(D2)
Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia
Not offered current academic year

ASIA 312 (S) The Mughal Empire: Power, Art, and Religion in India
Cross-listings: REL 312 / GBST 312 / HIST 312

Secondary Cross-listing
Established in the early 1500s, the Mughal Empire was one of the grandest and the longest to rule the Indian subcontinent for over three hundred years. Commanding unprecedented resources and administering a population of 100 to 150 million at its zenith—much larger than any European empire in the early modern world—the Mughals established a centralized administration, with a vast complex of personnel, money, and information networks. Mughal emperors were also political and cultural innovators of global repute. Moreover, while the Mughal dynasty was brought to an end with British colonial rule over India in 1857, the Mughal administrative structures and cultural influences continued to have a lasting impact on the British and later Indian states that followed. Centered around the intersection of the themes of power, patronage of art and architecture, and religion, this course will ask: What factors contributed to the durability of the Mughal Empire for three centuries? How did global trade and innovations in taxation contribute to its wealth and stability? How did this dynasty of Muslim monarchs rule over diverse, and largely non-Muslim populations? How did they combine Persian cultural elements with regional ones to establish an empire that was truly Indian in nature? How were the Mughals viewed in their contemporary world of gunpowder empires like the Safavids of Persia and the Ottomans of Turkey? Readings will include the best of the recent scholarship on this vastly influential empire and a rich collection of primary sources, including emperor's memoirs, accounts of European travelers, and racy biographies, which will allow students make their own analysis. They will also have the opportunity to interpret paintings (some of which are held in the WCMCA collections) and architecture. They will also discuss how the Mughals are remembered in South Asian film and music.

Requirements/Evaluation: participation, several short essays, one final paper
Prerequisites: none, open to first-year students with instructor permission
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: History majors and potential History majors
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
REL 312(D2) ASIA 312(D2) GBST 312(D2) HIST 312(D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group G Electives - Global History HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 313 (F) The People's Republic: China since 1949

Cross-listings: HIST 313

Secondary Cross-listing
This course provides a close examination of the six decades of the history of the People's Republic of China, from the 1949 Revolution to the present day. Through readings and discussion, we will explore the multiple political, economic, social, and cultural factors that contributed to the idealism of the "golden age" of Communist Party leadership (1949-65), the political violence of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), the profound transformation of the Reform Era (1978-present) as well as the motors of change in China today. Course materials will include films, novels, and ethnographies, as well as secondary analyses. Please note that this is a discussion seminar and not a survey course.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, several short papers and a final research paper
Prerequisites: none (HIST 213 recommended)
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: junior and senior History and Asian Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 12-20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASIA 313(D2) HIST 313(D2)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 315 (F) Minorities and the State in Modern East Asia (DPE)

Cross-listings: HIST 315

Secondary Cross-listing
This course examines the relationships between minority peoples and the institution of the state in East Asia, focusing mostly but not exclusively on the early modern and modern periods (17th-20th centuries). We will explore the histories of the Ainus of Japan, the "Small Peoples" of Russian Siberia, the Tibetan, Uighur and riverine communities of Mainland China, as well as the Hill Peoples of Southeast Asia. It also examines non-indigenous minority groups, such as conquest elites, mixed-race communities, and others. We will analyze how the transition to modernity, evolving understandings of race, gender, class, nation, the impact of imperialism and globalization all influenced the history of East Asian minority peoples. What, if anything, do all of these groups have in common? What do their histories reveal about the history of East Asia and of the countries in which they live? How are the lives of minority groups in East Asia changing today? What can their experiences reveal to us about the larger world? The class is structured as a reading-intensive seminar. Students will engage in and lead discussions, compose reading reaction papers and a final analytical essay. Students will be expected to use scholarly works in order to construct cogent, relevant arguments, which they will communicate both orally and in writing. Students will evaluate primary sources in order to engage with the people they study as directly as possible. Students will lead discussions on complex topics and develop as leaders and team members in professional settings. This course will present students with an opportunity to hone critical thinking and information literacy skills to a high level. All of you will have to analyze and process complex and often contradictory information, certainly in your personal lives and very likely in your professional lives.

Class Format: This discussion-intensive class requires students to lead several discussion sections during the semester.

Requirements/Evaluation: Map assignment, discussion participation, leading discussion (four times), three-page response essays (five times), final six-page research essay or presentation
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: History majors, Asian Studies concentrators, then all others
Expected Class Size: 15-20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 315(D2) ASIA 315(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The study of East Asia's history is all too often conflated with the study of states, so that many less privileged histories are obscured. Chief among these are the histories of minority groups, who are often excluded from power. For this reason, this course puts the history of East Asia's many minority groups front and center in examining their multifaceted interactions with regional states, as well as the of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and regional identities
Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Fall 2024
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

ASIA 318 (S) A History of the Samurai
Cross-listings: HIST 316
Secondary Cross-listing

It is difficult to find a person unaware of the samurai. However, most people, both in Japan and abroad, engage with their idealized images rather than as an actual historical phenomenon. The aim of this course is to bring the samurai to life as a distinct status group that left an indelible mark on the history of Japan, and thereby to separate fact from fiction. We will also explore the creation of iconic images of the samurai, which continue to influence worldwide popular culture. We will use academic readings, primary sources, and other media to examine the samurai from their origins during the Heian period (8th to 12th centuries) to their official dissolution in the late 19th century. We will focus on their development as a special status group and explore how they managed to maintain their corporate identity for so long. We will trace the evolution of the samurai from rural enforcers to territorial magnates to bureaucrats. This evolution affected and was affected by the development of samurai warfare, ethics, aesthetics, religious practices, ideas relating to gender roles and other aspects of samurai life, which we will explore. We will see how these ideas and practices mediated their relations with household, society, and government. Finally, we will examine why samurai status was abolished at the start of the Meiji period, and how former samurai transformed into modern citizens. Students will engage in discussion, write essays, and complete immersive historical simulation assignments.

Class Format: This class features a semester-long immersive historical simulation where students work in teams to create samurai clans and navigate historical, as well as historically plausible, scenarios.

Requirements/Evaluation: Class participation, map creation assignment, four 2-page essays, semester-long immersive simulation (Samurai clan creation), final: choice of 6-page essay or in-class exam
Prerequisites: None
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: History majors, Asian Studies concentrators, then all others
Expected Class Size: 15-20
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 316(D2) ASIA 318(D2)
Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Spring 2025
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled
ASIA 319 (F) Gender and the Family in Chinese History  (DPE)

Cross-listings:  HIST 319 / WGSS 319

Secondary Cross-listing

Although sometimes claimed as part of a set of immutable "Asian values," the Chinese family has not remained fixed or stable over time. In this course, we will use the framework of "family" to gain insight into gender, generation, and sexuality in different historical periods. Beginning in the late imperial period (16th-18th Centuries), we will examine the religious, marital, sexual, and child-rearing practices associated with traditional ideals of family. We will also examine the wide variety of "heterodox" practices that existed alongside these ideals, debates over and critiques of gender, family, and sexuality in the twentieth century and in China today.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in discussions and group work, short skills-based writing assignments (2-4 pgs) and short essays (5-7 pgs) leading toward a final paper (10-15 pages).

Prerequisites: none; open to first year-students with instructors permission

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: History and WGSS majors; Asian Studies concentrators.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 319(D2) WGSS 319(D2) ASIA 319(D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course focuses on historical regimes of gender and sexuality in China and their transformations over time. Students will be asked to consider these regimes both on their own terms and in comparative perspective.

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies  HIST Group B Electives - Asia  HIST Group P Electives - Premodern  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 321 (S) A Global History of Manga and Anime

Cross-listings: HIST 321

Secondary Cross-listing

Japanese comic books and cartoons are known throughout the world by their Japanese names: ”manga” and ”anime.” This is no accident, but a reflection of their enormous global popularity. Why are they so popular? How can we use them as historical sources for Japanese history and society? What do they reveal about the place of Japan in today's global culture? How did these two phenomena emerge and develop, and how do they influence each other? This class will explore these and other related questions through readings, screenings, discussion, and original research. It will trace the evolution of manga and anime from traditional Japanese (kibyoshi, ukyo-e and kawaraban) and western (comic strips and Disney films) influences, and the explosion of their popularity after World War II. We will use manga and anime, especially *girls*” (shojo) anime and manga as windows onto the intersection of Japanese and global society, economy and politics.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation (assessed weekly), weekly prep/response assignments (12 total), 8-9 page research and class-reading based essays (2 total), original research presentation for final assignment (1 total).

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: HIST majors, ASIA concentration students, then everyone else

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 321(D2) HIST 321(D2)

Not offered current academic year
ASIA 324 (F) Japanese Art and Visual Culture: Private/Public/Pop (WS)
Cross-listings: ARTH 525 / ARTH 324 / COMP 324

Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial offers a survey of Japanese art and visual culture across time and media, with particular attention to two areas: the links between different artistic media, and the relationship between art and its audience. We'll begin with early court diaries and related scroll paintings as examples of "private" art. Then we'll move through progressively more public visual media of the 17th through 21st centuries: Kanô screen painting; nô, kabuki, and puppet theater; premodern architecture; popular woodblock prints; turn-of-the-century photography; and finally some examples of contemporary popular culture like comics, animation, and/or film. We will focus on the specificities of each medium while simultaneously developing formal visual reading skills that can work across different media.

Class Format: Students will meet with the instructor in pairs or trios for 75 minutes each week. This tutorial is offered simultaneously at the 300 level for undergraduates and at the 500 level for graduate students: graduate students will be paired with other graduate students and undergraduates with undergraduates.

Requirements/Evaluation: For undergraduates: weekly participation, 5 short written assignments in alternate weeks (ranging from 1 to 5 pages), and several 1-page peer critiques. For graduate students: weekly participation and 3-4 short written exercises that build toward a final 15-page research paper.

Prerequisites: No previous knowledge of Japanese art or culture is required. Students with similar preparation and interests will be paired with one another.

Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Graduate Art students, followed by undergraduates majoring in Art History or Comparative Literature.
Expected Class Size: 10
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 525(D1) ASIA 324(D1) ARTH 324(D1) COMP 324(D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write several regularly spaced papers that build on one another by tackling similar problems from different angles. Students will receive detailed feedback from the instructor on each paper, addressing argument, organization, and style, as well as peer feedback. (See requirements for details about the number and type of assignments.)

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 325 (S) The Arts of the Book in Asia (WS)
Cross-listings: ARTH 325

Secondary Cross-listing

From palm leaf manuscripts to scrolls to Islamic codices, books have long served as vehicles of religious, cultural and artistic exchange in Asia. Owing both to their portability and status as finely crafted art objects, books have transmitted ideas across the continent, spreading courtly styles of painting from China to India, esoteric Buddhist teachings from Kashmir to Tibet and Mongolia, as well as the Quranic arts of calligraphy and illumination from Islamic South Asia to Southeast Asia. This co-taught seminar will highlight the interwoven history of book arts as it developed and disseminated across different regions of Asia. The course will also introduce students to the major art forms of the book, such as painting, calligraphy and illumination. The aim of the seminar is to understand the book as object while also investigating its content and its larger cultural significance. A number of class meetings will take place in the Chapin Library, where students will have the opportunity to study original manuscripts from the Special Collections. The course will culminate in an exhibition at Chapin Library which the students will curate using the Special Collections holdings.

Requirements/Evaluation: 3 essays, a final project/paper based on museum objects, wall label

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: preference will be given to Art and Asian Studies Majors, and then to students of any major interested in the art and culture of Asia

Expected Class Size: 12
**Grading**: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions**: (D1) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ARTH 325(D1) ASIA 325(D1)

**Writing Skills Notes**: Over the course of the semester students will write three papers at five pages each, culminating in a well-developed, focused final project. Students will be given extensive feedback on each assignment regarding grammar, style, and argument. The final paper will be part of a larger project in which students will work together to curate a small exhibition using the Chapin Library's Asian holdings. Each student will be asked to write a wall label for their selected object.

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01    MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm    Murad K. Mumtaz

**ASIA 345  (F) The Meaning of Life and Politics in Ancient Chinese Thought**

**Cross-listings**: PSCI 345

**Secondary Cross-listing**

How can we live a good life? What standards should we use to judge how political power is constituted and used? This class will involve students in close reading of, and exegetical writing about, core texts of ancient Chinese philosophy in English translation. The purpose is to gain an understanding of a number of different perspectives on life and politics, especially Confucianism, Legalism and Daoism. While the primary focus will be on the meaning of the texts in the context of their own times, contemporary applications of core concepts will also be considered. The class will begin with background readings, since no prior work in Chinese philosophy or history is assumed. Then the class will read significant portions of the following canonical works: *Yijing*, *Analects*, *Mencius*, *Daodejing*, *Zhuangzi*, and *Han Feizi*.

**Requirements/Evaluation**: two 5-page papers and one 15-page paper

**Prerequisites**: none

**Enrollment Limit**: 20

**Enrollment Preferences**: preference to seniors but all are welcome.

**Expected Class Size**: 15

**Grading**: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions**: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 345(D2) PSCI 345(D2)

**Attributes**: GBST East Asian Studies LEAD Facets or Domains of Leadership PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI Political Theory Courses

Not offered current academic year

**ASIA 351  (S) Disinterest in the Bhagavad Gita**

**Cross-listings**: ENGL 353 / COMP 313 / REL 353

**Secondary Cross-listing**

In this course, students will read the *Bhagavad Gita* alongside selected responses to it. These responses range from philosophical and theological commentaries written in Sanskrit by Shankaracharya, Abhinavagupta, and Ramanuja, to later “Bhakti” poetic responses in other Indian languages, to 18th and 19th century European aesthetic and political commentary (Herder, Schlegel, Hegel), to the work of 20th century commentators like M.K. Gandhi, B.G. Tilak, B.R. Ambedkar and D.D. Kosambi. We will examine the *Gita*’s theory of action and the place of disinterestedness in this theory. We will inquire into the social, metaphysical, and political conditions of possibility of such disinterestedness, and think about disinterestedness itself as a condition for political action and aesthetic experience. Finally, we will reflect on how such a comparative history of interpretation might help us model a dialectical history of thought.

**Requirements/Evaluation**: Weekly meetings, weekly reading; weekly essay or response. Attendance in 2-3 lectures over the semester.

**Prerequisites**: No prerequisites

**Enrollment Limit**: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Majors in English and Comparative Literature; Religion, Classics, or Philosophy majors; Sophomores looking to major in any of these.

Expected Class Size: 8-10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ENGL 353(D1) COMP 313(D1) REL 353(D2) ASIA 351(D1)

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories A

Spring 2025

TUT Section: T1 TBA Paresh Chandra

ASIA 353 (F) Separation: An Introduction to Postcolonial Literature (DPE)

Cross-listings: COMP 350 / ENGL 352

Secondary Cross-listing

Few themes in the history of human societies have produced as much writing as that of separation—from a lover, from one's homeland, from God(s). In the past two centuries, this theme has been essential to representing experiences of exile and migration in the wake of the colonially mediated transition to world capitalism. In this course, we will take up the theme of separation as a privileged point of entry into postcolonial literature and towards understanding the multiple meanings of "postcoloniality." We will encounter examples in which this theme shapes critical thought and helps imagine new modes of existence, as well as those in which the grief of separation shades into such overpowering melancholy that writing becomes impossible. We will also look at what the preoccupation with separation can tell us about the ways human beings relate to human and non-human objects, and how they make and experience history. To think through these issues, we will read nineteenth and twentieth century works dealing with experiences of love, ecstasy, migrancy, and exile, composed in diverse geographical, socio-political, and linguistic contexts. We will read works (novels, poems, memoirs, essays) and watch films from South Asia, Egypt, the Caribbeans, the US, and Europe, composed in multiple languages (English, Hindi, Urdu, Persian, French, Arabic, Bengali and Malayalam).

Requirements/Evaluation: mid-term paper (6-page), participation in class discussions and one roundtable, final paper (15-page)

Prerequisites: a 100-level ENGL course, or a score of 5 on the AP English Literature exam, or a score of 6 or 7 on the Higher Level IB English exam

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: English majors, then sophomores considering the major

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 353(D1) COMP 350(D1) ENGL 352(D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course examines how the political impact of colonization upon both "colonizer" and "colonized" gets expressed in literary productions of the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries. It explores the way these literary works understand the axes of social identity that shape oppression and inequity--coloniality, race, caste, gender—as constitutive of the unevenly developing world of capitalism. The concepts upon which the course focuses are essential to contemporary social critique.

Attributes: ENGL Literary Histories C

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Paresh Chandra

ASIA 354 (F) Nationalism in East Asia

Cross-listings: PSCI 354 / HIST 318

Secondary Cross-listing
Nationalism is a major political issue in contemporary East Asia. From anti-Japanese demonstrations in China, to tensions on the Korea peninsula, to competitive elections in Taiwan, to controversies in Japan about how history is portrayed in high school textbooks, national identity is hotly debated and politically mobilized all across the region. This course begins with an examination of the general phenomena of nationalism and national identity and their historical development in East Asia. It then considers how nationalism is manifest in the contemporary politics and foreign relations of China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea and Taiwan.

Requirements/Evaluation: 2-3 short papers; final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: in the following order, seniors, juniors, sophomores, then first-years

Expected Class Size: 25

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

PSCI 354(D2) HIST 318(D2) ASIA 354(D2)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies  HIST Group B Electives - Asia  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 356  (S)  Democratization in India and Pakistan

Cross-listings:  GBST 357 / PSCI 356

Secondary Cross-listing

Democratization has had both successes and failures in postcolonial South Asia. The region is home to the world's largest democracy in India, often cited as an unlikely and puzzling success story. At the same time, periods of democratic rule in Pakistan and Bangladesh are broken up by military interference, Sri Lanka's democracy is plagued by ethnic conflict, and Afghanistan has been unable to sustain democracy due to weak state institutions. What explains this diverse and uneven pattern of democracy in South Asia? The course delves into theories on political parties, ethnic politics, electoral institutions, civil-military relations, political violence, state-building, inter-state conflict, and civil wars to understand the variation in regime type in the region. It covers domestic and international factors that lead to democratization and democratic backsliding. We will focus on the role of political parties in democratization; the emergence of political dynasties; changes in the characteristics of the political elite; investigate claims of democratic deepening; and examine the effect of inter-state wars, land disputes, and insurgencies on democratic stability in the region.

Requirements/Evaluation: three 5 to 7-page papers or one research paper; presentation; class participation

Prerequisites: previous course in political science or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: preference given to political science majors

Expected Class Size: 14

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

GBST 357(D2) PSCI 356(D2) ASIA 356(D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 411  (S)  Han Dynasty Art in the Ancient World

Cross-listings:  ARTH 411

Secondary Cross-listing

Although the Han Empire (206 BCE-220 CE) is credited for defining the "Han ethnic identity" or the so-called "Chinese-ness" as we know it today, its culture was also richly cosmopolitan, marked by constant interaction with the outside world. This course considers Han dynasty art from a transregional perspective by examining artworks that attest to rigorous artistic exchanges with foreign cultures, ranging from the luxury items imported
from the Hellenistic, the Central Asian, and the Steppe cultures and their domestic adaptations, to the exported Han artworks excavated in the South East and the East Asian regions. These objects illustrate the Han Empire's growing awareness of its neighboring states and the ambition to visually assert itself as a powerful and open "universal empire." Students will learn about important artistic trends during one of the most international periods in ancient China, while gaining a materially-based vision of a globalizing ancient world bound closer than ever by the rise of the "Silk Roads" and maritime trade. The course is divided into five main sections following the logic of space. Beginning with the Han Empire (the "Center"), the seminar covers key themes in the development of Han art over four centuries. Assuming the viewpoint of the Han Empire, the course then examines the artistic exchanges with civilizations in the West (the Mediterranean and the Central Asian cultures) and moves clockwise to the North (the Steppe cultures), the East (Korea and Japan), and finally the South (maritime trade with South East Asian states). This arrangement of the syllabus is designed to help the students grasp and internalize the dynamic cultural contacts in a more embodied manner, while providing a working version of a spatial "grid" for navigating the students in their own exploration of the history of art in the ancient global world.

**Class Format:** A potential field trip to museums, possibly in New York or Boston, pending planning and approval.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** In addition to attendance and active participation in seminar discussions, each student will present on a topic of choice for two of the five main sections outlined in the course description (each 15-20 mins). Students will also write a final research paper on a topic of choice (15-20 pages, double-spaced) in consultation with the instructor and present their findings to the class (20 mins).

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Art history majors concentrating on Asian or ancient art are prioritized if the course over-enrolls.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ARTH 411(D1) ASIA 411(D2)

**Attributes:** ARTH pre-1800

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**ASIA 415 (S) The Shosoin Imperial Treasury**

**Cross-listings:** ARTH 413

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Constructed in the eighth century to house artifacts associated with Emperor Shomu (reigned 724-749) and Empress Komyo (701-760), the Shosoin Imperial Treasury in Nara, Japan, preserves some of the finest examples of art objects produced across different cultural regions along the Silk Road, spanning Central Asia to Japan, from the sixth through the eighth century. Focusing on a selection of artworks, including painting, calligraphy, textiles, lacquerware, ceramics, glass, and metalwork, among others, this seminar examines issues of cross-cultural transmission of objects, artistic techniques, and cultural knowledge in the global medieval world, while also exploring the manners in which these artifacts visually and materially shaped kingship in eighth-century Japan and East Asia. Special attention is also paid to how recent relevant discoveries in archaeology and conservation science could contribute to art historical discourses.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Attendance and active participation in discussions (30%), two presentations on a topic of choice (20% total), final paper proposal with annotated bibliography (10%), and final research paper with presentation (40% total, 30% paper and 10% presentation).

**Prerequisites:** None

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** Art history majors are prioritized if the course over-enrolls.

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

ARTH 413(D1) ASIA 415(D1)

**Attributes:** ARTH pre-1800
China in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was not colonized by a single Western power; instead several Western powers (and later Japan) exercised domination over China through a system of "unequal treaties" that granted them special privileges within Chinese territory. The years (1842-1943) in which these treaties were in effect is often called "The Century of Humiliation" by contemporary Chinese nationalists: a period of weakness that the rising Chinese nation still strives to overcome. The system imposed by these nineteenth century treaties, however, was a complex amalgam of legal, commercial, and residence privileges for foreigners in China that played a significant role in shaping the modern nation. One the most recognizable features of this system was the treaty port—an urban center designated as open to foreign residence, trade, and shipping. Extending from an initial five open ports to nearly fifty by the turn of the century, these ports became commercial and industrial centers that connected China to the global economy and created novel spaces of culture, labor, society, and politics. In this research seminar, we will use of several recent online collections of English-language primary source material to investigate the role of the treaty system and the treaty ports in modern Chinese history. The seminar will begin with an exploration of the historiography of the treaty system and "foreign presence" and culminate in an original research paper on a related topic of each student's choice. Throughout, we will work on general and specific research methods.

Class Format: This is a research seminar. Our goal will be to produce a 20-30 page original research paper by the end of the semester. In addition to discussion of readings, considerable time in class will be spend on research methods.

Requirements/Evaluation: Active participation in class discussion and activities; several short papers (5-7 pages) leading to a final research paper (20-30 pages)

Prerequisites: no prerequisites

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Senior History majors, History majors, Asian Studies concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 417(D2) ASIA 417(D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year

ASIA 421 (F) Chinese Societies through the lens of COVID-19

Secondary Cross-listing

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly changed the world. How did the Chinese-speaking regions in Asia, including Mainland China, Taiwan, and Singapore, respond to the pandemic during its earlier years? How did their responses reflect the political and economic systems as well as the cultural values of Asian societies? What were the effects of these responses on the regions and people's daily lives? In this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of Chinese-speaking societies through an analysis of the "public" and "private" literature pertaining to the lived experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through readings and discussions of various materials such as government records, scientific publications, journalistic writings, personal diaries, and online narratives, students will explore a wide range of issues related to the politics, economy, public health, and sociocultural issues of Asian societies. Simultaneously, Chinese language learners will further enhance their language proficiency and intercultural competency by engaging in complex discourse in the target language. All readings and discussions are in Chinese.

Requirements/Evaluation: Evaluation will be based on CLASS performance, homework, two short papers (4-5 pages), and one longer paper (8-10 pages).

Prerequisites: CHIN 402 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12
Enrollment Preferences: Current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Asian Studies, Global Studies and Public Health concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: Mandarin Chinese is the instructional language for this course

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 386(D2) CHIN 421(D1) ASIA 421(D1)

Attributes: PHLH Social Determinants of Health

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Xiaoming Hou

ASIA 425 (S) Becoming Taiwan: Social, Cultural, and Economic Discourses of Modern Day Taiwan

Cross-listings: CHIN 425

Secondary Cross-listing

Nestled in East Asia, Taiwan stands as a dynamic island home to a populace of 23 million. From 1949, when the Nationalist Party (KMT) retreated to Taiwan after the Chinese Civil War, to becoming one of the Four Asian Tigers in the latter half of the 20th century, Taiwan has developed into a multifaceted society through an array of social/cultural/economic changes associated with industrialization, globalization and identity formation. Throughout this course, we will delve into pivotal moments that have shaped contemporary Taiwanese society, drawing insights from literary works, films, journalistic exposés, and academic discourse. Through group discussions and individual projects, students will not only acquire specialized vocabulary but also hone their ability to dissect and debate complex ideas in Mandarin pertaining to the aforementioned themes. Crafted in a semi-tutorial format, this course aims to cultivate linguistic proficiency ranging from Advanced Low to Advanced Mid as outlined by the ACTFL proficiency guidelines. To enrich the learning experience, language partnerships will be forged in collaboration with a graduate program in Chinese pedagogy based in Taiwan, offering further opportunities for in-depth engagement with course materials.

Class Format: Mandarin Chinese will be the instructional language for this course. Semi-tutorial format, students will meet as a large group on one day for linguistic development and three to four people groups on other days for discussions.

Requirements/Evaluation: quizzes, presentations, posting of discussion questions, two position papers (3 pages) and one final paper (5 pages)

Prerequisites: CHIN 402 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Majors in Chinese; DALLC; Asian Studies Concentration; seniors.

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
CHIN 425(D1) ASIA 425(D1)

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Cecilia Chang

ASIA 481 (F) History of Taiwan (WS)

Cross-listings: HIST 481

Secondary Cross-listing

Almost all discussions of contemporary Taiwan reference the fierce debate over its sovereignty and international status: is the island of Taiwan an independent nation, or an “inalienable part” of the much larger and more powerful People’s Republic of China? Part of the argument for Taiwan's separate nationhood derives from its claim to a unique history different from that of the P.R.C.. In this tutorial course, we will look closely at the
distinctive aspects of Taiwan’s history that underlie this claim, including its aboriginal populations, maritime history, experience of Japanese colonialism, settlement by mainland Chinese after World War II, role in the Cold War, and the development of a Taiwanese ethnic and political identity in the postwar period. We will also examine contemporary arguments for Taiwan as part of China. The goal of the course is neither to debate nor resolve the “Taiwan question”, but to explore the history and historical arguments that inform it.

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly papers and critiques

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: History and Asian Studies majors/concentrators

Expected Class Size: 10

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

HIST 481(D2) ASIA 481(D2)

Writing Skills Notes: In this tutorial course, students will write bi-weekly 5- to 7-page papers with feedback from both the instructor and tutorial partner. Students will revise one of their tutorial papers as a final assignment. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Fall 2024

TUT Section: T1 TBA Anne Reinhardt

ASIA 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Asian Studies

For students pursuing an Asian Studies senior thesis.

Requirements/Evaluation: The grade for the thesis will be determined by the thesis advisor and a faculty reader. The honors designation will be made by the Asian Studies Advisory Committee.

Prerequisites: na

Enrollment Limit: na

Enrollment Preferences: Asian Studies thesis writers only.

Expected Class Size: na

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2024

HON Section: 01 TBA Anne Reinhardt

ASIA 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Asian Studies

For students pursuing an Asian Studies senior thesis.

Requirements/Evaluation: The grade for the thesis will be determined by the thesis advisor and a faculty reader. The honors designation will be made by the Asian Studies Advisory Committee.

Prerequisites: na

Enrollment Limit: na

Enrollment Preferences: Asian Studies thesis writers only.

Expected Class Size: na

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)
Spring 2025
HON Section: 01    TBA    Anne Reinhardt

ASIA 497  (F)  Independent Study: Asian Studies
Asian Studies independent study.
Requirements/Evaluation: na
Prerequisites: na
Enrollment Limit: na
Enrollment Preferences: na
Expected Class Size: na
Grading:   no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2024
IND Section: 01    TBA    Anne Reinhardt

ASIA 498  (S)  Independent Study: Asian Studies
Asian Studies independent study.
Requirements/Evaluation: na
Prerequisites: na
Enrollment Limit: na
Enrollment Preferences: na
Expected Class Size: na
Grading:   no pass/fail option,  yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2025
IND Section: 01    TBA    Anne Reinhardt

Winter Study ----------------------------------------------

ASIA 31  (W)  Senior Thesis: Asian Studies
For students pursuing an Asian Studies senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Requirements/Evaluation: The grade for the thesis will be determined by the thesis advisor and a faculty reader. The honors designation will be made by the Asian Studies Advisory Committee.
Prerequisites: na
Enrollment Limit: na
Enrollment Preferences: Asian Studies thesis writers only.
Expected Class Size: na
Grading:   pass/fail only
Not offered current academic year

ASIA 99  (W)  Independent Study: Asian Studies
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** A 10-page paper. Short paper and final project or presentation. Final project or presentation.

**Prerequisites:** NA

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** NA

**Expected Class Size:** NA

**Grading:** pass/fail only

**Attributes:** EXPE Experiential Education Courses  SLFX Winter Study Self-Expression  STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Not offered current academic year