
On leave Fall/Spring: Assistant Professor M. He.
On leave Fall only: Professor C. Bolton.
On leave Spring only: Professor W.A. Sheppard, Professor L. Yu.

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 31 (W)  Senior Thesis: Asian Studies
To be taken by all students who are candidates for honors in Asian Studies.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2019
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
Distributions: (D2)

Winter 2019
IND Section: 01    TBA     George T. Crane

ASST 103 (F)  By Land and Sea: Art, Culture and Religion Along the Trade Routes of Asia
Crosslistings: ARTH103 / ASST103
Secondary Crosslisting
This undergraduate Asian art and architecture survey course will focus on artistic, religious, and cultural exchange along the two major trading networks connecting Asia: the Silk Road and the South East Asian sea routes. Following the spread of religious ideas across these routes, the survey will examine art forms including textiles, manuscripts, paintings, luxury items and sculpture, as well as architectural examples. The three major religions and their artistic expressions that will be explored in class are Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. An underlying theme in class will be to study the spread and evolution of artistic styles and iconography across Asia, while also highlighting the continuation of local traditions that persisted despite outside influences.
Class Format: lecture
Requirements/Evaluation: three 15-minute quizzes, two 2-5 page papers, a mid-term, a final exam and class attendance
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 35
Enrollment Preferences: none
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST
Attributes: ARTH pre-1600 Courses; GBST East Asian Studies Electives
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. 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, disintegration, and legacies for later periods. From a wide range of primary and secondary sources, including travelers' accounts, chronicles, art, and literature, we will investigate the diverse experiences of the Mongol world in different places, such as China, Russia, Persia, and Central Asia.

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, several short papers, and a final research paper
Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option
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
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia; HIST Group P Electives - Premodern; Not offered current academic year

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
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
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
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia;
ASST 121 (F) The Two Koreas (WI)
Crosslistings: HI ST121 / ASST121
Secondary Crosslisting
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.

Class Format: tutorial

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

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

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

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

Fall 2018
TUT Section: T1 TBA Eiko Maruko Siniawer

ASST 122 (S) Old Shanghai, New Shanghai (WI)
Crosslistings: ASST122 / CHIN422
Secondary Crosslisting
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.

Class Format: tutorial
**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

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

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

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

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

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Department Notes:** 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

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $100

**Distributions:** (D1) (WI)

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST or CHIN

**Not offered current academic year**

**ASST 126 (S) Musics of Asia**

**Crosslistings:** ASST126 / MUS112

**Secondary Crosslisting**

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

**Class Format:** lecture/discussion

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

**Prerequisites:** none; no musical experience necessary

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Expected Class Size:** 20

**Department Notes:** MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Distribution Notes:** meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

**Attributes:** GBST East Asian Studies Electives;  MUS World Music/Ethnomusicology

**Not offered current academic year**

**ASST 186 (F) Japanese Popular Visual Culture**

**Crosslistings:** COMP186 / ARTH586 / ARTH286 / ASST186

**Secondary Crosslisting**

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:** lecture/discussion

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

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

**Prerequisites:** none
Enrollment Limit: 35
Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or considering a major in a related discipline
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Christopher A. Bolton

ASST 197 (F) Hindi
Crosslistings: ASST197 / CRHI101
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
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
Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course; 8 class size limit
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Fall 2018
LEC Section: H1    TBA     Jane E. Canova

ASST 197 (F) Korean
Crosslistings: ASST197 / CRKO101
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
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
Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course; 8 class size limit
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Fall 2018
LEC Section: K1    TBA     Jane E. Canova

ASST 198 (S) Hindi
Crosslistings: ASST198 / CRHI102
Secondary Crosslisting

Continuation in developing communicative skills and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures.

Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: CRHI 101

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

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Spring 2019

LEC Section: H1    TBA    Jane E. Canova

ASST 198 (S) Korean

Crosslistings: ASST198 / CRKO102

Secondary Crosslisting

Continuation in developing communicative skills and furthering familiarity with frequently used grammatical structures.

Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: CRKO 101

Enrollment Limit: 8

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

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Spring 2019

LEC Section: K1    TBA    Jane E. Canova

ASST 207 (F) An Exploration of Japanese Language and Culture  (WI)

Crosslistings: ASST207 / JAPN407

Secondary Crosslisting

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.

Class Format: tutorial

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
ASST 212 (F) Transforming the "Middle Kingdom": China, 2000 BCE-1600
Crosslistings: ASST212 / HIST212
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Distributions: (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
Crosslistings: ASST213 / HIST213
Secondary Crosslisting
Observers may be struck by the apparent contradictions of contemporary China: market reforms undertaken by a nominally Communist government, extremes of urban wealth and rural poverty, increasing participation in the international community and intensifying nationalist rhetoric. This course will examine China's historical engagement with the modern world in order to gain perspective on our current views. It will cover the Qing (1644-1911) dynastic order, encounters with Western and Japanese imperialism, the rise of Chinese nationalism, Republican and Communist revolutions, the "other Chinas" of Taiwan and Hong Kong, economic liberalization, and globalization.

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
Distributions: (D2)
ASST 217 (S) Early Modern Japan
Crosslistings: HIST217 / ASST217
Secondary Crosslisting
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: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, response papers, two short papers (5 pages), and a final paper (10 pages) or self-scheduled final exam
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 40
Expected Class Size: 25-30
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia; HIST Group P Electives - Premodern

Not offered current academic year

ASST 218 (S) Modern Japan
Crosslistings: ASST218 / HIST218
Secondary Crosslisting
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.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers, two short papers (5 pages), and a self-scheduled final exam or research paper
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 40
Expected Class Size: 30
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Not offered current academic year

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am    Eiko Maruko Siniawer
Secondary Crosslisting

ASST 219 (S) Japanese Culture and History from Courtiers to Samurai and Beyond
Crosslistings: ASST219 / HIST219 / JAPN219 / COMP229

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 40

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

Expected Class Size: 30

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under HIST or ASST; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP

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

Not offered current academic year

ASST 220 (S) The Monkey King: Transformation of a Legend
Crosslistings: ASST220 / COMP219

The devious and irascible Monkey King, born of stone, defying all authority yet compelled to behave by a dubious Buddhist magic, is one of the most beloved figures in Chinese culture. This course will trace the transformation of the Monkey King legend from its origins in early representations of monkeys in folklore and a seventh-century Chinese monk's arduous journey to India in search of Buddhist learning, through its maturation in the sixteenth century, and into works of the Asian diaspora in the U.S. We will examine textual and visual representations of the Monkey King in popular culture, folklore, and literature, to explore topics including ideas about conformity and individual autonomy, morality and law, and the cultural negotiations necessitated by travel and contact with people (or monkeys) of other civilizations.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: 5 short (1-2 page) papers, a mid-term paper (4-5 pages), and a take-home final

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: comparative literature and asian studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Not offered current academic year

ASST 221 (F) The Making of Modern South Asia: 1750-1950 CE
Crosslistings: GBST221 / ASST221 / HIST221

Secondary Crosslisting

The devious and irascible Monkey King, born of stone, defying all authority yet compelled to behave by a dubious Buddhist magic, is one of the most beloved figures in Chinese culture. This course will trace the transformation of the Monkey King legend from its origins in early representations of monkeys in folklore and a seventh-century Chinese monk's arduous journey to India in search of Buddhist learning, through its maturation in the sixteenth century, and into works of the Asian diaspora in the U.S. We will examine textual and visual representations of the Monkey King in popular culture, folklore, and literature, to explore topics including ideas about conformity and individual autonomy, morality and law, and the cultural negotiations necessitated by travel and contact with people (or monkeys) of other civilizations.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: 5 short (1-2 page) papers, a mid-term paper (4-5 pages), and a take-home final

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: comparative literature and asian studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Not offered current academic year
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: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, response papers (2-3 pages), two short essays (4-5 pages), midterm and final exams
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 40
Expected Class Size: 20-25
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Aparna Kapadia

ASST 222 (S) History and Society in India and South Asia: c. 2000 to 1700s CE
Crosslistings: HIST220 / ASST222
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia; HIST Group P Electives - Premodern
Not offered current academic year

ASST 233 (S) Spiritual Crossroads: Religious Life in Southeast Asia
Crosslistings: ANTH233 / ASST233 / REL253
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: midterm, short essays, term paper
Prerequisites: none; open to non-majors
Enrollment Limit: 19
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives

Spring 2019
SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Peter Just

ASST 243 (F) Red Chamber Dreams: China’s Greatest Novel as Literature and Legacy
Crosslistings: ASST243 / COMP245
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: COMP majors, then ASST majors
Expected Class Size: 20
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST
Not offered current academic year

ASST 244 (S) Mind and Persons in Indian Thought
Crosslistings: ASST244 / REL244
Secondary Crosslisting
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: lecture/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
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: PHIL Related Courses

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01   M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm   Georges B. Dreyfus

**ASST 245 (S) Nationalism in East Asia**
Crosslistings: HIST318 / PSCI354 / ASST245

Secondary Crosslisting
This tutorial examines the theoretical literature on nationalism, and then uses insights from those readings to study of the emergence and development of modern nationalist movements and national identities in China, Japan, Korea -- both South and North -- and Taiwan.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: five 5-page papers and five 2 page critiques
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: Political Science and Asian Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia; POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses; PSCI Comparative Politics Courses
Not offered current academic year

**ASST 246 (F) India's Identities: Reproducing the Nation, Community and Individual** (WI)
Crosslistings: ANTH246 / ASST246 / WGSS246 / REL246

Secondary Crosslisting
This course considers India's contradictory legacy as a booming Asian democracy and fragile society built upon deep and enduring divisions. Why is India's growing population so often described in terms of multiple identities or fragmenting oppositions -- Hindu/Muslim, rich/poor, high caste/outcaste, male/female? What are the historic roots and ongoing causes that produce structural violence around these axes of difference? We pay particular attention to key moments (Partition, communal riots in Gujarat in 2003, Hyderabad in 1990, Delhi in 1984), and places (Punjab, Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir) for our analysis of how religion, gender, and caste intersect to produce a landscape of communal violence, social hierarchy, and fragmented subjectivity in India today. We are as interested in discourses and practices that shore up these binaries as well as the third terms that attempt to transcend or diffuse them. For instance, we look at how Buddhism is and is not a middle path between Hindu/Muslim conflict in Indian Kashmir. Our course readings include ethnographic, sociological, and historical analyses, as well as oral histories and popular media.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly writing assignments and tutorial attendance every week
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
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
Distributions: (D2) (WI)
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; PHLH Bioethics + Interpretations of Health; WGSS Racial Sexual + Cultural Diversity Courses
Not offered current academic year
ASST 250 (F) Scholars, Saints and Immortals: Virtue Ethics in East Asia
Crosslistings: REL250 / ASST250

Secondary Crosslisting
In East Asian cultures, as in the United States, popular conceptions of morality typically take their shape, not from explicit rules, but from moral paragons—stylized figures that are said to embody a distinctive cluster of virtues. For example, American Christians invoke not only Jesus, but also a pantheon of "secular saints" as diverse as Martin Luther King Jr. and General Patton, George Washington and Cesar Chavez. This course will explore the cultural functions of moral paragons and philosophies of virtue in East Asia by introducing students to examples from Chinese and Japanese history, ranging from Confucian articulations of the ideal scholar-bureaucrat to Buddhist conceptions of the Bodhisattva to Taoist immortals. It will also address the history of ethical thought in East Asia, focusing particular attention on conceptions of "Virtue Ethics." This approach has come to be seen by some contemporary analytic philosophers as a way out of the impasse produced by ethical relativism and the loss of theological rationales for moral action. Readings will include Euro-American philosophers such as Nietzsche and MacIntyre as well as primary texts in translation by Chuang-tzu, Confucius, Shantideva and others.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: active participation, short writing assignments, midterm, and a self-scheduled final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: Religious Studies and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (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
Crosslistings: ASST253 / COMP255

Secondary Crosslisting
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: seminar/lecture/discussion

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

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

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

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
Crosslistings: COMP264 / ASST254

Secondary Crosslisting

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 Masuji, Imamura Shôhei, and Ichikawa Kon; fantasy and science fiction novels by Abe Kôbô, Murakami Haruki and Murakami Ryû; and apocalyptic comics and animation by Oshii Mamoru, Ōtomo Katsuhiro, and others. The class and the readings are in English; no familiarity with Japanese language or culture is required.

Class Format: lecture/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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 25

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

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2019

LEC Section: 01    Cancelled

ASST 255 (S) Buddhism: Ideas and Practices

Crosslistings: REL255 / ANTH255 / ASST255

Secondary Crosslisting

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: lecture/discussion

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

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: none

Expected Class Size: 25

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; PHIL Related Courses

Spring 2019

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

Class Format: seminar

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

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

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WI)

Distribution Notes: DPE: 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. WI: Class is WI because of its reading responses, in-class writing, a final research paper, and required writing chats with the instructor where we identify patterns, strengths, and weaknesses in student writing.

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

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01  M 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm  Kim Gutschow

ASST 266 (F) Confession and Deception in Japanese Literature

Crosslistings: ASST266 / COMP266

Secondary Crosslisting

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
ASST 269 (S) Mindshift: Mindfulness and Medicine (DPE) (WI)
Crosslistings: REL269 / ASST269 / ANTH269
Secondary Crosslisting
This course offers a social analysis and historical genealogy of mindfulness meditations from its roots as a Buddhist practice through its modern applications in a variety of social settings including hospitals, clinics, schools, communities, and even prisons to improve health and other social outcomes. We explore the scientific evidence including clinical research and other qualitative studies that have shown how mindfulness can alter human experience, behavior, and well-being. We begin by considering how mindfulness and meditation practices were first taught the Buddha two millennia ago in monastic and lay settings before turning to the modern studies and applications of mindfulness training. How has research on mindfulness exploded since 2000 and how does this relate to better models of the human brain and behavior? We critically examine the models developed by clinical psychiatry, neuroscience, and biomedicine, including brain imaging technologies like the fMRI, that have improved our understanding of the relationship between the brain, behavior, and emotions. We consider research on mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) within clinical medicine, the rise of the 'kindness curriculum' in schools, and other areas of applied research on mindfulness that have generated a 'science of personal transformation'. Last but not least, we ask how mindfulness has been used to improve the interpersonal skills and training of doctors, teachers, and social workers to help improve social and learning outcomes as well as enhance patient/provider encounters. Students will be expected to engage in a mindfulness practice during the semester.

Class Format: tutorial
Requirements/Evaluation: weekly papers, 4- to 8-pages
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 10
Enrollment Preferences: students majoring or concentrating in; ANTH, SOC, REL, ASST, PH, COGS, and NSCI
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D2) (DPE) (WI)
Distribution Notes: DPE: This class fulfills the DPE requirement because it will explore the ways that stress related to poverty, social inequality, and structural violence can and have been alleviated by mindfulness-based practices. Further it critiques the continuing misperception that mindfulness practices are elite, non-inclusive practices that cannot benefit populations suffering from pervasive NCDs (non-communicable diseases) like obesity and high blood pressure that are related to broader social inequities. WI: This course is a tutorial and there will be weekly writing assignments.
Attributes: GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; PHLH Social Determinants of Health;

Spring 2019
TUT Section: T1 TBA Kim Gutschow

ASST 270 (S) Visual Arts of Japan
Crosslistings: ARTH270 / ASST270
Secondary Crosslisting
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).

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: three 30- to 40-minute quizzes, two short papers, film screening, class attendance

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 35

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Attributes: ARTH pre-1600 Courses; GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am    Ju-Yu Scarlett Jang

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

Crosslistings: ASST271 / REL271 / WGSS279 / COMP279

Secondary Crosslisting

"Ghosts and monsters" (Chinese yaoguai, Japanese yokai, Korean yorgoe) 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, Ilka 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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: REL, ASST, WGSS, and COMP majors will be given preference

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under REL, ASST or WGSS; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP

Attributes: FMST Related Courses

Not offered current academic year

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

Crosslistings: ARTH272 / REL272 / ASST272
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.

Class Format: lecture
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
Enrollment Preferences: none
Expected Class Size: 25
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARTH or ASST; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under REL

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

ASST 273 (S) The Arts of the Book in Asia
Crosslistings: ASST273 / ARTH273
Secondary Crosslisting
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.

Class Format: lecture
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
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01 MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Murad K. Mumtaz

ASST 274 (S) Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and Practice
Crosslistings: ASST274 / ARTH274 / ARTS274
Secondary Crosslisting
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
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 an 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

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

Materials/Lab Fee: lab fee TBD will be added to the student's term bill

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Attributes: ARTH pre-1600 Courses; EXPE Experiential Education Courses; GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01 Cancelled

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

Crosslistings: REL278 / ASST278

Secondary Crosslisting

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.

Class Format: seminar

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

Distributions: (D2) (DPE)

Distribution Notes: DPE: 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.
ASST 284 (S) Introduction to Asian American History (DPE)
Crosslistings: HIST284 / AMST284 / ASST284
Secondary Crosslisting
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: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: a series of short essays and a final oral history/family history
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 40
Enrollment Preferences: first come, first served
Expected Class Size: 25
Distributions: (D2) (DPE)
Distribution Notes: DPE: This course traces the immigration history of various peoples from Asia to the U.S. from the 1850s to the present. We 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 U.S.
Attributes: AMST Comp Studies in Race, Ethnicity, Diaspora; HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada

ASST 297 (F) Intermediate Korean
Crosslistings: ASST297 / CRKO201
Secondary Crosslisting
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
Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis
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
Department Notes: minimum of two students in order to schedule the course; 8 class size limit
Distributions: (D1)
Continuation of intermediate skills in speaking and writing.

Class Format: twice-weekly review sessions

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: CRKO 201

Enrollment Limit: 8

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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019

LEC Section: K1 TBA Jane E. Canova

ASST 312 (F) The Mughal Empire: Power, Art, and Religion in India

Crosslistings: ASST312 / HIST312 / GBST312 / REL312

Secondary Crosslisting

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.

Class Format: seminar

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

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

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D2)

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

Fall 2018

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

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

Crosslistings: HIST313 / ASST313

Secondary Crosslisting

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

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on active class participation, several short papers and a final research paper

Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none (HIST 213 recommended)

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: junior and senior History and Asian Studies majors

Expected Class Size: 12-20

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: HIST Group B Electives - Asia

Fall 2018

SEM Section: 01 TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am Anne Reinhardt

ASST 316 (S) Feeling Queer and Asian

Crosslistings: ASST316 / WGSS316 / COMP313

Secondary Crosslisting

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 Asianess? 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.

Class Format: seminar

Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: WGSS majors

Expected Class Size: 12

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under WGSS or ASST; meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP

Not offered current academic year

ASST 319 (F) Gender and the Family in Chinese History

Crosslistings: ASST319 / HIST319 / WGSS319

Secondary Crosslisting

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: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on class participation, several short papers, and a final paper

Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

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

Enrollment Limit: 25
Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (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

Crosslistings: ASST321 / HIST321

Secondary Crosslisting

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: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on 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

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia; HIST Group F Electives - U.S. + Canada; MAST Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

ASST 341 (S) Caste, Race, Hierarchy

Crosslistings: ASST341 / AFR341 / ANTH341 / GBST341

Secondary Crosslisting

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

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: seniors, juniors, majors in ANSO, AFR, or ASST

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D2)
ASST 346 (S) Islam and Anthropology
Crosslistings: REL346 / ANTH346 / ASST346 / ARAB280

Secondary Crosslisting

If anthropology has helped to define Islam in global thought, Islam has returned the favor, holding a critical mirror to the anthropological endeavor perhaps more than any other traditional "object" of study. This course examines anthropological studies of Islamic societies for what they teach us both about Islam and about anthropology. We begin with foundational social theorists whose studies of religious phenomena helped give rise to the field of anthropology of religion. We then survey influential efforts to construct "ideal-type" models of Muslim society based on anthropological and historical knowledge, alongside efforts to critique, historicize, and redirect the model-building project (notably by Talal Asad and Edward Said). The second half of the course is devoted to ethnographies that explore, from a variety of perspectives and in several regions (Morocco, India, Egypt, Syria), questions of human agency, hierarchy and resistance, and Islam as discursive resource, ethical project, and embodied community.

Class Format: 

Requirements/Evaluation: weekly postings, one 5-page paper, one 10-page paper, discussion leading

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: juniors and seniors, Anthropology, Sociology or Religion majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Distributions: (D2)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under ARAB

Not offered current academic year

ASST 376 (S) Zen Buddhist Visual Culture: The Path to Nirvana (WI)
Crosslistings: ARTH376 / REL252 / ASST376

Secondary Crosslisting

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: lecture/class discussion

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

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: sophomores, juniors and seniors

Expected Class Size: 8

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ARTH or ASST; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under REL

Attributes: ARTH pre-1600 Courses;

Spring 2019

LEC Section: 01  Cancelled

ASST 384 (F) Selected Topics in Asian American Studies
Crosslistings: ASST384 / HIST384

Not offered current academic year
Secondary Crosslisting

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.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on a series of writing assignments: four short response papers, two 5- to 7-page essays, and a 10- to 15-page research paper

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 25

Expected Class Size: 10-15

Distributions: (D2)

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

Not offered current academic year

ASST 389 (S)  The Vietnam Wars
Crosslistings: HIST389 / LEAD389 / ASST389

Secondary Crosslisting

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. Students will read a number of scholarly texts, primary sources, memoirs, and novels to explore everything from high-level international diplomacy to personal experiences of conflict and dramatic social change wrought by decolonization and decades of warfare.

Class Format: seminar

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

Spring 2019

SEM Section: 01    MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm     Jessica Chapman

ASST 391 (S)  When India was the World: Trade, Travel and History in the Indian Ocean
Crosslistings: GBST391 / HIST391 / ASST391

Secondary Crosslisting

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.

**Class Format:** seminar

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

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none; open to all

**Enrollment Limit:** 25

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 15-20

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** GBST South + Southeast Asia Studies Electives; HIST Group B Electives - Asia; HIST Group P Electives - Premodern; MAST Interdepartmental Electives

---

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.

**Class Format:** tutorial

**Requirements/Evaluation:** weekly papers and critiques

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** History or Asian Studies majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributions:** (D2) (WI)

**Attributes:** HIST Group B Electives - Asia;

---

India's long history with earliest written records going back to 2000 B.C presents multiple challenges that are unique among the ancient civilizations. The critical challenge is conceptual: how do we recognize the historical sense of societies whose past is recorded in ways that are different from
European conventions? British rulers claimed that India had no sense of history before the colonial period. And this view has persisted despite recent scholarship that has undermined the factual and conceptual basis of this theory. The purpose of this course is two fold: first, to discuss the analytical methods one could apply to understand the 'history' contained in the diverse body of classical Indian literature; second, to study a representative set of primary sources that belong to the distinct historical traditions of India. Students will learn to apply these methods to gain new insights and debate the limitations of the approach. The course will begin with an exploration of the epic tradition and continue with in-depth readings of narratives from other important genres including popular bardic accounts, royal biographies and court dramas ranging from c. 1000 BCE to 1500 CE.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, several short papers and a substantial final paper based on primary sources

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: some experience with HIST courses preferred

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: History majors; Comp lit majors; Asian Studies Majors

Expected Class Size: 10-15

Distributions: (D2) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets division 1 requirement if registration is under COMP; meets division 2 requirement if registration is under HIST or ASST

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

Not offered current academic year

ASST 460 (S) Economic Development of China

Crosslistings: ECON460 / ASST460

Secondary Crosslisting

This course is an introduction to the economic development of China in the post-1978 period. It seeks to provide an overview of the process by which China grew from an economic backwater to the second largest economy in the world, with a particular focus on rural development and the growing gap between rural and urban incomes; human capital and education; and health and gender in the Chinese context. In addition, the course has the goal of familiarizing students with current economics research on Chinese topics and enabling them to be informed consumers of this research.

Class Format: seminar

Requirements/Evaluation: in-class quizzes, literature critique, individual project comprising a presentation and final paper

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis

Prerequisites: ECON 251 and 255

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: senior Economics majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Distributions: (D2)

Not offered current academic year

ASST 488 (S) Gandhi: Nationalism, Philosophy, and Legacy (WI)

Crosslistings: HIST488 / ASST488 / GBST488 / REL388

Secondary Crosslisting

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:** tutorial; students will meet with the instructor each week for one hour sessions in pairs

**Requirements/Evaluation:** 5 to 7-page essays or 2-page critiques due each week and a final report (3-4 pages) at the end of the semester

**Extra Info:** may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** upper level History majors

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributions:** (D2) (WI)

**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.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Extra Info:** this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)

**Distributions:** (D2)

Fall 2018

HON Section: 01   TBA   George T. Crane

**ASST 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Asian Studies**

Asian Studies senior thesis.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Extra Info:** this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)

**Distributions:** (D2)

Spring 2019

HON Section: 01   TBA   George T. Crane

**ASST 497 (F) Independent Study: Asian Studies**

Asian Studies independent study.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Distributions:** (D2)

Fall 2018

IND Section: 01   TBA   George T. Crane

**ASST 498 (S) Independent Study: Asian Studies**

Asian Studies independent study.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Distributions:** (D2)