Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

Major and Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies

Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Asian and Asian American Studies: China Studies (CNS), International Studies (INT), Japanese Studies (JNS), Korean Studies (KOR), Religious Studies (RLS), South Asian Studies (SAS)

Faculty

Harsh Bhasin, Visiting Professor, M.A., Benaras Hindi University, India; Diplomacy; India; China.

William Chittick, Professor, Ph.D., Tehran University, Iran; Islamic Studies, Persian and Arab Literature.

Sung-Bae Park, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley; Buddhist Studies.

S. N. Sridhar, Professor, Ph.D., University of Illinois: Linguistics; Dravidian and Indian linguistics; multi-lingualism; India Studies.

Sachiko Murata, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Tehran University, Iran; Islamic Studies; Persian Literature; Chinese Language Islam.

Gregory Ruf, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Columbia University: Anthropology; China Studies.

Kamal Sridhar, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of Illinois: Language education; language maintenance.

Hongkyung Kim, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, S. Korea; Confucianism; Korean Studies.

Agnes He, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles; Applied Linguistics; heritage language education.

Eva Nagase, Lecturer, M.A., SUNY at Oneonta: Museum Studies and Art History; Japanese.

Eriko Sato, Lecturer, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Linguistics; Japanese.

Ye Li, Lecturer, M.A., Capital Normal University, Beijing, China; Classical Chinese Literature.

Eileen Otis, Sociology

Lester Paldy, Technology and Society

Elizabeth Stone, Anthropology

Jane Sugarman, Music

Milind Wakankar, English

John Williams, History

The Major in Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

The interdisciplinary major in Asian and Asian American Studies combines analytical perspectives and research methods of the social sciences and humanities in an integrated curriculum that is intellectually-challenging, socially relevant, and directed toward advancing students’ professional career goals. Students acquire in-depth knowledge of particular regions of Asia, enhanced appreciation of Asian cultures and societies, greater awareness of contemporary issues of global concern facing both Asia and America, and a better understanding of the histories, struggles, and contributions of Asian Americans.

The major includes training in a relevant Asian language, a concentration in a specific region of Asia, and courses in various disciplines that converge on an identified theme of study. It complements minors in China Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, and South Asian Studies, as well as the major and minor in religious studies.

Students are encouraged to gain a firsthand experience of living in and studying Asian cultures by participating in Study Abroad programs. Currently, Stony Brook offers a Summer program in India and academic year programs in Japan, and similar programs are being planned in other countries.

The academic offerings of the department are complemented by the resources and programming at the Program in China Studies, Center for India Studies, Center for Japan Studies, the Korean Studies Program, the Asian American Center Bridge and the new Charles B. Wang Center, which collaborate with various academic departments, student groups, community organizations, and individuals to promote a better understanding of Asia and Asian Americans today.

The Department of Asian and Asian American Studies has strong ties with selected academic and cultural organizations in Asia, and with Asian and Asian American institutions on Long Island and in the greater New York area. Stony Brook’s proximity to the New York City metropolitan area, with its Asian ethnic communities, offers rich opportunities for cultural and intellectual enrichment.

A major in Asian and Asian American Studies will open attractive opportunities for students who plan to pursue a wide range of careers, including the arts, business, education, economics, government, journalism, law, literature, and media. Many students increase their employment opportunities by pursuing a double major. In addition, Asian and Asian American Studies offers challenging opportunities at the graduate and professional school level as well.

Courses Offered in Asian and Asian American Studies

See also courses with the following designators: CHI, HIN, JPN, KOR, RLS, SKT. See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

AAS 102-B Eastern Religions

AAS 110-G Appreciating Indian Music

AAS 201-J Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent

AAS 211-F Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences

AAS 212-G Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities

AAS 216-J Introduction to Japanese Studies

Affiliated Faculty

Said Arjomand, Sociology

Mark Aronoff, Linguistics

Michael Barnhart, History

Robert Y. Chi, Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

Rhonda Cooper, Art Gallery

David Diworth, Philosophy

David Hicks, Anthropology

Theresa Kim, Theatre Arts

Shirley Lim, History

Iona Man-Cheong, History

Gary Mar, Philosophy

Sunita Mukhi, Charles B. Wang Center

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AAS 217-J  Introduction to Korean Culture
AAS 219-J  Introduction to Chinese History and Civilization
AAS 220-J  China: Language and Culture
AAS 240-J  Confucianism and Taoism
AAS 246-J  Korean and Japanese Religions
AAS 250-K  Languages and Cultures of Asian Americans
AAS 256-J  Hinduism
AAS 260-J  Buddhism
AAS 280-J  Islam
AAS 317-J  Islamic Art
AAS 320-G  Literature of India
AAS 321-G  Korean Literature
AAS 322-G  Literature of Japan
AAS 326-G  Indian Mythology
AAS 327-G  Great Epics of India: Ramayana and Mahabharata
AAS 330-J  Language and Society in South Asia
AAS 338-J Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy (Post 1947)
AAS 339-J Contemporary China: History, Politics, and Diplomacy (Post 1947)
AAS 340-J  Topics in Asian History
AAS 341-J  20th-Century China
AAS 345-J  Women and Gender in Chinese History
AAS 346 Philosophy of Education in Korea and Japan
AAS 348-J  History of British India
AAS 351-J  Revolutionary China: Politics, Culture, and Power
AAS 352-H  Environmental History of China
AAS 357 India's Foreign Policy
AAS 367-J  Meditation and Enlightenment
AAS 371-J  Ancient China
AAS 372  Family, Marriage, and Kinship in China
AAS 379-J  Ethnicity and Nation in China
AAS 380-G  Islamic Classics
AAS 382-G  Japanese Buddhism
AAS 391-G  Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies
AAS 392-F  Social Science Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies
AAS 394-J  Topics in Asian Art
AAS 400 Seminar in Korean Studies
AAS 401 Senior Seminar in Asian and Asian American Studies
AAS 447 Directed Readings in Asian and Asian American Studies
AAS 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II
AAS 487 Supervised Research in Asian and Asian American Studies
AAS 488 Internship

Requirements for the Major in Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

The major in Asian and Asian American Studies leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses taken for the major must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or higher. Completion of the major requires 42-44 credits, including at least 21 upper-division credits.

A. Language Proficiency

Six credits (or the equivalent of one year) of college study of an Asian language at the intermediate level or above.

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B. Regional Focus
Fifteen credits of coursework focusing on the region of East Asia (i.e., China, Japan, Korea) or South Asia (e.g., India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka). At least nine credits must be at the 300 or 400 level. (See Note 5)

C. Asian Americans
Three credits of course work focusing on Asian American studies.

D. Comparative Region
One upper-division course relating to another region of Asia, i.e. a region not selected to satisfy requirement B.

E. Theme Requirement
Nine credits of upper-division coursework concentrating on a theme chosen in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Themes:
Possible themes include (but are not limited to): Literature, Arts, and Culture of Asia; Asian Philosophy and Religion; Asian Society and History; Linguistics of an Asian language; Asian Histories and Politics; International Relations; Business and Economics; Science and Technology; Advanced Language Study; the Asian American Experience. Three sample themes include:

Asian Philosophy and Religion
AAS 391, 392 Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies (when appropriate)
AAS/RLS 367 Meditation and Enlightenment
AAS/RLS 380 Islamic Classics
AAS/RLS 382 Japanese Buddhism
AAS 346 Philosophy of Education in Korea and Japan
PHI 342 History of Chinese Philosophy
PHI 344 Japanese Thought and Philosophy
PHI 378 Philosophical Topics in Asian American History (when appropriate)

Literature, Arts, and Culture of Asia
AAS 320 Literature of India
AAS 321 Korean Literature
AAS 391, 392 Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies (when appropriate)
AAS/ARH 317 Islamic Art
AAS/ARH 394 Topics in Asian Art
ARH 318 History of Chinese Painting
AAS 391/392 Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies (when appropriate)
AAS 322 Literature of Japan
AAS 321 Korean Literature
THR 313 Asian Theatre and Drama

Society and History
AAAS 330 Language and Society in South Asia
AAS 392 Social Science Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies (when appropriate)
AAS/ANT 371 Ancient China
AAS/ANT 372 Family, Marriage, and Kinship in China
AAS/ANT 379 Ethnicity and Nation in China
AAS/HIS 340 Topics in Asian History
AAS/HIS 341 20th Century China
AAS/HIS/WST 345 Women and Gender in Chinese History
AAS/HIS 348 History of British India
AAS/HIS 351 Revolutionary China: Politics, Culture, and Power
AAS/HIS 352 Environmental History of China
ECO 339 China’s Economy Since 1949
ECO 340 Japanese Economy
HIS 344 20th Century Japan
HIS 431/432 Colloquia in Asian History

F. Senior Research Project
AAS 487 Supervised Research in Asian and Asian American Studies

G. Senior Seminar
AAS 401 Senior Seminar in Asian and Asian American Studies

H. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
By the end of their junior year, students must complete one upper-division course from requirements B or D that includes a minimum of ten pages of written English work. Written assignments for the course must be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for assessment of advanced writing skills appropriate to the major. This review is separate from the evaluation made by the course instructor and has no effect on the course grade.

Notes:
1. Students with a pre-established proficiency in an Asian language (determined through a university Challenge Exam) must take six additional credits under requirements B, D, or E.
2. A course may be used to satisfy only one requirement category.
3. At least 12 of the upper-division credits must be taken at Stony Brook University.
4. Related courses (including special topics) offered by other departments are acceptable for the major with the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies. These may include: ARH 203, 318; CLT 220; ECO 339, 340; HIS 220, 343, 344, 431, 432; LIN 355, 431; PHI 342, 344, 378; RLS 390, 391; SOC 264, 386; THR 313.
5. Acceptable courses may include, but are not limited to courses with the following designators: ANT, ARH, CCS, CHI, CLT, ENG, HIN, HIS, JPN, KOR, LIN, PHI, POL, RLS, SKT, SOC, THR.
The Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

The Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies encourages students of any academic major to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Asian cultures, societies, and histories. Students with a minor in Asian and Asian American Studies consult with the Undergraduate Director of Asian and Asian American Studies to select a curriculum of interdisciplinary comparative study that speaks to their particular interests and career goals. All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or higher.

Requirements for the Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

Completion of the minor requires 21 credits.

A. Six credits of 200-level course work, selected from any two of the following categories:

1. China
   - AAS 219 Introduction to Chinese History and Civilization
   - AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 220 China: Language and Culture

2. India
   - AAS 201 Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent
   - AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 220 India: Language and Culture

3. Japan
   - AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 216 Introduction to Japanese Studies
   - HIS 220 Introduction to Japanese History and Civilization
   - JNH 240 Introduction to Japanese Studies

4. Korea
   - AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 217 Introduction to Korean Culture
   - KRH 240 Introduction to Korean Culture

B. Three credits of 100- or 200-level course-work on Asian religion, selected from the following:

   - AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   - AAS/RLS 102 Eastern Religions
   - AAS/RLS 240 Confucianism and Taoism
   - AAS/RLS 246 Korean and Japanese Religions
   - AAS/RLS 256 Hinduism
   - AAS/RLS 260 Buddhism
   - AAS/RLS 280 Islam

C. Nine credits of upper-division course-work concentrating on a theme chosen in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. (See “Themes” above for examples.)

D. Three credits of AAS 487 Supervised Research