

ASIAN STUDIES

The student majoring in Asian studies examines multiple facets of the cultures, traditions, and contemporary realities of Asian countries and peoples. The Asian Studies Program (major and minor) is interdisciplinary, with a linguistic component and opportunities for direct experience with an Asian culture.

Director of Asian Studies Program: Joowon Park

Professor: Xiaoshuo Hou

Associate Professor: Benjamin Bogin, Xiaoshuo Hou

Assistant Professor: Ryan Overbey

Affiliated Faculty

Anthropology: Joowon Park

Art History: Michael Orr, Saleema Waraich

Chinese: Mao Chen, Fang Wang

English: Sandamini Ranwalage

Gender Studies: Sharadha K. Kalyanam

History: Jenny Day, Tillman Nechtman

International Affairs / Management & Business: Mahesh Shankar

Japanese: Masako Inamoto, Masami Tamagawa

Korean: Eunmi Kim

Library: Dung-Lan Chen

Music: Veena Chandra, Charlotte D'Evelyn

Political Science: Yelena Biberman-Ocakli

Religious Studies: Eliza Kent, Ryan Overbey

Sanskrit: Robert E. Goodwin

Sociology: Xiaoshuo Hou

Asian Studies B.A.

For Students Who Entered Skidmore in Fall 2023 and Beyond (Class of 2027 and Beyond)

Code	Title	Hours
Gateway		
Select at least one course from the approved courses listed below: 3		
AS 101	Intro to Asian Studies	
AN 224	Perspectives from Asia	
HI 144	East Asian Civilization: Traditions and Transformations	
AH 104	Ways of Seeing: Survey of Asian Art	
RE 217	Health and Healing in Asian Religions	
Language		
Select at least two semesters of one Asian language from the point of placement at Skidmore or approved programs. 6		

Core

Select at least nine credit hours from the Gateway courses or the approved courses listed below: 9

AH 104	Ways of Seeing: Survey of Asian Art
AH 209	Islamic Art
AH 318	Asian Pop!
AH 375	Art History in Action
AN 224	Perspectives from Asia
AN 236	Migration and Diaspora
AS 221	The Himalayas: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the "Roof of the World"
GW 227	Holding up Half the Sky: Gender, Writing, and Nationhood in China
GW 228	Sexuality in Japan
HI 142	Introduction to Modern China
HI 144	East Asian Civilization: Traditions and Transformations
HI 242	China in War and Revolution
HI 247	History of Modern Japan
HI 316	Empires in India
HI 344	China's Last Empire: The Glorious Qing (1644-1911)
MU 345	Topics Seminar
PH 230	Topics in Philosophy
PH 330	Advanced Topics in Philosophy
PL 348	Politics of Modern South Asia
RE 216	Asian Religions in America
RE 217	Health and Healing in Asian Religions
RE 218	Hindu Myth
RE 220	Encountering the Goddess in India
RE 221	Buddhism: An Introduction
RE 230	Topics in Religion
RE 320	Yoga: History, Theory, Practice
RE 321	Buddhism and the Body: Desire, Disgust, and Transcendence
RE 330	Advanced Topics in Religion
SO 215	China and Globalization
WLC 206	Chinese Language and Culture
WLC 210	Introduction to Chinese Culture and Literature
WLC 302	Modern China
WLC 363	Special Studies in Chinese
WLJ 206	Japanese Language and Culture
WLJ 210	Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature
WLJ 311	Contemporary Japan
WLL 242	Modern Japanese Literature in Translation
WLL 243	The World of Japanese Animation
WLL 244	Viewing China: Visual Cultural and Transnational Cinema
WLL 247	Japanese Woman: Gender, Gender Relations, and Sexuality in Contemporary Japan
WLL 259	Chinese Civilization II: Culture and Literature of Late Imperial China
WLL 263	Topics in Foreign Literature and Culture
WLL 267	Modern Japanese Culture and Society

Electives

Select at least ten credit hours from any approved Asian Studies course (including Core and Language courses) 10

PL 207 They Might Be Giants: Global Rise of BRICS

WLL 237 Becoming "Asian": Asian American Cultural Representations and Identities

Senior Year 5

LI 371 Independent Study (in fall)

AS 374 Approaches to Asian Studies (in fall)

AS 371 Independent Study (Capstone Project (in spring))

Total Hours 33

For Students Who Entered Skidmore prior to Fall 2023 (Class of 2026 and Prior)

Code **Title** **Hours**

Language

Select at least four semesters of one Asian language from the point of placement at Skidmore or approved programs. 1 12

Language Across the Curriculum

Select two credits of the following: 2 2

AS 340 Advanced Language Across the Curriculum: Sanskrit

WLC 340 Advanced Languages across the Curriculum

WLJ 340 Advanced Languages Across the Curriculum

WLX 340I Advanced Language across the Curriculum: Hindi

WLX 340K Advanced Language across the Curriculum-Korean

Foundation 3*Required Course*

AS 101 Intro to Asian Studies 3

History and Society

Select at least one course from the approved courses listed below: 3

AN 252 Non-Western Themes in Anthropology (when applicable)

WLL 267 Modern Japanese Culture and Society

HI 144 East Asian Civilization: Traditions and Transformations

HI 242 China in War and Revolution

HI 247 History of Modern Japan

SO 215 China and Globalization

Arts and Humanities

Select at least one course from the approved courses listed below: 3-4

AH 104 Ways of Seeing: Survey of Asian Art

AH 221 Practices of Art History

WLC 210 Introduction to Chinese Culture and Literature

WLJ 210 Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature

WLL 241 Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation

WLL 242 Modern Japanese Literature in Translation

WLL 257 Modern Chinese Literature in Translation

WLL 259 Chinese Civilization II: Culture and Literature of Late Imperial China

MU 309 Music in South Asia

MU 310 Music and Culture of East Asia

MU 345 Topics Seminar (when offered as "Music in Southeast Asia")

or MU 344 Topics Seminar

PH 215 Buddhist Philosophy

RE 213 Religious Traditions of India

RE 220 Encountering the Goddess in India

Junior Year

Select one of the following: 3

Study in Asia: Language Study and Practice:

Select varying culture courses, for at least three 300-level credits on Asia

At Skidmore:

Select at least three 300-level credits in Asian Studies 4

Senior Year

LI 371 Independent Study (in fall) 1

AS 374 Approaches to Asian Studies (in fall) 1

AS 375 Asian Studies Senior Seminar (in spring) 3

Select at least two additional credits at the 300-level 2

Total Hours 33-34

¹ Students are encouraged to spend a year in an approved program in Asia and to continue their language studies throughout the major.

² To be completed in the senior year in conjunction with Asian Studies Senior Seminar or earlier.

³ Note: Not all AS foundation courses fulfill all-college breadth requirements. Please consult individual course descriptions.

⁴ Electives will continue language study and develop comparative and disciplinary focus.

Note

1. Completion of all-college requirements and disciplinary prerequisites for advanced courses by the end of the sophomore year is recommended.

2. No single course can count toward more than one requirement.

3. Only 3 credits of internship may count toward the major.

1.

The Writing Requirement in the Major

As an interdisciplinary major committed to communication across cultures, languages, and disciplines, Asian studies proposes different paths to students as they hone their writing skills within multiple disciplines and come together in the senior year for a capstone experience that recognizes the various disciplinary perspectives within which students have been working. As writers, Asian studies students pay particular attention to clarity as they cross disciplinary, cultural, and linguistic boundaries. They learn to observe disciplinary expectations, to integrate disciplinary perspectives in their study of Asia, and to express themselves effectively and clearly. They are particularly attentive to language as it embeds and carries cultural assumptions and presuppositions. They are alert to national, cultural, ethnic, political, and gender differences and are expected to be able to analyze complex and interconnected cross-cultural issues, using a multidisciplinary approach. Students fulfill the writing requirement in the Asian studies major upon successful completion of AS 101 Intro to Asian Studies, and AS 375 Asian Studies Senior Seminar. Other coursework in the categories of (a)

History and Society and (b) Arts and Humanities incorporate written work that further develops writing skills.

Asian Studies Minor

For Students Who Entered Skidmore in Fall 2023 and Beyond

The Asian Studies minor consists of 18 credit hours in approved Core or Language courses (designated on the Asian Studies website) and including at least one Gateway course. Up to 8 credit hours of an Asian language may count toward the minor.

For Students Who Entered Skidmore Prior to Fall 2023

The Asian studies minor consists of 18 credit hours approved by the director of Asian studies from the Asian studies courses listed on the Asian studies website, including at least 3 credits at the 300 level. Up to 8 credit hours of an Asian language may count toward the minor.

Honors

Effective for All Class Years Prior to 2019

For honors in Asian studies, a student must earn a 3.000 or better cumulative GPA in all courses taken at Skidmore, a 3.500 or better in all courses taken for the Asian studies major, and a grade of A or A- on an approved senior thesis or capstone project, completed over two semesters in AS 371 Independent Study and AS 372. Theses or projects submitted for honors are directed by a member of the Asian studies faculty and evaluated also by a second reader. With the approval of the Asian studies director and the thesis/project director, some students may substitute prior research for AS 371 Independent Study in the fall and submit for honors the AS 372 paper or project.

Effective for the Class of 2019 and On

For honors in Asian Studies, a student must earn a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA in all courses taken at Skidmore and a 3.65 or better in all courses taken for the Asian studies major, complete an approved senior thesis or a capstone project, and be recommended for program honors by the program.

AS 101 - Intro to Asian Studies

Credits: 3

An introduction to Asian societies and cultures. Students will examine the concepts of "civilization," "modernity," and "everyday life" to engage the broad themes central to an understanding of China, Japan, and South Asia.

Note(s): Fulfills Non-Western Cultures and Humanities requirements; fulfills Global Cultural Perspectives and Humanistic Inquiry requirements.

AS 110 - Elementary Sanskrit I

Credits: 3

A self-instructed introduction to the elements of Sanskrit grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and associated structures of thought. By the end of the semester, students will gain a basic ability of reading and writing simple sentences and narratives in the Devanagari script. The long-term goal of this course and its sequels is to gain a reading ability for the main texts of Sanskrit literature (poetry, epic, narrative and wisdom literature, philosophical and religious texts, etc.).

Note(s): Fulfills Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

AS 111 - Elementary Sanskrit II

Credits: 3

Self-instructed introductory course that includes short unaltered readings from the Bhagavad Gita. New grammatical elements include the subtleties of compounding, nonthematic verb conjugations, the phenomenon of nominalization, as well as sandhi (shift in the spelling of words in juxtaposition with other words).

Prerequisites: AS 110.

Note(s): Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

AS 210 - Intermediate Sanskrit I

Credits: 3

A self-instructed intermediate course that completes the study of Sanskrit grammar and begins the reading of connected texts, such as sections from epic or narrative literature.

Prerequisites: AS 111.

Note(s): Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

AS 211 - Intermediate Sanskrit II

Credits: 3

A self-instructed intermediate Sanskrit course that focuses on reading and translation of passages from epic, narrative, and wisdom literature, and/or religious-philosophical texts.

Prerequisites: AS 210.

Note(s): Fulfills the Foreign Language requirement; fulfills Language Study requirement.

AS 221 - The Himalayas: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the "Roof of the World"

Credits: 3

An examination of culture, history, religion, and identity in the region defined by the world's highest mountain range. Students will study the rich cultural heritage and dynamic contemporary life of the region and explore the methodological challenges involved in interdisciplinary studies. Specific topics will include the relationship between culture and environment, artistic and literary traditions of the Himalayas, and the impact of modernity and globalization on the region.

Note(s): Fulfills non-Western Cultures and Humanities requirements; fulfills Humanistic Inquiry and Global Cultural Perspectives requirements.

AS 251 - Special Topics Asian Studies

Credits: 1-4

A topically organized course, with the specific topic varying according to the instructor's interests and specialization. Topics may include beginning Sanskrit, Asian Studies in theory, co-taught interdisciplinary courses, and Asian Studies add-ons to existing courses in other disciplines.

Note(s): The course may be repeated for credit on a different topic.

AS 340 - Advanced Language Across the Curriculum: Sanskrit

Credits: 2

Application and development of Sanskrit skills in conjunction with any course taught in English at the college. Students will read, report, discuss and write about sophisticated materials in the disciplines, and learn how to translate them to and from English.

Prerequisites: AS 211 or above or permission of instructor.

Note(s): Can be repeated for credit no more than four times. Does not fulfill the Foreign Language requirement. Fulfills Language Study requirement.

AS 351 - Special Topics: Asian Studies

Credits: 1-4

A topically organized course at an advanced level, with the specific topic varying according to the instructor's interests and specialization. Topics may include Asian Studies in Theory, co-taught interdisciplinary courses, and Asian Studies add-ons to existing courses in other disciplines.

Note(s): The course may be repeated for credit on a different topic.

AS 371 - Independent Study

Credits: 1-4

Individual study under the direction of Asian studies faculty.

AS 374 - Approaches to Asian Studies

Credits: 1

A seminar required of all Asian Studies majors taken during the fall of their senior year in preparation for their senior capstone project. Students will discuss approaches to Asian Studies and develop their skills in research, writing, and oral communication. The course will focus on the goals of collectively selecting a cohesive theme for the Senior Seminar and individually identifying topics for the senior research project. Students will present proposals for their senior capstone projects at the end of the seminar.

Corequisites: LI 371.

AS 375 - Asian Studies Senior Seminar

Credits: 3

A seminar required of all Asian studies majors in the spring semester of their senior year. The course will involve discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of Asian studies, reflection on methods, and exchange of perspectives across disciplinary and regional concentration. Specific topics and readings will vary from year to year.

Prerequisites: AS 374 and LI 371.

Note(s): Fulfills Senior Experience Coda requirement.

AS 399 - Internship Asian Studies

Credits: 1-4

Internship or professional experience at an advanced level for students with substantial academic preparation in the major field. With faculty sponsorship and program approval, students select an internship and produce a major research paper or other appropriate work related to the area of the internship on a topic approved by the faculty sponsor and the on-site supervisor.

Note(s): Only 3 internship credits may count toward the 300-level requirement of the major. Must be taken S/U.

Note: Often there are new or special topic courses that count for Asian studies that are not included in the list below. Contact the director of Asian studies for information about other Asian studies courses.

Code	Title	Hours
AH 104	Ways of Seeing: Survey of Asian Art	4
AH 151	Special Topics in Art History (when applicable)	3
AH 209	Islamic Art	3
AH 251	Special Topics in Art History (when applicable)	3
AH 316	How South Asia clothed the world: history, politics, and fashion	3
AH 325	Decolonizing the Museum: Addressing Systemic Racism and Promoting Social Justice	4
AH 361E	Topics in Gender and Visual Culture: Asian Art (NW) (NW)	3
AN 252	Non-Western Themes in Anthropology (when applicable)	3
AN 351	Topics in Cultural Anthropology (when applicable)	3

AS 251	Special Topics Asian Studies	1-4
AS 351	Special Topics: Asian Studies	1-4
AS 371	Independent Study	3
DA 314	Classical Dance of India II	3
EN 221	Introduction to Asian American Literature	3
EN 229	Special Studies: Texts in Context (section C – Empire Strikes Back: Postcolonial Literature from the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia)	3
EN 363	Special Studies in Literary History (when applicable)	3
GW 227	Holding up Half the Sky: Gender, Writing, and Nationhood in China	3
GW 251	Special Topics in Gender Studies	1-4
HI 142	Introduction to Modern China	3
HI 151	Topics in History	3
HI 241	Introduction to Imperial China	3
HI 242	China in War and Revolution	3
HI 247	History of Modern Japan	3
HI 249	The Vietnam War	3
HI 251	Topics in History (when applicable)	1-4
HI 316	Empires in India	3
HI 343	The Chinese Revolution	3
HI 347	Japan's Modernizers: Samurai, Weavers, Writers, and Prostitutes	3
HI 351	Topics in History (when applicable)	1-4
HI 375	(when applicable)	
MP 198	Class Study of Instrumental Performance (when applicable)	1
MP 281	Private Music Instruction - 45 Xfee	2
MP 281X	Private Musical Instruction (when applicable)	2
MP 381	Private Musical Instruction	2
MP 381X	Private Musical Instruction	2
MU 205	Special Studies in Music Literature (when applicable)	3-4
MU 309	Music in South Asia	3
MU 310	Music and Culture of East Asia	4
MU 344	Topics Seminar (when applicable)	3-4
MU 345	Topics Seminar	3-4
PH 215	Buddhist Philosophy	3
PH 230	Topics in Philosophy	1-4
PH 330	Advanced Topics in Philosophy	1-4
PL 365	Topics In Comparative Politics	4
RE 213	Religious Traditions of India	3
RE 217	Health and Healing in Asian Religions	3
RE 218	Hindu Myth	3
RE 220	Encountering the Goddess in India	3
RE 230	Topics in Religion	1-4
SO 215	China and Globalization	3
SO 251	Special Topics in Sociology (when applicable)	1-4
TH 334	Special Studies in Theater History and Theory (when applicable)	3
WLC 102	Elementary Chinese II	4
WLC 203	Intermediate Chinese	4

WLC 204	Business Chinese	3
WLC 206	Chinese Language and Culture	4
WLC 208	Advanced Chinese Conversation and Composition	3
WLC 220	Language across the Curriculum: Chinese	1
WLC 271	Chinese Language and Literature Discussion	1
WLC 272	Chinese Language and Literature Discussion	1
WLC 302	Modern China	3
WLC 340	Advanced Languages across the Curriculum	2
WLC 363	Special Studies in Chinese	4
WLC 371	Independent Study	3
WLJ 101	Elementary Japanese I	4
WLJ 102	Elementary Japanese II	4
WLJ 203	Intermediate Japanese	4
WLJ 206	Japanese Language and Culture	4
WLJ 207	Advanced Intermediate Japanese I	3
WLJ 208	Advanced Intermediate Japanese II	3
WLJ 210	Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature	4
WLJ 220	Language across the Curriculum	1
WLJ 271	Japanese Language and Literature Discussion	1
WLJ 272	Japanese Language and Literature Discussion	1
WLJ 311	Contemporary Japan	3
WLJ 340	Advanced Languages Across the Curriculum	2
WLJ 363	Special Studies in Japanese	3
WLL 241	Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	3
WLL 242	Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	3
WLL 243	The World of Japanese Animation	4
WLL 244	Viewing China: Visual Cultural and Transnational Cinema	4
WLL 245	China and the West: The Myth of the Other	3
WLL 246	Fictional and Factual: History and the Novel in China	3
WLL 257	Modern Chinese Literature in Translation	3
WLL 259	Chinese Civilization II: Culture and Literature of Late Imperial China	3
WLL 267	Modern Japanese Culture and Society	3
WLL 263	Topics in Foreign Literature and Culture (when applicable)	1-4
WLL 269	Cultural China: Trends and Themes	3
WLL 376	Seminar (In English) (when applicable)	1-4
WLX 101K	Self-Instruction: Beginning Korean I	2
WLX 102K	Self-Instruction Beginning Korean II	2
WLX 201K	Self-Instruction Intermediate Korean I	2
WLX 202K	Self-Instruction Intermediate Korean II	2
WLX 220K	Language across the Curriculum: Korean	1
WLX 220I	Language across the Curriculum: Hindi	1
WLX 340K	Advanced Language across the Curriculum-Korean	2
WLX 340I	Advanced Language across the Curriculum: Hindi	2