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

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.

ASST 103  (S)  Asian Art Survey: From the Land of the Buddha to the World of the Geisha  (DPE)

Cross-listings: ASST 103  ARTH 103

Secondary Cross-listing

Moving chronologically and thematically, this course surveys the history of Asian art from the Bronze Age to the globalizing art worlds in the present day with particular emphasis on India, China, and Japan. Its contextual approach helps students gain insight into the aesthetic, religious, and political ideas and cultural meanings conveyed by the works of art. It also provides students with the vocabulary, analytical techniques, and patterns of thinking needed for advanced art history courses. Topics include visualizing imperial power; temple architecture and rituals; sexual symbolism in Buddhist and Hindu art; nature or landscape painting as moral and political rhetoric; literati theory and practice in art; modes of visual narration; politicizing Zen Buddhism and its related practices in Japan's samurai culture; and the sex industry and kabuki theater and their art in Edo Japan. While each class session will explore unique and region-specific cultural formations and artistic developments, a strong emphasis will be also placed on the interconnectedness, through trade; movement of objects; pilgrimage; and diplomacy and war, not only among these three distinctively different Asian cultures, but their respective interactions with the West (Key words: Chinoiserie, Japonisme, Company painting, perspective picture). The methodology used is intended to dispute the idea of a single, stable identity of "Asia," Asian art," or "Asian culture" that has dominated the Western narratives throughout history, and to call attention to the variety of cultures and cultural encounters at different times in history that contributed to what we currently think of as "India and its art and culture," "China and its art and culture," and "Japan and its art and culture." (Persian, Mesopotamian, and European influences on Indian art and its culture, for example.)

Class Format: lecture with limited # of class discussion; some classes may be conducted at WCMA

Requirements/Evaluation: four required textbooks; three quizzes; one response paper 3-4 pages; two writing assignments 4-6 pages; class attendance

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: Art History majors

Expected Class Size: 25

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

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
Writing Skills Notes: One reading response paper (3-4 pages); first writing assignment (4-5 pages); and second writing assignment (5-6 pages). Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: Topics discussed in class encourage students to confront and reflect on the operations of difference, power, and equity within and among Asian cultures. Examples include the relationships between political power, ritual, and the creation and use of artworks; style as a function of social class (elite arts, popular arts, professional court style vs. literati amateur style, etc.); the sex trade and its portrayal in popular Japanese prints; the modernization or Westernization of Asian societies.

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800 Courses GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang

ASST 115 (F) The World of the Mongol Empire (WS)

Cross-listings: HIST 115 ASST 115

Secondary Cross-listing

By the middle of the thirteenth century, Mongol armies led by Genghis Khan had conquered an enormous swath of territory, extending from China westward to Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Further expanded by Genghis's descendants, the Mongol Empire incorporated a vast range of different peoples and cultures, enhancing communications, trade, and exchange among them. In this course we will examine the "world order" of the Mongol Empire from its origins on the Asian steppe through its expansion, consolidation, and disintegration, as well as its legacies. From a wide range of primary and secondary sources, including literature, chronicles, and traveler's accounts, we will investigate the diverse experiences of the Mongol world in places such as China, Russia, Persia, and Central Asia.

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in discussion, several short papers, and a final research paper
Prerequisites: first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar
Expected Class Size: 15-19
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (WS)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 115 (D2) ASST 115 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Three 5- to 7-page papers written in two drafts each with instructor feedback, one 10- to 12-page final research paper. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group G Electives - Global History HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Fall 2019
SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Anne Reinhardt

ASST 117 (S) Bombay/Mumbai: Making of a Modern Metropolis (WS)

Cross-listings: GBST 117 HIST 117 ASST 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 modern India through the history of its most important city.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: assessment will be based on class participation and weekly responses to readings, 2-3 short papers, leading to an oral presentation and final paper

Prerequisites: first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: First-Year Students, and then Sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar; not open to juniors or seniors

Expected Class Size: 15-19

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:

GBST 117 (D2) HIST 117 (D2) ASST 117 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Weekly reading response (less than 1000 words), several short papers leading to a final research paper. Peer reviews and instructor feedback of all written work to improve writing skills.

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

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01 MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Aparna Kapadia

ASST 121 (F) The Two Koreas (WS)

Cross-listings: ASST 121 HIST 121

Secondary Cross-listing

The two Koreas—North and South—were born in the aftermath of World War II, when the United States and the Soviet Union arbitrarily divided the peninsula into two zones of occupation at the 38th parallel. Today, over six decades later, the split endures as what has been called “the Cold War’s last divide.” This tutorial examines the history of the two Koreas from their creation in 1945 to the present. We will explore the historical and ideological origins of the division; how tensions between North and South led to the outbreak of the Korean War; why the paths of the two Koreas have differed so markedly; how each country has been shaped by its political leaders and their ideologies; and what recent developments in North Korea, including its nuclear program, have meant for relations on the peninsula and beyond. Course material will include primary and secondary sources of various kinds, including political documents, intellectual treatises, films, and short stories.

Requirements/Evaluation: students will meet with the instructor in pairs for an hour each week; a student either will write and present orally a 5- to 7-page essay on the assigned readings or will be responsible for offering an oral critique of their partner’s work

Prerequisites: first-year or sophomore standing; juniors or seniors with permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students, and then sophomores who have not previously taken a 100-level seminar

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:

ASST 121 (D2) HIST 121 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: In this tutorial, students receive substantial feedback from the professor (and from their partner) both in the sessions and in written comments about all aspects of their writing—argumentation, structure, mechanics. Such feedback is offered on five papers (of 5-7 pages in length) that they write over the course of the semester; they can also elect to receive comments on their final, synthetic paper (12-15 pages in length). Significant guidance is also given on the paper-writing process.
ASST 122 (S)  Old Shanghai, New Shanghai

Cross-listings:  ASST 122  CHIN 422

Secondary Cross-listing

Once nicknamed as "Paris of the East," Shanghai, now a megacity with a population of 25 million, is the industrial, commercial and financial center of contemporary China. Shanghai is often depicted as a metropolis that marked the beginning of China's modernity and urban culture. People from other regions in China see Shanghai as a city full of opportunities, but characterize its people as astute and shrewd, cocky and unwelcoming. Foreigners, however, find the city appealing and its people open-minded. Jews fleeing Nazi persecutions during WWII, found Shanghai to be a "paradise of ghetto" that provided the only haven of survival. For local people, there have always been two Shanghai: an old one and a new one. They are proud of the new Shanghai but constantly nostalgic about the old one. This tutorial examines the multifaceted city of Shanghai and its people from historical and cultural perspectives. We will look at the city's history (from the late nineteenth century to present day), its local language and culture, and everyday life of the people (including migrants and foreigners) living in it. The central ideas we will explore are "modernity" and "regional identity." We will investigate how these theoretical constructs play out in the making of the city of Shanghai and the formation of its unique local identity. Course readings include historical and cultural studies as well as documentaries in English about Shanghai, and primary sources in Chinese in a wide range of genres including fiction, essays, and films (English translation of the primary sources are available for students taking the course in English). The course is conducted in either Chinese or English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 122T and students wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN 422T. Students will come away with a critical understanding about China's regional cultures and one of its most important metropolitan cities. Chinese language learners will be able to improve their reading and writing skills in Chinese through this course. The course has a required field trip to a Chinese restaurant on a Saturday or Sunday, depending on all students' schedules.

Requirements/Evaluation:  each tutorial pair will meet with the instructor for one hour per week, during which time we will discuss a 5-page paper that one of the partners has submitted

Prerequisites:  none for students taking ASST 122; CHIN 402 or permission of the instructor for students taking CHIN 422

Enrollment Limit:  10

Enrollment Preferences:  current or prospective Asian Studies, Chinese, or Japanese majors

Expected Class Size:  10

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

Unit Notes:  students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 122 and students wishing to take the course in Chinese should register under CHIN 422

Materials/Lab Fee:  $100

Distributions:  (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASST 122 (D1) CHIN 422 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ASST 186 (F) Japanese Popular Visual Culture

Cross-listings:  ARTH 286  ARTH 586  ASST 186  COMP 186

Secondary Cross-listing

The phrase "Japanese popular culture" often calls to mind comics and animation, but Japan's earliest visual pop culture dates back to the 17th century and the development of arts like kabuki theater and woodblock prints that could be produced for a mass audience. This course traces Japanese popular culture through a range of visual media: kabuki and puppet theater, premodern and postmodern visual art (ukiyo-e, Superflat), classic film (Ozu, Mizoguchi, Kurosawa), manga/comics (Tezuka, Otomo, Okazaki), and animation (Oshii, Miyazaki, Kon). We will focus on developing visual reading skills to come up with original interpretations of these works, and on comparing different media to make them shed light on one another.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation:  attendance, participation, two 5-page papers, final exam

Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit: 35
Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or considering a major in a related discipline
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:
ARTH 286 (D1) ARTH 586 (D1) ASST 186 (D1) COMP 186 (D1)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Christopher A. Bolton

ASST 195 (F) Korean
Cross-listings: ASST 195 CRKO 101
Secondary Cross-listing
Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language being 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 of the language.
Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Prerequisites: sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Critical Language Program in early April
Enrollment Limit: 8
Expected Class Size: 8
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:
ASST 195 (D1) CRKO 101 (D1)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01  TBA  Jane E. Canova

ASST 196 (S) Korean
Cross-listings: CRKO 102 ASST 196
Secondary Cross-listing
Continuation in developing communicative skills and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures.
Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Prerequisites: CRKO 101
Enrollment Limit: 8
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:
CRKO 102 (D1) ASST 196 (D1)

Spring 2020
ASST 197 (F) Hindi
Cross-listings: CRHI 101 ASST 197
Secondary Cross-listing
Introduction to the alphabet and language structure with emphasis on communicative skills. Students will receive a foundation in the language being 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 of the language.
Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Prerequisites: sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Critical Language Program in early April
Enrollment Limit: 8
Expected Class Size: 8
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:
CRHI 101 (D1) ASST 197 (D1)

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

ASST 198 (S) Hindi
Cross-listings: CRHI 102 ASST 198
Secondary Cross-listing
Continuation in developing communicative skills and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures.
Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Prerequisites: CRHI 101
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:
CRHI 102 (D1) ASST 198 (D1)

Spring 2020
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

ASST 207 (F) An Exploration of Japanese Language and Culture
Cross-listings: ASST 207 JAPN 407
Secondary Cross-listing
Language is the primary means for human beings to lead social lives and it expresses, embodies and symbolizes cultural and social reality. This tutorial will examine the intertwining ways in which the Japanese language reflects the patterns of life and intrinsic beliefs of Japanese, while exploring how this linguistic code may influence and shape the ways Japanese think. We will look into the following topics: polite language and the variety of personal pronouns in order to examine how the hierarchical structure of Japanese society is reflected in them. Also, we will explore women's speech, youth and queer Japanese to discuss social and gender identities and the role of linguistic stereotypes in manga, anime and TV dramas as well as the "easy Japanese movement," which depicts the shift from a monolingual to multilingual Japanese society. And finally, our examination will investigate
the semantic and cultural losses that occur in translations from Japanese prose to English prose. The course is conducted in either Japanese or
English with materials drawn from linguistics and sociocultural studies both in Japanese and English. Students wishing to take the course in English
should register under ASST 207T and students wishing to take the course in Japanese should register under JAPN 407T. Japanese language learners
will not only develop analytical and critical thinking, but will gain more advanced Japanese skills such as reading to understand the logic of arguments,
exponent narrative, and academic presentations and writing.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, 5 short papers, 5 critiques, and one final project; ASST 207 will meet once a week; JAPN
407 will meet twice a week

Prerequisites: none for ASST 207; a 400-level Japanese language course, advanced level Japanese proficiency or permission of instructor for JAPN
407

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Japanese, Chinese, and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Unit Notes: students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 207 and students wishing to take the course in Japanese
should register under JAPN 407

Distributions: (D1)

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

ASST 207 (D1) JAPN 407 (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

Not offered current academic year

ASST 212 (F) Transforming the "Middle Kingdom": China, 2000 BCE-1600

Cross-listings: HIST 212 ASST 212

Secondary Cross-listing

China expanded from scattered Neolithic settlements to become one of the world’s most complex and sophisticated civilizations. During this process, it
experienced dramatic transformation as well as remarkable institutional and cultural continuities. This course will examine Chinese history from
prehistoric times to the "early modern" seventeenth century. It will address topics such as the creation and transformation of dynastic authority, the
reinterpretation of Confucian thought, the transmission of Buddhism, the conquest of China proper by "barbarian" peoples, the composition of elites,
and change in daily life, popular culture and China’s place in the East Asian and world systems.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, two short papers, a midterm, and a self-scheduled final exam

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

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:

HIST 212 (D2) ASST 212 (D2)

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

Premodern

Not offered current academic year

ASST 213 (S) Modern China, 1600-Present

Cross-listings: HIST 213 ASST 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.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, two short papers, a midterm, and a self-scheduled final exam

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

Expected Class Size: 35-40

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

HIST 213 (D2) ASST 213 (D2)

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

Spring 2020

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

ASST 217 (F) Early Modern Japan

Cross-listings: ASST 217 HIST 217

Secondary Cross-listing

Over a century of constant warfare came to an end in the late 1500s, ushering in more than two hundred years of relative peace in a Japan that was ruled by a military government. This course will take up the extraordinary changes and enduring continuities of the period between the establishment of the Tokugawa government in the early 1600s and its eventual collapse in 1868, an era characterized by societal order and tensions, economic growth and stagnation, the development of cities and towns, the flourishing of urban culture, the spread of new and different ideas, and the decline of the samurai. We will focus on the political, social, and cultural history of early modern Japan, including topics such as the establishment of the Tokugawa order, the nature of the political system, foreign relations, urbanization, popular culture, material culture, the quality of life, the legal order, gender and sexuality, and the fall of the Tokugawa government. Assigned materials will include government documents, intellectual treatises, autobiographies, literature, and films.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers, two short papers (5 pages), and a final paper (10 pages) or self-scheduled final exam

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

Expected Class Size: 25-30

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

ASST 217 (D2) HIST 217 (D2)

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

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Eiko Maruko Siniawer
ASST 218 (S) Modern Japan

Cross-listings: ASST 218 HIST 218

Secondary Cross-listing

Stunning revolutions, the construction and collapse of an empire, the waging of wars, devastating defeat and occupation by a foreign power, and postwar economic ups and downs have marked Japan's modern experience. This course will explore how various Japanese from politicians and intellectuals to factory workers and farmers have understood, instigated, and lived the upheavals of the past century and a half. We will ask why a modernizing revolution emerged out of the ashes of the early modern order; how Japan's encounters with "the West" have shaped the country's political and cultural life; what democracy and its failures have wrought; how world war was experienced and what legacies it left in its wake; how national identity has been constructed and reconstructed; and how postwar Japan has struggled with the successes and costs of affluence. Materials will include anthropological studies, government documents, intellectual tracts, fiction, films, and oral histories.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers, two short papers (5 pages), and a self-scheduled final exam or research paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

Expected Class Size: 30

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

ASST 218 (D2) HIST 218 (D2)

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

Not offered current academic year

ASST 219 (S) Japanese Culture and History from Courtiers to Samurai and Beyond

Cross-listings: HIST 219 JAPN 219 ASST 219 COMP 229

Secondary Cross-listing

This course will introduce students to the history, literature, and artistic culture of premodern Japan, from the time of the first recorded histories in the 800s through the abolition of the samurai class in the late 1800s. We will focus on the politics and aesthetic culture of the ruling elites in each period, from the heyday of the imperial court through the rise and eventual decline of the samurai warrior and the growth of Edo (Tokyo), with its new mode of early modern government and new forms of literature, theater, and art. Team taught by faculty from History and Comparative Literature, the course will examine historical texts alongside works drawn from literature, visual culture, and performing arts, and will ask students to consider how these different kinds of texts can shed light on one another. What is the difference between reading history and reading literature, or is it even meaningful to distinguish the two?

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, response assignments, two short papers (approximately five pages each), and a final exam

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or considering a major in a related field

Expected Class Size: 30

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

HIST 219 (D2) JAPN 219 (D1) ASST 219 (D2) COMP 229 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

ASST 220 (S) Being Korean in Japan
Cross-listings: ASST 220 JAPN 220

Secondary Cross-listing

Who are Zainichi Koreans (Koreans in Japan)? How are they different from Koreans in Korea or in the United States? Contemporary Korean TV dramas and films have depicted Koreans as attractive and successful people appealing to Hallyu (Korean Wave) fans around the world. However, Zainichi Koreans, who are the largest ethnic minority in Japan, have been frequently portrayed as abusive husbands/fathers, pitiful wives/mothers, or juvenile delinquents in both Japanese and Korean cinema and literature. Through close readings of films, novels, and short essays, we will explore little-known yet significant representations of Zainichi Koreans by focusing on Japanese and Korean historical contexts. By doing so, we will discover new aspects of transnational exchange not only between Japanese and Koreans, but also between South and North Koreans in Japan. All class materials will be available in English translation or with English subtitles.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance/participation; short written responses; midterm exam; group presentation; final essay

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: none

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:

ASST 220 (D1) JAPN 220 (D1)

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01   MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm   Eun Young Seong

ASST 221 (F) The Making of Modern South Asia: 1750-1950 CE

Cross-listings: GBST 221 ASST 221 HIST 221

Secondary Cross-listing

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 the end of the Mughal Empire through British colonial rule and the Partition of India and Pakistan. 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 website content. One objective of this course is to introduce students to the different political and social processes that led to the creation of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; another is to teach students to think critically about the significance of history and history writing in the making of the subcontinent.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers (2-3 pages), two short essays (4-5 pages), midterm and final exams

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

Expected Class Size: 20-25

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

GBST 221 (D2) ASST 221 (D2) HIST 221 (D2)

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

Fall 2019

LEC Section: 01   TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm   Aparna Kapadia
ASST 222 (S) History and Society in India and South Asia: c. 2000 to 1700s CE

Cross-listings: ASST 222 HIST 220

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is an introduction to the history of India and South Asia from prehistoric times to the emergence of early modernity. During these centuries, the subcontinent emerged as one of the most diverse and complex regions of the world, as it continues to be even today. The course will cover the period between the rise of the Indus Valley civilization to the end of the Mughal Empire and will address topics such as the "discovery of India", the coming of the "Aryans", society and culture in the great epics like the Ramayana, the beginnings of Jain and Buddhist thought, politics and patronage under Islamic polities, the formation of Mughal imperial authority through art, architecture and literature, among others. Through the study of social processes, the course will focus on the diversity and connectedness that have defined the subcontinent throughout its history. It will also consider the role of history in the region and how a number of events from the past continue to inform its present.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers and presentation, 2 essays, a mid-term and a final exam

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 20-25

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

ASST 222 (D2) HIST 220 (D2)

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

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01    MW 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm    Aparna Kapadia

ASST 232 (S) Buddhist Economics

Cross-listings: ASST 232 REL 232

Secondary Cross-listing

Or, "From 'Shark Tank' to 'Monk Cave': Business and Socially Engaged Buddhism". Television shows like Shark Tank, featuring a panel of potential investors who consider propositions from aspiring entrepreneurs, evinces that popular culture values only the making of profit. In such a capitalistic world, who are the "winners" and "losers"? What impact does a business/product have beyond its intended consumer benefits? What is the Buddhist response to business and commerce and its overall effects on individuals, society, and ecology? This course will challenge students to research, analyze, and devise resolutions for real world issues, by having students employ Buddhist solutions informed by concepts such as compassion, interconnectedness, and Socially Engaged Buddhism. Students will scrutinize the related concept of "structural violence". We will look at examples from Bhutan's "Gross Domestic Happiness", Thailand's "Sufficiency Economy", China's state-led religious charities under the name of "Humanistic Buddhism", as well as the ordination of trees. This course hopes to prepare students to be critical, rather than merely passive, world citizens, especially in the realm of business, and to be more conscious and aware of their everyday life choices and its impact on every aspect of society.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and active participation 20%; short writing assignments 25%; mid-term exam 25%; final project and presentation 30%

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 16

Enrollment Preferences: Religious Studies majors and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 16

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

ASST 232 (D2) REL 232 (D2)
ASST 233 (S) Spiritual Crossroads: Religious Life in Southeast Asia

Cross-listings: ASST 233 REL 253 ANTH 233

Secondary Cross-listing

No region of the world presents a richer tapestry of religious beliefs, practices, and institutions than Southeast Asia. Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam are all to be found and all of them interpenetrate and contend with each other and with a deep undergirding of animism, shamanism, and mystical folk belief systems. This course will survey these religious traditions through time and space, looking in particular at the growing tension between religion and the state as fundamentalism and religious militancy have spread into the region in recent times. All of Southeast Asia will be covered, but particular attention will be devoted to Indonesia, where religious blending and the growth of new fundamentalism are both especially marked.

Requirements/Evaluation: midterm, short essays, term paper
Prerequisites: none; open to non-majors
Enrollment Limit: 19
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:
ASST 233 (D2) REL 253 (D2) ANTH 233 (D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

ASST 243 (F) Red Chamber Dreams: China's Greatest Novel as Literature and Legacy

Cross-listings: ASST 243 COMP 245

Secondary Cross-listing

The eighteenth-century novel Dream of the Red Chamber, also known as Story of the Stone, is widely regarded as China's greatest novel due to the intricacy of its narrative 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. We will read the novel through a variety of critical approaches, addressing it both as a work of literature and as a cultural phenomenon.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: three 2-page papers, one 5-page paper, and a final 6- to 7-page paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: COMP majors, then ASST majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ASST 243 (D2) COMP 245 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ASST 244 (S) Mind and Persons in Indian Thought

Cross-listings: REL 244 ASST 244
Secondary Cross-listing

In this course, we follow the conversation among Indian philosophers concerning the self and the nature of consciousness. 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 philosophy, 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 ideas that have challenged philosophers in both traditions.

Class Format: discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: full attendance and participation, three short essays (6 pages)
Prerequisites: prior exposure to Buddhism or philosophy, or permission of instructor
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:
REL 244 (D2) ASST 244 (D2)

Attributes: PHIL Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASST 245 (F) Nationalism in East Asia

Cross-listings: ASST 245 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 debates in Japan about the possibility of a woman ascending the Chrysanthemum Throne, 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. 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: two 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:
ASST 245 (D2) PSCI 354 (D2) HIST 318 (D2)

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

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm George T. Crane

ASST 246 (F)(S) India's Identities: Nation, Community, & Individual

Cross-listings: ASST 246 ANTH 246 WGSS 246 REL 246
Secondary Cross-listing

This tutorial considers India’s legacy as a booming Asian democracy that is built upon deep and enduring divisions. Why is India’s growing population so often described in terms of multiple identities or fragmenting oppositions—including religion, gender, caste, and class? What are the historic roots and recollections of key moments of structural violence in modern Indian history that produce ongoing social conflict as well as social fluidity? We pay particular attention to key historic moments such as Partition, and key communal riots in Gujarat, Hyderabad, and Delhi as well as regions of India such as Jammu & Kashmir in order to understand the struggle for individual subjectivity and identity within a landscape of stark social hierarchies. We will cover climate emergencies, resource scarcities, and ongoing struggles for power and status across very different parts of India. Our readings include ethnographic, sociological, historical analyses as well as fiction, oral history, and popular media sources that attempt to portray India’s diverse and fragmented society.

Class Format: meetings weekly, weekly writing, and discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly writing assignments and tutorial attendance every week

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: majors in Anthropology and Sociology, Religion, Asian Studies, or Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

ASST 246 (D2) ANTH 246 (D2) WGSS 246 (D2) REL 246 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Weekly writing, writing chats, intensive feedback on writing grammar, style, argument every week.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course fulfills the Difference, Power, and Equity by theorizing the ways that social power and equity have been and continue to be a source of struggle and division within Indian society. It analyzes the ways that communities have used religion, gender, ethnicity, and caste to struggle for power and status within Indian society.

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives PHLH Bioethics + Interpretations of Health WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses
**Enrollment Preferences:** Religious Studies and Asian Studies majors

**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:

- ASST 250 (D2) REL 250 (D2)

**Attributes:** GBST East Asian Studies Electives, PHIL Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

**ASST 253 (S) Love and Death in Modern Japanese Literature**

**Cross-listings:** ASST 253 COMP 255

Secondary Cross-listing

One thing that surprises many first-time readers of modern Japanese fiction is its striking similarity to Western fiction. But equally surprising are the intriguing differences that lie concealed within that sameness. This course investigates Japanese culture and compares it with our own by reading Japanese fiction about two universal human experiences--love and death--and asking what inflections Japanese writers give these ideas in their work. The course begins with tales of doomed lovers that were popular in the eighteenth-century kabuki and puppet theaters, and that still feature prominently in Japanese popular culture, from comics to TV dramas. From there we move on to novels and films that examine a range of other relationships between love and death, including parental love and sacrifice, martyrdom and love of country, sex and the occult, and romance at an advanced age. We will read novels and short stories by canonical modern authors like Tanizaki, Kawabata, and Mishima as well as more contemporary fiction by writers like Murakami Haruki; we will also look at some visual literature, including puppet theater, comics, animation, and Japanese New Wave film. The class and the readings are in English.

**Class Format:** discussion

**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:** none

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**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:

- ASST 253 (D1) COMP 255 (D1)

**Attributes:** GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

**ASST 254 (S) The End of the World in Japanese Literature and Visual Culture**

**Cross-listings:** COMP 264 ASST 254

Secondary Cross-listing

From the endemic warfare of the medieval era to the atomic bombing and the violent explosion of technology in the last century, the end of the world is an idea which has occupied a central place in almost every generation of Japanese literature. Paradoxically, the spectacle of destruction has given birth to some of the most beautiful, most moving, and most powerfully thrilling literature in the Japanese tradition. Texts may be drawn from medieval war narratives like *The Tale of the Heike*; World War II fiction and films by Ibuse Masuiji, Imamura Shôhei, and Ichikawa Kon; fantasy and science fiction novels by Abe Kôbô, Murakami Haruki and Murakami Ryô; and apocalyptic comics and animation by Oshii Mamoru, Otomo Katsuhiro, and others. The class and the readings are in English; no familiarity with Japanese language or culture is required.

**Class Format:** discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** in-class exam, ungraded creative project, and a few short response assignments, plus two 5- to 7-page papers emphasizing original, creative readings of the literary texts
ASST 255 (S) Buddhism: Ideas and Practices
Cross-listings: ANTH 255 REL 255 ASST 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
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) REL 255 (D2) ASST 255 (D2)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives PHIL Related Courses
Not offered current academic year

ASST 256 (F) Buddhism, Sex, & Gender: #MeToo Then and Now (DPE)
Cross-listings: ANTH 256 REL 256 ASST 256 WGSS 256

Secondary Cross-listing
This course considers the feminist voices that have been part and parcel of Buddhist practices, texts, and institutions for most of its 2500-year history. We will conduct a historical genealogy of Buddhist voices that illustrate the fluid and disruptive role of sex, gender, caste, and class in relation to individual behavior and social relations. How did the Buddha's inner revolution produce a set of practices that both reject and reinforce existing binaries and social hierarchies of sex and gender, and with what effects? We will trace a feminist voice that decries harassment, assault, and systemic sexism within Buddhist communities from the first female disciples (Theri) of the Buddha to the current #MeToo era of embattled toxic masculinility. Along the way, we explore a literary canon that contains misogyny and 'she devils' alongside a rich tapestry of female divinities, transgender fluidity, and female liberation. We pursue and intersectional analysis of Buddhist traditions and texts by considering the multiple forms of social hierarchy--gender, sexuality, race, and class--that Buddhism has attempted to transcend. We begin by considering three women in the Buddha's life--his mother (Maya), his stepmother/aunt (Gotami), and his wife (Yashodhara)--as well as the tales of the first enlightened Buddhist women whose topics include prostitution, patriarchy, sexism, and pathetic husbands, as well as their own decaying bodies and beauty. Our next theme is the myriad
ways that gender is both produced and deconstructed in Buddhist discourses on enlightenment and the human body. Our final theme considers a range of monastic memoirs, including a Buddhist black nun who left Harvard to take ordination in Thailand, and a Dutchman who studied Zen Japan. We close by examining the current debates in the U.S. and Asia that seek to combat systemic racism, sexism, and casteism in Buddhist traditions.

Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, reading responses (3-4 pages), writing chat, final research paper (12 pages)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology, Religion, Asian Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality majors

Expected Class Size: 15

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

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

ANTH 256 (D2) REL 256 (D2) ASST 256 (D2) WGSS 256 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The course fulfills DPE because it seeks to theorize the role of difference (gender, sex, class, and race) and intersectionality within Buddhist texts, practices, and institutions. It considers how Buddhist practices and institutions both deconstruct and reproduce social inequality.

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives  WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses

Not offered current academic year

ASST 266  (S)  Confession and Deception in Japanese Literature

Cross-listings: ASST 266  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.

Class Format: seminar

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:

ASST 266 (D1) COMP 266 (D1)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2020

SEM Section: 01  MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Christopher A. Bolton

ASST 269  (F)(S)  Mindsight: Mindfulness and Medicine  (DPE) (WS)
Cross-listings: REL 269  STS 269  ANTH 269  ASST 269

Secondary Cross-listing

This course offers a social analysis and historical genealogy of meditation and mindfulness from its roots as a Buddhist practice through its modern applications in a variety of social settings including hospitals and clinics, schools & communities where it has been used to improve health outcomes, education outcomes, and other social outcomes. Throughout, we are interested in the scientific evidence that have tried to show how meditation and mindfulness can alter human experience, behavior, and well-being. We begin by considering how mindfulness and meditation practices were introduced and developed by the Buddha and continue to be taught and practiced today in contemporary settings, before turning to the rapid rise of scientific research on mindfulness in recent decades. How and why has research on mindfulness and meditation exploded since 2000 and how does this relate to better understandings of human emotions, human behavior, and human development? We critically examine the use and misuse of modern technologies and models developed by clinical psychiatry and biomedicine to better understand the relationship between the human brain, behavior, and emotions. We ask how meditation and mindfulness has been used to improve the training of doctors & teachers, as well as patient/provider encounters. Throughout, we are interested in how applied research and interventions of mindfulness training with medical training, schools, and other social domains has been used to generate a 'science of personal transformation' that is trying to harness the adaptability of human minds, brains, & behaviors. Students will be expected to engage in mindfulness practices during the semester.

Class Format: weekly tutorial, context-based learning, experiential learning

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly tutorial papers and discussion

Prerequisites: a course on Buddhism is preferred but not required

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:
REL 269 (D2) STS 269 (D2) ANTH 269 (D2) ASST 269 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: This class will involve weekly tutorial essays of 1200 or 600 words, written feedback on every essay, and a mid-semester 'writing chat' with the instructor to improve patterns in writing.

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class fulfills the Difference, Power, and Equity requirement because it will explore the ways that mindfulness can alleviate pervasive and population wide health issues in the US including rising rates of hypertension, anxiety, and mental health issues that are exacerbated by stress related to social inequality and structural violence. It explores and critiques the ways that mindfulness has been marketed as an elite and non-inclusive practice within the US.

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

Fall 2019
TUT Section: T1    TBA     Kim Gutschow

Spring 2020
TUT Section: T1    Cancelled

ASST 270  (S) Visual Arts of Japan

Cross-listings: ASST 270  ARTH 270

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is a survey of traditional Japanese painting, sculpture, architecture, woodblock prints, and decorative arts. Special attention will be paid to the developments in artistic style and subject matter in the contexts of contemporary cultural phenomena. Through visual analysis students learn the aesthetic, religious, and political ideals and cultural meanings conveyed in the works of art. Course highlights include the transmission of Buddhism and its art to Japan; Zen Buddhism and its art (dry gardens; temples; and tea ceremony related art forms) in the context of samurai culture; the sex industry and kabuki theater, their art, and censorship; and the Western influences on Japanese art and culture and vice versa, (Japanese woodblock prints' impact on Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, for example).

Requirements/Evaluation: three 30- to 40-minute quizzes, two short papers, film screening, class attendance
ASST 270 (D1) ARTH 270 (D1)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year

ASST 271 (F) Erotic, Grotesque, Sublime: Ghosts and Monsters in East Asian Religion and Popular Culture

Cross-listings: COMP 279 REL 271 WGSS 279 ASST 271

Secondary Cross-listing

"Ghosts and monsters” (Chinese yaoguai, Japanese yokai, Korean yogoe) have long figured prominently in East Asian cultural history. In medieval East Asian chronicles, wrathful demons attacked the imperial palace, ghosts haunted abandoned temples, and shape-shifting foxes infiltrated the bedrooms of royal concubines. These creatures persisted into the modern era when nineteenth century tabloids reported the existence of demon-foxes, giant serpents, and vengeful spirits. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, monsters began crossing over into the realm of fiction, and Japanese, Chinese, and Korean popular novels and films continue to crawl with images of traditional dark beasts. The opening contention of this course is that ghosts and monsters signify deviancies from "the normal" as it is constructed in a given culture and time period--they often come to represent transgressions of nature, gender, sexuality, race, morality, or to subvert distinctions such as those between human and animal, man and woman, animate and inanimate, present and past, or living and dead. This course will analyze East Asian ghosts and monsters in their historical cultural context, thinking about how they come to embody particular cultural fears and desires. We will use a range of East Asian materials in translation—including folktales, medieval bestiaries, short stories, and films, alongside a heavy dose of theory including works by feminist scholars Julia Kristeva, Ilika Quindeau, Susan Sontag and various others who attempt to understand the monstrous and the uncanny. Students will undertake an extended research project on a ghost or monster of their choice and locate it in its broader cultural context. Doing so should put us in a position to explore central themes, such as the connection between the grotesque and the erotic, the cultural performance of gender, the social construction of illness, the trauma of memory, the commodification of the supernatural, and the boundaries of the human.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, weekly responses, final 15- to 18-page research paper

ASST 272 (F) Art of the Noble Path: Buddhist Material Culture Across Asia

Cross-listings: REL 272 ARTH 272 ASST 272

Secondary Cross-listing

Buddhism has spread throughout Asia and beyond since its emergence in India in the 5th century BCE, providing a shared philosophical and cosmological framework for diverse cultures. Artistic expression, regional politics and cultural landscapes have been shaped by its remarkable influence. With patrons ranging from powerful monarchs and monks to merchants and tradespeople, Buddhist art has historically reflected the religion's social inclusivity. This course will survey the architecture, painting and material culture of Buddhism in Asia, tracing its influence in diverse
media, from rock-cut architecture to Zen painting. A close reading of primary texts, such as architectural inscriptions in India, manuscripts from Tibet, and travelogues of Chinese pilgrims, will provide greater context for the artworks.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 3 fifteen-minute quizzes, 1 three to five-page paper, 1 eight to ten-page paper, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 25

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

**Distributions:** (D1)

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

REL 272 (D2) ARTH 272 (D1) ASST 272 (D1)

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**ASST 273 (S) The Arts of the Book in Asia**

**Cross-listings:** ARTH 273 ASST 273

**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 course will survey 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 survey 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 Williams College Museum of Art where students will have the opportunity to study original artworks from the collection.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 2 quizzes, 2 short response papers, a final project/paper based on museum objects, 1-hour in-class final exam

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** preference will be given to Art Majors, and then to students of any major interested in art and culture of Asia

**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:*

ARTH 273 (D1) ASST 273 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

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**ASST 274 (S) Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and Practice**

**Cross-listings:** ARTH 274 ARTS 274 ASST 274

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Beginning in the fourth century, Chinese calligraphy has remained one of the highest art forms in China and in East Asia generally, practiced by the literati, or highly erudite scholars. This course has two components: art history and studio practice. The first offers students an opportunity to acquire an understanding of theoretical and aesthetic principles of Chinese calligraphy. It also examines the religious, social, and political functions of Chinese calligraphy in ancient and contemporary China. Students will also have an opportunity to investigate contemporary artists, both Eastern and Western, whose works are either inspired or influenced by Chinese calligraphy, and those whose works are akin to Chinese calligraphy in their abstraction. Studio practice allows students to apply theories to creating beautiful writing, or calligraphy (from Greek kallos “beauty” + graphe “writing”). This course can be taken as an Art History, a Studio Art, or Asian Studies course.

**Class Format:** lecture/studio instruction
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly assignments, a midterm, one short paper, oral presentations, participation in class discussion, a final project (artistic or scholarly), class attendance, film screening

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

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

Unit Notes: this course can count toward the Art History or Studio major

Materials/Lab Fee: TBD lab fee charged to term bill

Distributions: (D1)

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

ARTH 274 (D1) ARTS 274 (D1) ASST 274 (D1)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2020

LEC Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang

ASST 278 (S) Buddhist Material Culture: Objects of Practice and Merit (DPE)

Cross-listings: ASST 278 REL 278

Secondary Cross-listing

What is material culture? What is considered Buddhist material culture? If Buddhism is a tradition that encourages non-attachment, then what is meant by "Buddhist material culture"? Shouldn't Buddhists be "free" from material things? Is it necessary for a Buddhist to be free from material things or rather that material things should be free from Buddhists? This course will introduce students to a material culture approach to the study of religion, which acknowledges the agency of not only humans but also the agency of objects/things/stuff, and it emphasizes relationships and networks between people and things. The course will begin with basic foundational theories that make up the burgeoning field of "material culture" within Religious Studies. We focus on various relationships: "internal" (our body and senses in relation to things) and "external" (things themselves, and their connections to other things). We will learn about these relationships by looking closely at Buddhist "stuff" and investigating what such relationships can tell us about Buddhism. Things act upon us, and we (re)act upon them. They shape identity, create meaning, and maintain relationships. We will learn that things are never just things. They help us better understand what people do in Buddhism, not just what people believe. In a nutshell, this course is about the "social life of [Buddhist] things". For students without a background in Buddhism, this course will introduce them to Buddhism as lived in China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, and particularly Southeast Asia.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and active participation: 15%; short writing assignments, 8 total (1 page): 25%; midterm exam (in-class): 25%; group presentation of object: 35%

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Religion and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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:

ASST 278 (D2) REL 278 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: The material world of contemporary Buddhism is often condemned for "adulterating" "real" Buddhism because it does not fit stereotypical buzzwords like tranquil, austere, non-commercial. Yet, materiality is essential to Asian Buddhist practitioners, who are the 90%. Students will hone skills to seek the unseen by tracing networks of a New Materialism approach, which can reveal relationships that demonstrate power struggle and inequality, even within a "loving-kindness" tradition like Buddhism.

Not offered current academic year

ASST 284 (S) Introduction to Asian American History (DPE)

Cross-listings: HIST 284 ASST 284 AMST 284
Secondary Cross-listing
This course covers the immigration of Asian to the U.S. from the 1850s to the present and the lives of both immigrants and their descendants. Possible topics are the Chinese Exclusion Act, the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and the arrival of Vietnamese to the U.S. after the war in Viet Nam.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: a series of short essays and a final oral history/family history
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Expected Class Size: 25
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
HIST 284 (D2) ASST 284 (D2) AMST 284 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course will focus on the legal barriers to Asian American immigration and citizenship that reveal the racial, class, gender, and religious biases against people from that part of the world. By examining these issues, we will see an unequal balance of power as well as the various ways Asian immigrants resisted American immigration laws and would eventually build communities in many parts of the US.
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora  HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada
Not offered current academic year

ASST 297 (F) Intermediate Korean
Cross-listings: CRKO 201 ASST 297
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.
Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Prerequisites: sophomore or higher standing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher; application to the Critical Language Program in early April
Enrollment Limit: 8
Expected Class Size: 8
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:
CRKO 201 (D1) ASST 297 (D1)
Not offered current academic year

ASST 298 (S) Intermediate Korean
Cross-listings: CRKO 202 ASST 298
Secondary Cross-listing
Continuation of intermediate skills in speaking and writing.
Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions
Prerequisites: CRKO 201
Enrollment Limit: 8
Expected Class Size: 8
**ASST 312 (F) The Mughal Empire: Power, Art, and Religion in India**

**Cross-listings:** HIST 312 ASST 312 REL 312 GBST 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 WCMA collections) and architecture. They will also discuss how the Mughals are remembered in South Asian film and music.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** participation, response papers/short essays, one final paper

**Prerequisites:** none, open to first-year students with instructor permission

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** History majors and potential History majors

**Expected Class Size:** 20

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

**Distributions:** (D2)

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

HIST 312 (D2) ASST 312 (D2) REL 312 (D2) GBST 312 (D2)

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

**Not offered current academic year**
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:
HIST 313 (D2) ASST 313 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year

ASST 314 (F) Emperors of Heaven and Earth: Mughal Power and Art in India, 1525-1707

Cross-listings: ARTH 314 HIST 314 ASST 314

Secondary Cross-listing
The Mughal dynasty ruled over most of northern India from the 16th to the 19th centuries. The Mughal Empire was the grandest and longest to rule the Indian subcontinent—much larger than any European empire in the early modern world—and it continued to have a lasting impact on South Asia. Mughals established a centralized administration with a vast complex of personnel, money and information networks. Styling themselves as ‘Emperors of Heaven and Earth’, the Mughal kings were also globally viewed as political innovators and unprecedented patrons of art. Their visual practices were as much a part of their imperial ideologies as their administrative and military measures. This co-taught course combines the disciplines of Art History and History to explore the intricate workings of Mughal politics and ideologies. The first of its kind to bring an interdisciplinary approach to teaching South Asia at Williams, the course asks: How did the Mughals sustain their empire for three centuries? How did they use art and politics to rule over diverse and largely non-Muslim populations? How did these Muslim imperial patrons merge Persian and Central Asian cultural values with preexisting Indian forms of administrative and artistic expression? How does Mughal culture continue to shape the South Asian imagination today? Readings will include a variety of visual and literary texts. We will delve deep into the world of biographies, travel accounts, poetry, architecture and a plethora of artworks. Students will take a hands-on approach to Mughal painting through several visits to the WCMA and a dedicated Object Lab. The primary aim of this co-taught course is to introduce students to a multifaceted picture of one of the greatest empires in pre-colonial world history. Another goal is to familiarize them with a wide range of visual and written primary sources and develop a vocabulary for ‘reading’ these.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and weekly responses to readings, 4-5 short papers and a final paper

Prerequisites: students who have previously taken HIST312 will not be permitted to take this course; no other prerequisites

Enrollment Limit: none

Enrollment Preferences: graduating seniors

Expected Class Size: 20

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

Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
ARTH 314 (D1) HIST 314 (D2) ASST 314 (D2)

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800 Courses HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Fall 2019

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Aparna Kapadia, Murad K. Mumtaz

ASST 316 (F) Feeling Queer and Asian

Cross-listings: COMP 313 WGSS 316 ASST 316

Secondary Cross-listing
This advanced undergraduate seminar focuses on concepts, queries, and methodologies at the intersections of Asian Americanist critique, queer theory, and affect theory. How might we come to understand Asian gender, sexuality, and racialization less through a language of being or meaning, as through feeling? How do Asian/American discourses rely upon languages of gender and sexuality, and how might queerness depend upon Asianness? How might these theories identify, complicate, and call forth more expansive or alternative practices of belonging? The class will read theories including national abjection, racial melancholia, disaffection, queer diaspora, and homonationalism, as well as engage Asian American literatures.
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: WGSS majors
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
COMP 313 (D1) WGSS 316 (D2) ASST 316 (D2)

ASST 319 (F) Gender and the Family in Chinese History
Cross-listings: ASST 319 WGSS 319 HIST 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, generational, and sexual roles in different historical periods. Beginning in the late imperial period (16th-18th Centuries), we will examine the religious, marital, sexual, and childrearing practices associated with the "orthodox" Confucian family. We will then explore the wide variety of "heterodox" practices in imperial China, debates over and critiques of the family system in the twentieth century, and configurations of gender and family in contemporary China.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, several short papers, and a final paper
Prerequisites: none; open to first year-students with instructors permission
Enrollment Limit: 25
Expected Class Size: 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:
ASST 319 (D2) WGSS 319 (D2) HIST 319 (D2)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group P Electives - Premodern WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses
Not offered current academic year

ASST 321 (F) History of U.S.-Japan Relations
Cross-listings: HIST 321 ASST 321
Secondary Cross-listing
An unabating tension between conflict and cooperation has been an undercurrent of U.S.-Japan relations for over 150 years, at times erupting into clashes reaching the scale of world war and at times allowing for measured collaboration. We will explore the U.S.-Japan relationship from the perspectives of both countries with a focus on how culture, domestic concerns, economic and political aims, international contexts, and race have helped shape its course and nature. Topics will include early U.S.-Japan encounters; the rise of both countries as imperial powers; the road to, and experience of, World War II; the politics and social history of the postwar American occupation of Japan; the U.S.-Japan security alliance; trade relations; and popular culture. Contemporary topics will also be discussed.

Class Format: discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers, two short papers (5 pages), and a self-scheduled final exam or research paper
Prerequisites: none; open to first-year students with instructors permission
Enrollment Limit: 25
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:  
HIST 321 (D2) ASST 321 (D2)  
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives HIST B Electives - Asia HIST F Electives - U.S. + Canada MAST Interdepartmental Electives  
Not offered current academic year  

ASST 341 (S) Caste, Race, Hierarchy  
Cross-listings: ANTH 341 AFR 341 ASST 341 GBST 341  
Secondary Cross-listing  
Caste in India looms large in global social thought as a kind of benchmark against which hierarchical social systems across the world are measured. This prominence has much to do with British colonial ideologies of rule, but it also has a deeper and different history: the Buddha compared caste to Greek slavery, early modern Jesuits related it to the system of European estates, and since the nineteenth century, anti-caste radicals from Dalit, or "untouchable," backgrounds have drawn a sustained comparison between the forms of oppression they face and those with which African Americans contend in the United States. Reciprocally, thinkers from W.E.B. DuBois to Toni Morrison have deployed the category of caste in their writings on race. What can the study of caste in postcolonial South Asia contribute to global debates over the persistence of "traditional" forms of social hierarchy? What are the stakes of bringing caste and race into the same conversation, and what are the implications of refusing to do so? In this seminar we will acquire a thorough grounding in the anthropological literature on caste and then investigate the politics of the caste-race comparison over the last hundred years. Assignments include weekly postings of 1-page critical response papers and either a research paper or an interview-based, ethnographic final project examining "caste" in one's own community.  
Class Format: seminar  
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly postings of 1-page critical response papers and research paper or ethnographic final project  
Prerequisites: none  
Enrollment Limit: 20  
Enrollment Preferences: seniors, juniors, majors in ANSO, AFR, or ASST  
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:  
ANTH 341 (D2) AFR 341 (D2) ASST 341 (D2) GBST 341 (D2)  
Not offered current academic year  

ASST 342 (S) Monuments and Miniatures: Architecture and Painting in India (WS)  
Cross-listings: ASST 342 ARTH 342  
Secondary Cross-listing  
This tutorial is designed to provide an in-depth comparative study of two of the most important cultural expressions in the history of the Indian Subcontinent: Architecture and Painting. From sprawling pleasure gardens and palaces to iconic tomb complexes and temples, the built environment has served various cultural, religious and communal functions in India. Intimate in scale, and made primarily for an elite audience, miniature painting has also performed a key role in preserving and transmitting cultural values over time and space. Despite obvious differences in scale and scope, architectural monuments and miniature paintings produced for manuscripts and albums reflect similar creative impulses. They are also often linked through their relationship to text, and can be interpreted through contemporaneous literature. In the tutorial, students will be asked to make careful analyses of the iconography, symbolism and historical frameworks of monumental architecture and miniature painting in India. Original literature in translation and recent scholarly essays will help provide the framework for considering the artworks from the perspective of their patrons, creators and audiences. We will also consider the shifting roles and meanings of these artworks through the ages. For example, what was the original symbolism of the Taj Mahal, and how has it become a highly contested, political space in contemporary India? How did grand picture albums from the seventeenth
century, made for some of the most powerful emperors in global history, function as tools for political self-fashioning? And what do their modern reception as part of Western museum collections tell us about the transformation of India during the British colonial period?

Class Format: Tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: bi-weekly writing assignments 5-7 pages in length, short peer response papers, field trips to local museums

Prerequisites: none, open to all students

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: one

Expected Class Size: 6

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:

ASST 342 (D1) ARTH 342 (D1)

Writing Skills Notes: Bi-weekly 5-7 pages long papers. Students will receive from the instructor timely comments on their writing skills, with suggestions for improvement.

Attributes: ARTH pre-1800 Courses

Spring 2020

TUT Section: T1 Cancelled

ASST 376 (S) Zen Buddhist Visual Culture: The Path to Nirvana

Cross-listings: ASST 376 ARTH 376 REL 252

Secondary Cross-listing

This course is about the ways in which images are produced, viewed, and used in the Zen Buddhist tradition. It explores the various ways in which visual culture is a key part of Zen Buddhist teaching in China and Japan. In this class we will look at both high art and popular expressions of Zen Buddhist visual culture. Topics of interest include: 1) Buddhist image making and icon worship; 2) Gardens; 3) tearooms, tea ceremony and tea bowls; 4) The Zen temples Ryoan-ji, Daisen-in, and Daitoku-ji; 5) The political function of Zen and its art in Japan's samurai culture; 6) The popular Zen Buddhist cult of Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara and his gender transformation; and 7) Daruma (Bodhidharma) imagery in popular culture. This course is a CRAAS (critical reasoning and analytical skills) course. The class format also offers students opportunities to practice public speaking and writing skills.

Class Format: class discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: class discussions and participation; oral presentations, short papers; and a research paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores, juniors, and seniors

Expected Class Size: 8

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

Distributions: (D1)

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

ASST 376 (D1) ARTH 376 (D1) REL 252 (D1)

Not offered current academic year

ASST 384 (F) Selected Topics in Asian American Studies (DPE)

Cross-listings: AMST 384 HIST 384 ASST 384

Secondary Cross-listing

Assuming some previous knowledge of Asian American history, this course will examine a number of specific topics in Asian American Studies. Using historical sources, monographs, graphic memoirs, novels, and films, potential topics include Asians of mixed race, Orientalism, adoption, food culture,
the "model minority," legal studies, Asian Americans and the environment, and the impact of war on Asian American history.

Requirements/Evaluation: papers

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: seniors first, then anyone

Expected Class Size: 20

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

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

AMST 384 (D2) HIST 384 (D2) ASST 384 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This class is focused on race, immigration, gender relations, and labor issues; all of which can be seen through the lens of power dynamics and inequality.

Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora ASAM Core Courses HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

Fall 2019
LEC Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Scott Wong

ASST 389 (S) The Vietnam Wars

Cross-listings: HIST 389 LEAD 389 ASST 389

Secondary Cross-listing

This course explores Vietnam's twentieth century wars, including an anti-colonial war against France (1946-1954), a massive Cold War conflict involving the United States (1965-1973), and postcolonial confrontations with China and Cambodia in the late-1970s. Course materials will focus primarily on Vietnam's domestic politics and its relations with other countries. Lectures, readings, films, and discussions will explore the process by which Vietnam's anti-colonial struggle became one of the central conflicts of the Cold War, and examine the ramifications of that fact for all parties involved. The impact of these wars can hardly be overstated, as they affected the trajectory of French decolonization, altered America's domestic politics and foreign policy, invigorated anti-colonial movements across the Third World, and left Vietnam isolated in the international community.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, several short papers, and a 10- to 12-page final paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: History and Asian Studies majors

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 389 (D2) LEAD 389 (D2) ASST 389 (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada LEAD American Foreign Policy Leadership

Not offered current academic year

ASST 391 (S) When India was the World: Trade, Travel and History in the Indian Ocean

Cross-listings: GBST 391 ASST 391 HIST 391

Secondary Cross-listing

What do Ibrahim Ben Yiju, a Jewish merchant from 11th century Yemen, Ibn Batutah, a Muslim scholar from 15th century Morocco and Captain Kidd, a 17th century English pirate have in common? All three men travelled and lived in the Indian Ocean region! This course explores the history of one of the world's oldest maritime highways that has connected the diverse cultures of Asia, Africa and Europe for millennia, thus making it a vital element in
the birth of globalization. Moving away from conventional land-centric histories, we will focus instead on understanding the human past through oceanic interactions. South Asian ports and port cities remained the fulcrum of the Indian Ocean world throughout its history; traders, travellers, nobles, scholars, pilgrims and pirates from all over the world travelled to the Indian coast in search of adventure, spices, knowledge and wealth. Thus we will primarily focus on India's role in the Indian Ocean roughly from the rise of Islam in the seventh century CE through the expansion of various European communities in the region and the subsequent rise of the global economy and colonialism in the nineteenth century. Rather than following a strict temporal chronology we will concentrate on themes such as travel and adventure; trade and exchange; trust and friendship; religion and society; pilgrimage; piracy; the culture of port cities; and food across time.

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation and weekly responses to readings, 2-3 short papers, an oral presentation and final paper
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 15-20
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
GBST 391 (D2) ASST 391 (D2) HIST 391 (D2)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives HIST Group B Electives - Asia HIST Group P Electives - Premodern MAST Interdepartmental Electives
Not offered current academic year

ASST 413 (S) History of Taiwan (WS)
Cross-listings: ASST 413 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. 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 or Asian Studies majors
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:
ASST 413 (D2) HIST 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
Not offered current academic year

ASST 488 (S) Gandhi: Nationalism, Philosophy, and Legacy
Cross-listings: GBST 488 HIST 488 REL 388 ASST 488
Secondary Cross-listing

This course studies the work and ideas of M.K. Gandhi (1869-1948, one of the most influential thinkers of the non-western world. Gandhi is well known today for his philosophy of non-violent resistance and its application in India’s freedom struggle as well as his influence on the work of leaders like Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. Hailed as the ‘father of the Indian nation’, however, Gandhi is not only known for his political ideas but also for his deep engagement with aspect of everyday human behavior and morality: truth, vegetarianism, sex and celibacy, to name just a few of his obsessions which contributed to making his broader philosophy. It is this commitment to a morally pure life that earned him the title of ‘Mahatma’ or Great Soul in India. The tutorial will focus on three key aspects of Gandhi: his ideas of peaceful protest as means of social and political change, his contemplations on moral philosophy, and on his legacy in modern India and the world. Students will read a combination of Gandhi’s own writings as well as journal articles, monographs and films. The course will probe questions such as: What was the nature of Gandhian nationalism? Did it help to integrate the Indian nation? How, if at all, was shaped by Gandhi’s engagements with moral philosophy and human behavior? Was Gandhi truly a Great Soul, a saint or a shrewd politician? In what ways is Gandhi received and remembered by the Indian nation today? How does understanding a figure like Gandhi facilitate our understanding of modern nationalism, citizenship and political action?

Class Format: students will meet with the instructor each week for one hour sessions in pairs

Requirements/Evaluation: five to 7-page essays or 2-page critiques due each week and a final report (3-4 pages) at the end of the semester

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: upper level History majors

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

GBST 488 (D2) HIST 488 (D2) REL 388 (D2) ASST 488 (D2)

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

Not offered current academic year

ASST 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Asian Studies

Asian Studies senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

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

Distributions: (D2)

Fall 2019

HON Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane

ASST 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Asian Studies

Asian Studies senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Class Format: independent study

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

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2020

HON Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane

ASST 497 (F) Independent Study: Asian Studies

Asian Studies independent study.

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Asian Studies independent study.

Class Format: independent study

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

Distributions: (D2)

Spring 2020

IND Section: 01    TBA     George T. Crane

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

ASST 12  (W) The East is Red? Socialism in Asia
Cross-listings: PSCI 11  ASST 12  HIST 12

Primary Cross-listing

This course provides a historical and political overview of socialism in Asia from the 1910s to the present. It examines the spread and influence of Marxism in Asia, the policies of socialist states and movements in relation to decolonization, the Cold War, and the Sino-Soviet split, and the marriage between market reforms and ostensibly socialist governments in the present day. In addition to looking at the socialist governments of China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia, we will examine cases of “unsuccessful” socialist parties in Japan, Indonesia, and India. Class materials include memoirs of survival by non-state actors, the writings of socialist leaders (Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, M.N. Roy, etc), and cultural constructions such as revolutionary theatre, songs, and contemporary films. Questions that will be addressed include: Why did Marxism, a Eurocentric theory of revolution intended for advanced capitalist societies, find such resonance in Asia? How was Marxism adapted for an Asian environment? Twenty-five years after the fall of communism, why have Asian socialist states remained in power? And in the scales of history, how should we judge the effects of socialism in Asia? Evaluation will be based on two in-class presentations and a final research paper. Attendance and participation will also be taken into account. We will meet three times a week for two-hour sessions. Adjunct Bio: John Knight has a Ph.D in East Asian History with a focus on Modern China. He graduated in 2017 from The Ohio State University. He has previously taught East Asian and World History at the Rhode Island School of Design, Ohio State University, Capital University, and Seton Hall.

Requirements/Evaluation: 10-page paper

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: preference will be given to students majoring in Asian Studies, History, or Political Science

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: $15

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

PSCI 11 ASST 12 HIST 12

Winter 2020

LEC Section: 01    MWF 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm     John M. Knight

ASST 14  (W) Martial Arts in Movies and Real Life

Movies that feature martial arts action rarely win Oscars or get much critical attention. Nevertheless, the best of these films can inspire extraordinary devotion amongst fans, spark bitter feuds regarding which martial arts star would win in a fight, and are often the reason new students arrive at the
door of a martial arts school and begin a journey which changes their lives forever. A case can also be made that, by providing an experience of extraordinary and cathartic violence, they help individuals and society regulate their less civilized impulses. They are also a lot more fun to watch when you know something about martial arts--and the only legitimate way to know something about martial arts is to experience them first hand, rather than only on screen. This course blends two hours of daily training with twice-weekly screenings of some of the best martial arts films ever made. The Martial Arts training (10am-Noon each weekday morning in Currier Ballroom) will mostly be in the Japanese art of Aikido, a synthesis of the Samurai arts of Kenjutsu (swordsmanship) and Jujutsu (grappling). Training will improve each student's strength, balance, posture, and flexibility. Everyone will also learn how to throw friends twice their size across the room. 25% of training time will be devoted to sword, staff, and dagger techniques. Joining us for several sessions will be Stage Combat Instructor and fight choreographer Alexei Syssoyeva, who will oversee students choreographing their own fight sequence, using stage combat techniques (i.e. the skills required to make it look like a real fight when it isn't). Additional relevant experiences, such as meditation practice and outdoor misogi will be woven into the course as schedules and weather permit. The films: 7 Samurai, Last Samurai, Uzumasa Limelight, Enter the Dragon, Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, Robin Hood (Errol Flynn version), Brotherhood of the Wolf, Kill Bill (volume 1). 

Adjunct Instructor Bio: Robert Kent '84 spent 3 years in Kyoto, Japan earning his Sho Dan (first degree black belt), directly after majoring in both Philosophy and Religion at Williams. He currently holds a Yon Dan rank (Fourth degree black belt), having studied for 21 years at Aikido West in Redwood City under Frank Doran Shihan. He earned a Masters degree in Philosophy at Claremont Graduate School in 1993, writing his thesis on the Ethics of Authenticity.

Requirements/Evaluation:  10-page paper
Prerequisites:  same physician's approval on file as the school requires to participate on sports teams; students do not have to be especially athletic, and in Aikido women train as equals with men
Enrollment Limit:  20
Enrollment Preferences:  selection via questionnaire
Grading:  pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee:  $175

Winter 2020
LEC Section: 01    M-F 10:00 am - 11:50 am     Robert H. Kent

ASST 15 (W) Contemporary Indian Society
Cross-listings:  ASST 15  HIST 15

Secondary Cross-listing
With a population of nearly 1.4 billion, India is one of the fastest growing regions of Asia and the world. It is also the largest and most diverse country in South Asia. What are some of the most important social and political concerns in India today? How do Indians think of questions of culture and identity in a globally connected world? What are the interests and aspirations of India's youth? How are forces of nationalism and divisive politics defining Indian society today? In this course, we will explore these questions through the most recent non-fiction books on Indian history and society. We will also watch a number of documentaries that address some of these questions. The objective of the course is to engage students in lively discussion and debates about these issues that shape India today.

Requirements/Evaluation:  participation in discussions, student-led discussions in addition to a 10-page paper
Prerequisites:  none
Enrollment Limit:  12
Enrollment Preferences:  short written application
Grading:  pass/fail only
Materials/Lab Fee:  cost of books
This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASST 15  HIST 15

Winter 2020
LEC Section: 01  Cancelled
ASST 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Asian Studies
To be taken by all students who are candidates for honors in Asian Studies.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2020
HON Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane

ASST 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.

Class Format: independent study
Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2020
IND Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane