Asian Studies

Contact Information
Asian Studies
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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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Steven W. Lewis

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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 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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](http://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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 TRANSTNATIONAL ASIAN STUDIES
Short Title: INTRO TO TRANSTNATIONAL ASIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 303 - ASIA ON THE MOVE: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND GLOBAL MIGRATION
Short Title: ASIA ON THE MOVE
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: An interdisciplinary course exploring the contemporary lived experiences of migrants from Asia. We will analyze how gender and sexuality shape patterns of migration, the regulation of mobilities, and citizenship and belonging. This course focuses on the critical role of colonialism and contemporary globalization in shaping Asian migrations.
ASIA 314 - RELIGION, IDENTITY, AND NATION IN MODERN SOUTH ASIA
Short Title: RELIGION IN MODERN SOUTH ASIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course examines how religion has emerged to define collective identities of modern nation states in South Asia. It will delineate how Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam were conceptualized in colonial period and how they have influenced the shaping of identities of post-colonial nations. Case studies from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka will be discussed in detail.

ASIA 315 - GENDER AND ISLAM
Short Title: GENDER AND ISLAM
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 overtime; 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Environmental issues in China dominate news headlines, though 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 318 - ASIA-PACIFIC: NATURE, CULTURE AND POWER FROM COLONIALISM TO 21ST CENTURY CAPITALISM
Short Title: ASIA: NATURE, CULTURE, & POWER
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: In the Asia-Pacific, colonialism decimated the environment, yet under national independence many countries now experience even worse environmental degradation. What then does the future hold? This seminar seeks to answer this question by providing a critical examination of environment and capitalism in the Asia-Pacific region.

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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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, TECHNOLOGY & TRANSITION-INDIA
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Graduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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.
ASIA 330 - INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL CHINESE POETRY  
Short Title: INTRO TO TRAD CHINESE POETRY  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
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. Cross-list: CHIN 330, MDEM 370.

ASIA 332 - CHINESE LITERATURE AND ITS MOVIE ADAPTATIONS  
Short Title: FILM & CHINESE LITERATURE  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
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. Cross-list: CHIN 332.

ASIA 334 - TRADITIONAL CHINESE TALES AND SHORT STORIES  
Short Title: TRADITIONAL CHINESE TALES  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
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. Cross-list: CHIN 334.

ASIA 335 - INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS  
Short Title: CLASSICAL CHINESE NOVELS  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
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  
Short Title: BIOETHICS & INDIAN TRADITIONS  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
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  
Short Title: CONSCIOUSNESS, INDIA, SCIENCE  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Seminar  
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
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
Short Title: URBAN LAB MIDDLE EAST
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture/Laboratory
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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) or POLI 361 (may be taken concurrently)
Description: This course examines the dynamics of urban politics and policy in the Middle East. We will focus on social, political, and economic issues. 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. Cross-list: POLI 345.

ASIA 347 - URBAN LAB SHANGHAI
Short Title: URBAN LAB SHANGHAI
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Laboratory
Credit Hour: 1
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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
Distribution Group: Distribution Group II
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: In this course, we will study how various artistic styles developed in historical, social, and cultural contexts from the ancient period to the present day. Through the careful examination of architecture, calligraphy, painting, sculpture, ceramics, bronze, and film, students will gain a deeper understanding of Chinese art and visual culture. Cross-list: HART 372, MDEM 373.

ASIA 376 - EAST & 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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
Distribution Group: Distribution Group I
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This course will focus 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Independent Study  
Credit Hours: 1-15  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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 389 - INDIAN OCEAN WORLD HISTORY  
Short Title: INDIAN OCEAN WORLD HISTORY  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture/Laboratory  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Description: The Indian Ocean World presents an enormously varied arena of cultural exchange and interaction spanning coastal regions of Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia and Australia. Course introduces the region by examining societies and empires shaped by voyages of exploration, religious pilgrimages, trading diasporas and forced migration. Cross-list: HIST 389.

ASIA 390 - THE LANGUAGES OF ASIA  
Short Title: THE LANGUAGES OF ASIA  
Department: Asian Studies  
Grade Mode: Standard Letter  
Course Type: Lecture  
Credit Hours: 3  
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level  
Prerequisite(s): LING 200 or ANTH 200  
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Lecture, Seminar, Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 488 - ASIA AND ENERGY
Short Title: ASIA AND ENERGY
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: This 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: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
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 an producing a substantial research paper. Department Permission Required. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: ASIA 695. Mutually Exclusive: Credit cannot be earned for ASIA 495 and ASIA 695. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 501 - ASIAN STUDIES ADVANCED FIELD RESEARCH
Short Title: ADVANCED FIELD RESEARCH
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 6
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: In this course, students will learn to gather data first hand either by ethnographic fieldwork or by primary archival source research. Department Permission Required.

ASIA 511 - PRO-SEMINAR ON ADVANCED TRANSNATIONAL ASIAN STUDIES
Short Title: PROSEMINAR ASIAN STUDIES
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: Targeted to be the MA gateway course. This course covers a broad range of topics and debates which have marked the tradition of Asian Studies as well as contemporary scholarship. The course will cover areas and topics beyond students’ immediate thesis subjects, it will equip students with the breath of reference points befitting a graduate degree holder in Asian Studies. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.
ASIA 521 - ADVANCED READING AND WRITING IN ASIAN STUDIES
Short Title: ADV ASIAN READING & WRITING
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hours: 4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course requires students to closely read and thoroughly comprehend a substantial amount of text written in Asian language(s). By so doing, the course will help students to: 1) refine translation and comprehension skills and 2) understand how to select and logically reference Asian-language texts for their research. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 531 - ASIAN STUDIES METHODOLOGY SEMINAR I
Short Title: METHODOLOGY SEMINAR I
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: The purpose of this course is to 1) introduce students to a wide range of humanistic and social scientific research methods and their theoretical implications, and 2) offer students practice in a method of their own choice on a mini-research practicum. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 532 - ASIAN STUDIES METHODOLOGY SEMINAR II
Short Title: METHODOLOGY SEMINAR II
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: The purpose of this course is to 1) introduce students to a wide range of humanistic and social scientific research methods and their theoretical implications, and 2) offer students practice in a method of their own choice on a mini-research practicum. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 541 - THESIS RESEARCH IN ASIAN STUDIES
Short Title: THESIS RESEARCH: ASIAN STUDIES
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: This course is designed to guide students to identify the most optimal topic of research/thesis proportionate to their interest as well as ability. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 551 - ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE SEMINAR
Short Title: ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE 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: In this course, students will learn to present their research in an exciting broadly persuasive manner to a mixed audience. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 561 - THESIS WRITING: INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ASIAN STUDIES
Short Title: THESIS WRITINGS: IND STUDY
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Independent Study
Credit Hours: 4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: A continuation of ASIA 541, this course is designed to guide students in writing a complete thesis on their chosen topic proportionate to their interest as well as ability. Department Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

ASIA 677 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Asian Studies
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory, Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Graduate or Visiting Graduate level students.
Course Level: Graduate
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). 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. Graduate/Undergraduate Equivalency: ASIA 495. 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

CIP Code and Description

• ASIA Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 05.0103 - Asian Studies/Civilization

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2010 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/