The undergraduate Asian Studies program offers a comprehensive overview of the geography, history, people and their movements, and cultures of Asia. At the same time, the program is structured to train its students as strong researchers.

**Bachelor’s Program**

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Asian Studies (ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/humanities/asian-studies/asian-studies-ba)

Asian Studies does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

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For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice’s Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/!SWKSCAT.cat)

**Asian Studies (ASIA)**

**ASIA 211 - INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS**

- Short Title: INTRO TO ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS  
- Department: Asian Studies  
- Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
- Course Type: Seminar  
- Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
- Credit Hours: 3

**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.

**Description:** A team-taught interdisciplinary course focusing on certain major philosophical, religious and artistic traditions of pre-modern Asia, with an emphasis on the historical processes by which ideas, people, products, technologies and skills circulated within and beyond state boundaries. Cross-list: HART 211, HIST 206.

**ASIA 212 - PERSPECTIVES ON MODERN ASIA**

- Short Title: PERSPECTIVES ON MODERN ASIA  
- Department: Asian Studies  
- Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
- Course Type: Lecture  
- Distribution Group: Distribution Group II  
- Credit Hours: 3

**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.

**Description:** A team-taught interdisciplinary course focusing on the political, social and economic forces that are shaping the lives of the nearly one half of the world’s population that lives in Asia. Provides a selective, in-depth look at certain important areas of East, Southeast and South Asia that reflect larger themes and problems. Cross-list: ANTH 212.

**ASIA 218 - HISTORY THROUGH FILM IN EAST AND NORTHEAST ASIA**

- Short Title: EAST/NORTHEAST ASIA FILM HIST  
- Department: Asian Studies  
- Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
- Course Type: Lecture  
- Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
- Credit Hours: 3

**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.

**Description:** Can we learn history by analyzing movies? Using documentary and feature films from Asian film culture’s beginnings, we view 19th-20th century Chinese, Japanese, and Korean history. Collective in-class film viewing, discussion and reading required. Cross-list: FILM 218, HIST 218.
ASIA 219 - MODERN JAPAN
Short Title: MODERN JAPAN
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine the modern history of Japan, roughly 1600 to the present. Through readings, discussion, exams and a research paper, students will engage with modern Japanese history, including warrior culture, engagement with the west, modernization and industrialization, empire, the role of women, democracy and popular protest, war, occupation, and economic growth.

ASIA 221 - THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD
Short Title: LIFE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will examine the life of the Prophet Muhammad, focusing on its significance for Muslims and for non-Muslims. Readings in The Qur’an, Ibn Hisham, and Haykal. Cross-list: RELI 221.

ASIA 222 - THE WORLD AND SOUTH ASIA
Short Title: WORLD AND SOUTH ASIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Introduction to important 20th and 21st-century writers in English from South Asia - the region that includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Readings include award-winning and bestselling works (fiction and non-fiction) by writers who address a wide range of issues including national and cultural identity, colonialism, sexuality, religion, globalization and political violence. Cross-list: ENGL 222.
Course URL: www.english.rice.edu

ASIA 227 - MODERN KOREA: HISTORY, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY
Short Title: MODERN KOREA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course aims to introduce students to modern Korean culture and society from a historical perspective. The course will map the historical and geopolitical elements that have shaped the national identity and mentalities to help students better understand the transformation of Korean society as the world order changed. Counts as HIST credit.

ASIA 230 - ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Short Title: ASIAN RELIGIONS IN AMERICA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: A survey course on Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and Jainism in America, from the colonial period to the present, with a special focus on American metaphysical religion, the counterculture, the New Age, and the history of Western Colonialism, transcultural encounter, translation and immigration. Cross-list: RELI 230.

ASIA 231 - AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Short Title: AMERICAN METAPHYSICAL RELIGION
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Beginning with a historical survey of the American metaphysical tradition, this course turns to a close study of the Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California, as a unique window into some of the different ways the tradition has appropriated Asian religions, psychological models of the unconscious, and contemporary scientific paradigms. Cross-list: RELI 231.

ASIA 232 - RELIGIONS FROM INDIA
Short Title: RELIGIONS FROM INDIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: This course will survey the religions of India, namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism. Emphasis will be placed on the study of scriptures of these traditions and their continuing global relevance, particularly in American history and culture. Cross-list: RELI 232.

ASIA 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Lecture, Seminar
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
**ASIA 240 - GENDER AND POLITICIZED RELIGION**  
**Short Title:** GENDER & POLITICIZED RELIGION  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course examines the emergence of religion-based politics in various Asian countries—particularly Hindu and Muslim—focusing on the women participants in these movements as well as the movements’ concern with gender roles in society. We will investigate, for instance, the extent to which women participants have been willing or able to reshape the central ideas of such movements. Cross-list: RELI 285, SWGS 240. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for ASIA 240 and ASIA 340.

**ASIA 251 - SEX, MONEY, AND POWER AROUND THE WORLD**  
**Short Title:** SEX, MONEY, AND POWER  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** An interdisciplinary course exploring lives and well-being in the context of gendered international and domestic politics and economic processes. Emphasis on the implications of power relations at levels from the household to the global for women and men around the world (with particular attention to Asia). Cross-list: POLI 250, SWGS 250.

**ASIA 295 - INTRODUCTION TO TRANSNATIONAL ASIAN STUDIES**  
**Short Title:** INTRO TO TRANSNATIONAL ASIA  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** As a gateway course for the Asian Studies major, Introduction to Transnational Asia is designed to give students diverse perspectives of learning about Asia. The course combines lecture, historical and contemporary textual analysis, group study, mini research project, and presentation.

**ASIA 299 - DISCOVER ASIA IN HOUSTON**  
**Short Title:** DISCOVER ASIA IN HOUSTON  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hour:** 1  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** The goal of this course is to help students learn about others’ cultures, leading them to critically reflect on their own culture. Through readings, audio-visual and hands-on materials, guest lectures, and field trips, students are exposed to diverse cultures of Asia in Houston. International students and domestic students are paired to form a team for the final presentation. Department Permission Required.

**ASIA 315 - GENDER AND ISLAM**  
**Short Title:** GENDER AND ISLAM  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Explores the lives of Muslim women in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and North America; analyzes constructions of gender in the Islamic world; over time; the challenges faced from such diverse quarters as colonial administrators, Western feminists, and states; as well as movements and individuals within the Muslim world. Cross-list: RELI 315, SWGS 315.

**ASIA 316 - RELIGION AND MODERNITY: BUDDHISM IN BRITISH COLONIAL SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**  
**Short Title:** BUDDHISM IN BRITISH COLONIES  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Concentrating on Buddhism in colonial India, Burma/Myanmar and Ceylon/Sri Lanka, this course examines the dynamic interactions between religion and modernity. It lays out the pressures of modernity and the ways in which Buddhism responded to them. Three broader themes of the course are the East-West contact, the modern-premodern negotiation and the local-global evolution.

**ASIA 317 - ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY IN CHINA: SEARCHING FOR ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION**  
**Short Title:** ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY IN CHINA  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Environmental issues in China dominate news headlines, thorough may are unfamiliar with the on-the-ground situation in China. This course will examine the current state of the environment in China from a variety of perspectives including those of the state, local communities, and new campaigns to create an “ecological civilization.”

**ASIA 319 - WAR AND MODERN EAST ASIA**  
**Short Title:** WAR AND MODERN EAST ASIA  
**Department:** Asian Studies  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Distribution Group:** Distribution Group I  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Graduate level students may not enroll.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** How does war affect humanity’s view of culture, history, and national identity? We will turn these questions toward the disastrous Imjin War (1592-98) which embroiled China, Japan and Korea. Investigating East Asia before, during, and after this conflict, will explore how the Imjin War created modern East Asia.
ASIA 320 - THE WORLD OF THE SAMURAI
Short Title: THE WORLD OF THE SAMURAI
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Who were the samurai? Through readings, writing, and discussions, we will undertake an in-depth examination of the world in which the samurai lived, questioning common myths about samurai culture. Students will investigate the samurai through thematic units on political history, military strategy, literature, art, and sense of values.

ASIA 322 - INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM: ARTS FOR LIFE
Short Title: INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Buddhist ideas, art, and meditation. Exploration of the Buddhism in India, China, and Japan and their impact in the USA today. Readings include Buddhists classics and contemporary responses from mediators and scientists. Cross-list: RELI 322.

ASIA 323 - RELIGIOUS VISUAL CULTURES IN TRADITIONAL CHINA
Short Title: CHINESE RELIGIOUS ART
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This seminar explores the visual materials and their context that shed light on pre-modern China's Buddhist, Daoist, funeral, and other diverse religious and ritual practices. Topics of discussion include iconic and aniconic traditions; breathing, meditation, and visualization; paradise and hell; body; ritual performance; patronage; Buddhist grottoes; tombs; multi-ethnic; printing. Cross-list: HART 323, MDEM 323.

ASIA 324 - SOUTHEAST ASIA UNDER JAPAN: MOTIVES, MEMOIRS, AND MEDIA
Short Title: SE ASIA UNDER JAPAN: 1941-45
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: The brief Japanese occupation of Southeast Asia (1941-45) was a complex phenomenon involving the complicity of many Asian nationalist leaders. It contributed to the unraveling of western colonial rule but at a brutal human cost. Through texts, memoirs, fiction and propaganda films, we will explore those tumultuous years in Burma, Indochina, Malaya, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

ASIA 325 - JAPAN AND KOREA IN THE CHINESE CRUCIBLE
Short Title: JAPAN & KOREA CHINESE CRUCIBLE
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course investigates the role China played as both model and catalyst for the development of civilization in Japan and Korea, through diplomacy, war, and cultural transmission.

ASIA 326 - TEMPLES, TECHNOLOGY, AND TRANSITION: INDIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Short Title: TEMPLES,TECH&TRANSITION-INDIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: India has been in the news lately for many reasons – its growth rate, outsourcing, poverty, violence against women, Hindu nationalism, nuclear program, or Bollywood. In this class we will explore some of these topics by focusing on India’s transition from colonialism to the emergence of the modern nation-state, to understand the major changes that give shape to life in contemporary South Asia.

ASIA 327 - CINEMA AND MOBILITY IN 20TH CENTURY EAST ASIA
Short Title: CINEMA & MOBILITY: EAST ASIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines the ensemble of modern transportation systems and cinema as a junction point that allows a comprehensive theoretical model of modernity in East Asia, by applying theories of visuality and mobilities.

ASIA 328 - MODERN GIRL AND ASIA IN THE WORLD
Short Title: MOD GIRL & ASIA IN THE WORLD
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Using the textbook "The Modern Girl Around the World," this course examines the phenomenon of the so-called modern girl in Asia and the world, 1890-1949. Topics include: modernity, consumer culture, sexuality, and liberation. Cross-list: HIST 384, SWGS 384.
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<th>Course Code</th>
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<td>ASIA 335</td>
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<td>CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS</td>
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<td>ASIA 338</td>
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<td>BIOETHICS &amp; INDIAN TRADITIONS</td>
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<td>ASIA 339</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASIA 345</td>
<td>URBAN LAB MIDDLE EAST</td>
<td>URBAN LAB MIDDLE EAST</td>
<td>Asian Studies</td>
<td>Standard Letter</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>ASIA 355</td>
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<td>ASIA 360</td>
<td>ASIAN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>ASIAN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY</td>
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<td>Lecture</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Distribution Group I</td>
<td>Graduate level students may not enroll.</td>
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</table>

ASIA 330 - INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE POETRY

Description: This course seeks to decode enchanting features of traditional Chinese poetry through examining the transformation of poetic genres, the interaction between poetic creation and political, social, and cultural changes, and the close association of poetry with art. Thus, this course also serves to understand Chinese culture and history through poetic perspectives. All readings in English translation.

ASIA 332 - CHINESE LITERATURE AND ITS MOVIE ADAPTATIONS

Description: Exploration of modern Chinese literature through the visual imagery of Chinese films to show how and why different time periods and different media affect the theme of a story. One third covers movie adaptations of classical Chinese literature. Films subtitled in English, shown outside of class. All readings in English translation.

ASIA 334 - TRADITIONAL CHINESE TALES AND SHORT STORIES

Description: Learning Chinese literature and culture through reading vernacular stories, fantastic tales, biographies, and philosophical parables. Discussion topics: literature and Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism; literature and history; self and other; fantastic world and reality; women as domestic aliens and aliens portrayed as women, etc. Readings are in English translation.

ASIA 335 - INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS

Description: Examination of the basic characteristics of classical Chinese novels, primarily through six important works from the 16th to 18th centuries: Water Margin, Monkey, Golden Lotus, Scholars, Romance of the Three Kingdoms, and Dream of the Red Chamber. Cross-list: CHIN 335, MDEM 375.

ASIA 338 - BIOETHICS AND INDIAN TRADITIONS

Description: We will examine western normative ethical theories alongside key concepts in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism regarding definitions of life, death, consciousness, autonomy, disability, pain/pleasure, and how to make decisions in issues such as animal research, disorders of consciousness, abortion, and assisted suicide, among others.

ASIA 339 - CONSCIOUSNESS FROM INDIAN TRADITIONS TO MODERN SCIENCE

Description: This course explores consciousness from ancient Indian philosophies (Jain, Buddhist, and Samkhya-Yoga), alongside western concepts of consciousness from Pythagoras to modern neuroscience and animal consciousness, touching briefly upon Judeo-Christian and Taoist concepts. 2-3 guest speakers will aid our investigation.

ASIA 345 - URBAN LAB MIDDLE EAST

Description: The course examines the dynamics of urban politics and policy in the Middle East. We will focus on social, political, and economic issues, as well as history, culture, architecture, and the arts. Weekly classes will include case studies, guest lectures, and work on research projects. The lab also features a field research trip to one or more cities (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha, etc.) during Spring Break. Prerequisites may be taken the same semester with POLI 345/ASIA 345. Department Permission Required.

ASIA 355 - INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE POETRY

Description: This course examines the dynamics of urban politics and policy in the Middle East. We will focus on social, political, and economic issues, as well as history, culture, architecture, and the arts. Weekly classes will include case studies, guest lectures, and work on research projects. The lab also features a field research trip to one or more cities (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha, etc.) during Spring Break. Prerequisites may be taken the same semester with POLI 345/ASIA 345. Department Permission Required.

ASIA 360 - ASIAN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Description: This course explores the political and philosophical aspects of Asian history and politics, focusing on key figures and movements in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean politics and thought from ancient times to the present. We will examine the development of political thought in China, Japan, and Korea, including Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism, as well as modern political movements. The course will also cover the impact of these ideas on contemporary politics in East Asia.

ASIA 385 - ASIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Description: This course explores the development of art and architecture in Asia, focusing on key figures, styles, and movements from ancient times to the present. We will examine the development of art and architecture in China, Japan, and Korea, including key figures and movements, such as the Tang and Song dynasties, as well as modern movements such as Japanese and Korean modernism. The course will also cover the impact of these ideas on contemporary art and architecture in East Asia.

ASIA 395 - ASIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Description: This course explores the development of society and culture in Asia, focusing on key figures, movements, and ideas from ancient times to the present. We will examine the development of society and culture in China, Japan, and Korea, including key figures and movements, such as the Tang and Song dynasties, as well as modern movements such as Japanese and Korean modernism. The course will also cover the impact of these ideas on contemporary society and culture in East Asia.

ASIA 405 - ASIAN ECONOMICS

Description: This course explores the development of economics in Asia, focusing on key figures, movements, and ideas from ancient times to the present. We will examine the development of economics in China, Japan, and Korea, including key figures and movements, such as the Tang and Song dynasties, as well as modern movements such as Japanese and Korean modernism. The course will also cover the impact of these ideas on contemporary economics in East Asia.

ASIA 415 - ASIAN HISTORY

Description: This course explores the development of history in Asia, focusing on key figures, movements, and ideas from ancient times to the present. We will examine the development of history in China, Japan, and Korea, including key figures and movements, such as the Tang and Song dynasties, as well as modern movements such as Japanese and Korean modernism. The course will also cover the impact of these ideas on contemporary history in East Asia.
ASIA 347 - URBAN LAB SHANGHAI
Short Title: URBAN LAB SHANGHAI
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Laboratory
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): POLI 362 (may be taken concurrently) or POLI 562 (may be taken concurrently) or POLI 464
Description: This course examines the dynamics of urban politics and policy in an emerging global city - Shanghai. In addition to social, political and economic issues, we will focus on history, culture, language, architecture and the arts. Weekly class sessions will include lectures, case studies, guest lectures, and group work on research projects. The lab also features an 8-day field research trip to Shanghai. Prerequisite(s) POLI 362 or POLI 562 may be taken concurrently. Instructor Permission Required. Cross-list: POLI 347.

ASIA 349 - URBAN LAB ISTANBUL
Short Title: URBAN LAB ISTANBUL
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Laboratory
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Prerequisite(s): POLI 355 (may be taken concurrently) or POLI 362 (may be taken concurrently) or POLI 464 (may be taken concurrently) or POLI 562 (may be taken concurrently)
Description: This course examines the dynamics of urban politics and policy in an emerging global city - Istanbul. In addition to social, political and economic issues, we will also focus on history, culture, language, architecture and the arts. Weekly class sessions will include lectures, case studies, guest lecturers, and group work on research projects. The lab also features an 8-day field research trip to Istanbul. Prerequisites may be taken the same semester as POLI 349/ASIA 349. Instructor Permission Required. Cross-list: POLI 349.

ASIA 353 - EAST ASIAN DEMOCRACIES
Short Title: EAST ASIAN DEMOCRACIES
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines the functioning of the political system in the three principal East Asian democracies: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. Particular focus is paid to each country's democratic institutions, electoral politics, and political party system. Cross-list: POLI 353.

ASIA 355 - CINEMA AND THE CITY
Short Title: CINEMA AND THE CITY
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This class explores representations of the city in 20th and 21st century world cinema. Central concerns will include the city as cinematic protagonist, parallels between urban and cinematic space and the intertwined histories of both film and urban design over the last century. Cross-list: FILM 336, HART 336.

ASIA 360 - TRANSNATIONAL CHINA: CHINA AND THE CHINESE DIASPORA
Short Title: CHINA AND THE CHINESE DIASPORA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Exploration of the political, economic, and social forces changing the lives of nearly a quarter of humanity, the 1.4 billion people of Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the diasporic Chinese communities of East and Southeast Asia. Topics include political and economic liberalization, nationalism and urban identity, privatization and consumerism, environmentalism and public goods, and the globalization of communication technologies and Chinese cultural media.
Course URL: www.owlnet.rice.edu/~swlewis/asia360/

ASIA 371 - CHINESE PAINTING
Short Title: CHINESE PAINTING
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines Chinese painting from ancient times to the early twentieth century. Issues of examination include themes, styles, and functions of Chinese painting; the interrelationship between paintings and the intended viewers; regionalism; images and words; foreign elements in Chinese painting. Cross-list: HART 371.
ASIA 372 - CHINESE ART AND VISUAL CULTURE  
Short Title: CHINESE ART AND VISUAL CULTURE  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This course explores a series of issues that are critically important for the medieval art of both China and northern Europe. Topics include materials and techniques; public and private art: commerce, technology and prints; art and motion; archaeology; paradise and hell; maps and space; the gaze; erotica; patronage; and multiculturalism. Cross-list: HART 376, MDEM 376.

ASIA 376 - EAST AND WEST: MEDIEVAL VISUAL CULTURE IN CHINA AND NORTHERN EUROPE  
Short Title: EAST AND WEST  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This course explores a series of issues that are critically important for the medieval art of both China and northern Europe. Topics include materials and techniques; public and private art: commerce, technology and prints; art and motion; archaeology; paradise and hell; maps and space; the gaze; erotica; patronage; and multiculturalism. Cross-list: HART 376, MDEM 376.

ASIA 378 - CLASSICAL, CONTEMPORARY, AND CROSS-CULTURAL ASIAN MUSIC  
Short Title: CROSS-CULTURAL ASIAN MUSIC  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This course focuses on traditional and contemporary art music from Asia. The classroom lectures are designed to introduce and accompany one or two events which will include live performances, workshops, lectures by invited performers and scholars. This course may be repeated since each year the countries and invited guest performers/scholars will represent different geographical areas. Cross-list: MUSI 378. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 380 - ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCES  
Short Title: ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCES  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This interdisciplinary course will investigate the diverse cultural traditions and shared experiences of Asian Americans in the United States. By analyzing historical works, literary texts, and films, we will explore a range of topics including Asian immigration, gender roles, identity formation, and ethnic media. Cross-list: HIST 380.

ASIA 387 - ASIAN AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITIES  
Short Title: ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This interdisciplinary course will investigate the diverse cultural traditions and shared experiences of Asian Americans in the United States. By analyzing historical works, literary texts, and films, we will explore a range of topics including Asian immigration, gender roles, identity formation, and ethnic media. Cross-list: ANTH 387.

ASIA 388 - PHOTOGRAPHY IN CHINA  
Short Title: PHOTOGRAPHY IN CHINA  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture/Laboratory  
Credit Hours: 3,4  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This course focuses on traditional and contemporary art music from China. The classroom lectures are designed to introduce and accompany one or two events which will include live performances, workshops, lectures by invited performers and scholars. This course may be repeated since each year the countries and invited guest performers/scholars will represent different geographical areas. Cross-list: MUSI 378. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 389 - MIGRATIONS AND DIASPORAS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WORLD  
Short Title: THE INDIAN OCEAN WORLD  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: This course surveys the remarkable linguistic diversity of the Pacific Rim Asia covering important grammatical features, including word origins, tones and sounds, writing systems, characteristic syntactic patterns, language families, cultural keywords and communicative styles of the major, as well as some minority languages of the region. Cross-list: LING 390. Recommended Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites as listed or 3 courses in Chinese, Japanese or Korean with special permission.
ASIA 399 - WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE
Short Title: WOMEN IN CHINESE LITERATURE
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines women’s roles in Chinese literature as writers, readers, and characters, focusing particularly on the tension between women’s lived bodily experiences and the cultural experiences inscribed on the female body and how, in the process, women have contrarily gendered patriarchal culture into their own. It will also touch on Chinese women’s incorporation of the Western Tradition. Cross-list: MDEM 379, SWGS 399.

ASIA 401 - INDEPENDENT STUDY
Short Title: INDEPENDENT STUDY
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-15
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Reading or research project to be determined by discussions between student(s) and faculty member(s). Department Permission Required.

ASIA 402 - INDEPENDENT STUDY
Short Title: INDEPENDENT STUDY
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hours: 1-15
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Reading or research project to be determined by discussions between student(s) and faculty member(s). Department Permission Required.

ASIA 422 - THE ORIGINAL BEAUTY OF CHINESE LITERATURE
Short Title: ORIGINAL BEAUTY OF CHINESE LIT
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: The course will expose students to the best literary works created in the Chinese tradition, both classical and modern, and give them a general introduction to different genres, including poetry, fiction, drama, and philosophical essays. It will improve their language proficiency through reading original texts of Chinese literature. Cross-list: CHIN 422.

ASIA 441 - MAGIC AND POPULAR RELIGION
Short Title: MAGIC & POPULAR RELIGION
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will examine the popular religion in the Middle East from Late Antiquity until the 19th century, focusing on healing practices, astrology, protection, amulets, seasoned/life-cycle rituals, and other popular beliefs common to Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Cross-list: RELI 441.

ASIA 488 - ASIA AND ENERGY
Short Title: ASIA AND ENERGY
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Multi-disciplinary study of Asian countries and cultures as to a way to explain production, exchange, consumption and influence of energy on political, economic and social/cultural institutions, including energy security and energy policy formation and resource use theories. Assumes basic knowledge of history and politics of Asian societies and economies.

ASIA 489 - CHINESE POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
Short Title: CHINESE POLITICS
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course explores the range of theories and empirical research methodologies from comparative political science, political-economy and Asian studies commonly applied to understanding Chinese politics: political participation, political organizations, collective action and popular protest, political culture and political institutional change. This course will be a seminar requiring weekly presentations extensive readings at the graduate level in social science, and an original research paper. There is no prerequisite for this course but participants are assumed to already possess extensive knowledge of Chinese history, culture and society. Cross-list: POLI 489.

ASIA 490 - COLONIAL MODERNITY IN EAST ASIA
Short Title: COLONIAL MODERNITY: EAST ASIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: History of ideas, treaties, market and corporate strategies in imperialist and anti-imperialist movements in East Asia in 19th, 20th centuries. Uses theories of colonialism and specific case studies of fashion, architecture, mass media, urban planning, etc., to define colonial modernity transnationally. Three analytic essays and one research paper. Cross-list: HIST 490.
ASIA 492 - GENDER HISTORIES OF MODERN CHINA
Short Title: GENDER HISTORIES: MODERN CHINA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Seminar with some lectures considers late imperial through 21st century China using conceptual tools (masculinity, femininity, gynotechnics, globalization, representation). Examines late Qing gender order, revolutionary era, party-state formation, and the Great Transformations of late 20th and early 21st centuries using visual culture, film, primary texts, and secondary histories. Cross-list: HIST 492, SWGS 492.

ASIA 494 - SPECIAL TOPICS IN ASIAN STUDIES
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS ASIAN STUDIES
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This seminar course explores various cultural topics, not covered in other Asia courses, in Asian studies. The fields may include history, film, linguistics, sociology as well as other fields in the humanities and social sciences. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 495 - ASIAN STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR
Short Title: ASIAN STUDIES RESEARCH SEM
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Graduate level students may not enroll.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course is designed to elevate the knowledge on Asia acquired by Asian Studies majors in their first two years of study to a higher level and to train them in executing their original research and producing a substantial research paper. Department Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for ASIA 495 and ASIA 695. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 695 - ASIAN STUDIES RESEARCH SEMINAR
Short Title: ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: To elevate the knowledge on Asia acquired by AS majors in their undergraduate years to a graduate level with more depth and focus, and to train AS majors in designing and executing their original research and offer them an opportunity to produce a substantial research paper based on bibliographic research and other forms of data-gathering. In 695 (vs. 495), students will be assigned one additional reading per week throughout the semester. Department Permission Required. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for ASIA 695 and ASIA 495. Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject: ASIA

Program Description and Code
• Asian Studies: ASIA

Undergraduate Degree Description and Code
• Bachelor of Arts degree: BA

Undergraduate Major Description and Code
• Major in Asian Studies: ASIA