

## ASIAN STUDIES

(Div I & II, see explanation below)

**Chair: Professor Eiko Maruko Siniawer**

- Cecilia Chang, Frederick Latimer Wells Professor of Chinese
- Man He, Assistant Professor of Chinese
- Shinko Kagaya, Professor of Japanese
- Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies; on leave 2020-2021
- Christopher M. B. Nugent, Professor of Chinese, Chair of Comparative Literature Program
- Kasumi Yamamoto, Frank M. Gagliardi Professor of Japanese; on leave 2020-2021
- Li Yu, Professor of Chinese

### **Affiliated Faculty:**

- Christopher Bolton, Professor of Comparative Literature and Japanese Literature
- George Crane, Chair of Asian Studies and the Edward S. Greenbaum 1910 Professor of Political Science
- George Dreyfus, Jackson Professor of Religion
- Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang, Professor of Art
- Jason Josephson Storm, Professor of Religion
- Peter Just, Professor of Anthropology
- Aparna Kapadia, Associate Professor of History
- Eiko Maruko Siniawer, Professor of History
- Anne Reinhardt, Chair and Professor of History
- W. Anthony Sheppard, Marylin & Arthur Levitt Professor of Music
- Scott Wong, Charles R. Keller Professor of History

### **Visitors:**

- Susanne Ryuyin Kerekes, Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in Religion and Asian Studies
- Eun Young Seong, Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese
- Kaoruko Minamoto, Visiting Lecturer in Japanese
- Chen Wang, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese

### **Mission Statement and Learning Objectives**

The mission of the Department of Asian Studies is to help as many students as possible—both majors and non-majors—develop practical proficiency in Asian languages and, in the tradition of the liberal arts, acquire a meaningful understanding of important facets of one or more of the disciplines represented within Asian Studies (including anthropology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion, and sociology), so that they may realize their fullest intellectual and personal potential and be able to make useful contributions to society. The department offers three distinct major tracks: Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese.

### **Learning Objectives for the Asian Studies Major**

Asian Studies is a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary major track that combines the humanities and social sciences with language study. It aims to help students develop practical proficiency in an Asian language and, in the tradition of the liberal arts, acquire a meaningful understanding of important facets of Asia through a particular disciplinary lens. Beyond training in the discipline they choose for their three-course disciplinary qualification, students have the opportunity to explore a range of other disciplinary approaches and perspectives.

## **Majors in Asian Studies will:**

- Attain a practical proficiency in an Asian language (either Chinese or Japanese currently offered by the department, or Hindi or Korean, offered by the Critical Language Program of the Center for Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures)
- Gain awareness and understanding of a particular country or region in Asia through training in one of the disciplines represented in the Department of Asian Studies (anthropology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion, or sociology).
- Have an opportunity to explore a range of disciplinary approaches and perspectives in addition to their primary disciplinary focus and apply a range of research methodologies with a focus on interdisciplinarity.
- Develop close reading, analytical writing, and critical thinking skills by engaging in cross-linguistic, cross-cultural, and comparative historical analysis.
- Gain a comparative perspective on issues affecting Asia as a region.
- Develop global awareness and engagement through identification of the values, perspectives, and practices of Asian societies, both past and present.

## **THE MAJOR**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic: the **Asian Studies** major is reduced to **nine** for the classes of 21, 22, 23. The requirements are:

**four** semesters of Chinese or Japanese, a faculty-approved **three** course disciplinary qualification, **one** comparative Asian Studies course, and **one** Asian Studies elective, which can include further language study. The **Chinese** and **Japanese** programs have also decided it would be best to reduce the number of courses required for their respective majors to **nine** for the graduating classes of 21, 22, and 23. Requirements are as follows:

**Eight** semesters of Chinese or Japanese language (at least four of them should be 300-level or higher). For Chinese **one** additional course, Chinese 312 (Classical Chinese) is required. In Japanese, **one** faculty-approved elective is also required. For students with higher language proficiency who are placed out of any of the core language courses (101 through 402), they can take an equal number of faculty-approved electives taught either in Chinese or Japanese or English on literature, linguistics, culture studies or related China or Japanese studies disciplines (e.g., art history, history, political science) to fulfill the core language requirement.

We offer courses in English in the field of Asian Studies as well as courses in Chinese and Japanese language, literature, and culture. Three distinct majors are offered: a major in Chinese; a major in Japanese; and an interdisciplinary Asian Studies major which allows students to choose from a wide range of courses in the anthropology, art, economics, history, languages, linguistics, literatures, music, politics, religion, and sociology of China, Taiwan, Japan, and other Asian countries. An increasing number of courses on South Asia are also offered (e.g. ASST 117, ASST 221, ASST 244, ASST 246T, ASST 248, ASST 252, ASST 256, ASST 391, ASST 415, ASST 424, ASST 431, ASST 488). Students interested in taking Korean or Hindi may take these languages through the Critical Language Program administered by the Center for Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Students with questions about the Asian Studies majors or about Asian Studies course offerings should consult the chair. Please note: Courses with ASST prefix carry Division II credit unless otherwise noted and courses with CHIN and JAPN prefixes carry Division I credit unless otherwise noted.

**All students wishing to major in the Department of Asian Studies are required to take and pass a total of eleven courses, as follows:**

One course that explicitly compares at least two countries in Asia, such as ASST 103, ASST 126, ASST 233, ASST 245, ASST 248, ASST 250, ASST 256, ASST 271, ASST 391, ASST 414, ASST 424, ASST 431, JAPN 258. Or students may take instead a course on a country that is different from their country of primary focus.

Four semesters of Chinese or Japanese language (including no more than two 100-level courses).

**In addition to completing (1) and (2) above, all majors choose either an Area Studies track, leading to a major in Asian Studies; or a Language Studies track, leading to a major in Chinese or Japanese.**

**The requirements for Asian Studies are indicated below:**

### **Asian Studies Major**

Three-course qualification in one of the disciplines represented within Asian Studies (anthropology/sociology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion). The qualification, to be determined through consultation between students and their advisor, normally includes an introductory course and more advanced courses. At least two of these three courses must be on Asia.

Three approved electives, which may include further language work.

## **STUDY ABROAD**

Students intending to major in Asian Studies are encouraged to study in Asia during one or both semesters of their junior year. Williams faculty serve on the boards of several study abroad programs in China and Japan. Opportunities to study in India, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and other Asian countries are also available. Prospective Asian Studies majors who are planning to study abroad should discuss their plans with their

advisor as far in advance as possible. Up to eight courses taken overseas may be counted toward graduation, and up to four courses taken off campus may be counted toward the major.

## **FAQ**

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

### **Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?**

Yes. In some cases, provisional approval can be granted (students should be sure to contact the department for details). For programs that we are familiar with, we usually pre-approve credits.

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

Course title and description, complete syllabus including readings/assignments, and exams or other written work.

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

Yes, maximum of four courses.

### **Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?**

Approved courses only.

### **Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?**

No.

### **Are there specific major requirements in your department/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 department faculty ahead of time to plan on what courses to take during study-away and what courses to take up return.

### **Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn't:**

There have been cases where students decided to take different courses after they arrived at the program and those courses did not meet our requirements.

## **THE DEGREE WITH HONORS**

Students interested in writing an honors thesis in Asian Studies should submit a proposal to the department chair before they pre-register for senior courses in the spring of their junior year. The proposal should include a statement of the topic, a general description of the types of materials available for study and how the study will be carried out, and the name of the faculty member who will serve as advisor. Admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students who have maintained at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.

Students admitted to the program should register for ASST 493-W31-494. They will be expected to turn in the final draft of their thesis shortly after spring break and to discuss their results formally with their faculty graders. Their final grades in the three courses listed above and the award of Honors, Highest Honors, or no honors will be determined by the quality of the thesis and the student's performance in the oral defense.

## **THE ASIAN STUDIES ENDOWMENT**

The Linen summer grants for study abroad, the Linen visiting professorships, and several other programmatic activities in the department are supported by an endowment for Asian Studies established by family and friends in memory of James A. Linen III, Class of 1934, Trustee of the College from 1948 to 1953 and from 1963 to 1982.