

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 significant linguistic component and opportunities for direct experience with an Asian culture.

Director of Asian Studies Program: Benjamin Bogin

Associate Professors: Benjamin Bogin, Xiaoshuo Hou

Assistant Professor: Ryan Overbey

Affiliated Faculty

Anthropology: Joowon Park

Art History: Saleema Waraich

Chinese: Mao Chen, Fang Wang

History: Jenny Day, Tillman Nechtman

International Affairs / Management & Business: Mahesh Shankar

Japanese: Masako Inamoto (Interim Director), Masami Tamagawa

Korean: Jinyoung Mason

Library: Dung-Lan Chen

Music: Veena Chandra, Charlotte D'Evelyn

Philosophy: Susan Blake

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 2015 and Beyond (Class of 2019 and Beyond)

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		
<i>Required Course</i>		
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 202		
AH 206		
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 258		
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	
PR 214		
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.

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

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 Independent Study. 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 Independent Study 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: 3

Individual study under the direction of Asian studies faculty.

AS 372 - Independent Study

Credits: 3

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 105		4
AH 209	Islamic Art	3
AH 251	Special Topics in Art History (may be repeated for credit with a different topic)	3
AH 313	Image and Narrative in Asian Art	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
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
WLC 101	Elementary Chinese I	4
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	HI 375	Colloquium in History	4
WLJ 203	Intermediate Japanese	4	MP 198	Class Study of Instrumental Performance	1
WLJ 206	Japanese Language and Culture	4	MP 281X		3
WLJ 207	Advanced Intermediate Japanese I	3	MU 205	Special Studies in Music Literature (may be repeated for credit with a different topic)	3
WLJ 208	Advanced Intermediate Japanese II	3	MU 309	Music in South Asia	3
WLJ 210	Introduction to Japanese Culture and Literature	4	MU 310	Music and Culture of East Asia	4
WLJ 220	Language across the Curriculum	1	MU 344	Topics Seminar	4
WLJ 271	Japanese Language and Literature Discussion	1	MU 345	Topics Seminar (Special Topic: Asian Musicians Global Stages)	4
WLJ 272	Japanese Language and Literature Discussion	1	PH 215	Buddhist Philosophy	3
WLJ 311	Contemporary Japan	3	PR 214	(NA)	3
WLJ 340	Advanced Languages Across the Curriculum	2	PR 325	(NA)	4
WLJ 363	Special Studies in Japanese	3	PR 326	(NA)	4
WLL 241	Pre-Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	3	RE 213	Religious Traditions of India (NA)	3
WLL 242	Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	3	RE 217	Health and Healing in Asian Religions	3
WLL 243	The World of Japanese Animation	4	RE 218	Hindu Myth	3
WLL 244	Viewing China: Visual Cultural and Transnational Cinema	4	RE 220	Encountering the Goddess in India (NA)	3
WLL 245	China and the West: The Myth of the Other	3	SO 215	China and Globalization	3
WLL 246	Fictional and Factual: History and the Novel in China	3	SO 251A-D		1-4
WLL 257	Modern Chinese Literature in Translation	3	TH 334	Special Studies in Theater History and Theory	3
WLL 258		3			
WLL 259	Chinese Civilization II: Culture and Literature of Late Imperial China	3			
WLL 263A-D		1-4			
WLL 267	Modern Japanese Culture and Society	3			
WLL 269	Cultural China: Trends and Themes	3			
WLL 376A-D		1-4			
WLX 101		3			
WLX 102		3			
WLX 201		3			
WLX 202		3			
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			
WLX 371		3			
PL 319		3			
GW 227	Holding up Half the Sky: Gender, Writing, and Nationhood in China	3			
HI 142	Introduction to Modern China	3			
HI 251 A-D		1-4			
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 316	Empires in India	3			
HI 343	The Chinese Revolution	3			
HI 344	China's Last Empire: The Glorious Qing (1644-1911) (1644-1911)	3			
HI 347	Japan's Modernizers: Samurai, Weavers, Writers, and Prostitutes	3			
HI 351A-D		1-4			