Asian Languages and Literatures Courses (ASIA)

This is a list of Asian languages and literatures courses. For more information, see Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures.

ASIA:1000 First-Year Seminar 1-2 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

ASIA:1016 Classical Chinese Short Fiction 1 s.h.

ASIA:1040 Living Religions of the East 3 s.h.
Religious beliefs, practices in India, China, Japan. GE: Values and Culture. Same as HIST:1610, RELS:1404.

ASIA:1060 Introduction to Buddhism 3 s.h.
Development of Buddhism in India, its spread across Asia, and arrival in the West; exploration of diverse Buddhist philosophies, practices, and cultures; readings from India, Tibet, China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia. GE: Values and Culture. Same as HIST:1612, RELS:1506.

ASIA:1110 Gods, Buddhas, and Ghostly Officials: The Past and Present of Chinese Religions 3 s.h.
History of religious beliefs and practices in China; role in modern-day Chinese society; specific case studies that illuminate current situation of religion in China and impact on Chinese society; focus on the still widespread worship of gods and ancestors, the Confucian, Buddhist and Daoist traditions, recent upsurge of Christianity in China, and emergence of new religions (e.g., the Falun gong). Same as RELS:1510.

ASIA:1510 Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Pre-Modern Chinese Literature 3 s.h.
Reading of Chinese literature concerning ghosts, marvels, and supernatural from the first millennium B.C.E. through the 1800s; readings analyzed against changing historical and religious contexts. Taught in English. GE: Interpretation of Literature. Same as CL:1510.

ASIA:1601 Civilizations of Asia: China from Origins to the 17th Century 3 s.h.
Introductory survey of Chinese history and civilization from its origins to 1800; exploration of traditions in politics, social organization, thought, religion, and culture. Same as HIST:1601.

ASIA:1602 Civilizations of Asia: China from the 17th Century to the Present 3 s.h.
Introductory survey of Chinese history from the 17th century to present; exploration of political, social, economic, and culture. GE: Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues. Same as HIST:1602.

ASIA:1604 Civilizations of Asia: Japan 3-4 s.h.

ASIA:1606 Civilizations of Asia: South Asia 3-4 s.h.

ASIA:1607 Civilizations of Asia: Korea 3-4 s.h.
Introduction to Korean history and culture; how meanings of “Korea” and “Koreans” changed from ancient times to present; relevant issues of politics, society, and culture; events that shaped ancient Korean states—Koryo state (918-1392), the Choson dynasty (1392-1910), Japanese colonization (1910-1945), and the two Koreas (1945-present); how present perspectives on Korea have influenced understandings of its past. GE: Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues. Same as HIST:1607.

ASIA:1609 India Now! Surveying the World’s Largest Democracy 3-4 s.h.
Introduction to India and its place in global economics, politics, religion, science, and culture since independence in 1947; India’s contributions and adaptations to contemporary world, gender roles, changing sexual standards, and new ways India enters American lives—from globalized Bollywood films and music to new foods, fashions, and lifestyles; students examine the quiet revolution of affirmative action that has brought self-respect to millions, and market liberalization that has heightened economic inequality; consideration of ongoing challenges to world’s largest democracy and contemporary efforts, both peaceful and violent, to address them. GE: Values and Culture. Same as HIST:1609.

ASIA:1670 Korea in the World 3 s.h.
Comprehensive and critical understanding of Korea’s place in the world; emphasis on historical and sociocultural roots of various aspects of life on the contemporary Korean peninsula (both North and South Korea); comprehensive list of topics including cultural production (K-pop and film), religions, economy, gender relations, cuisine, politics, and prospects for reunification. Taught in English. Same as KORE:1670, RELS:1670.

ASIA:1725 Gender and Religion in Korean Visual Culture 3 s.h.
Students draw creatively on visual materials to illuminate complex experience of Korean women in various religious traditions of Korea. Taught in English. Same as GWSS:1725, KORE:1725, RELS:1725.

ASIA:1770 Asian Humanities: Middle East 3 s.h.
How the self has been constructed in literary texts from premodern and modern Islamic world.

ASIA:2001 Global Science Fiction 3 s.h.

ASIA:2041 Understanding “The Muslim World” 3 s.h.
Exploration of expressions and experiences of Muslims in increasingly diverse societies around the world. Same as IS:2041, RELS:2041.
ASIA:2208 Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation 3 s.h.

ASIA:2222 Women in Premodern East Asian Literature 3 s.h.
Reading of East Asian literature portraying women from the first millennium B.C.E. through the 1800s; discussion of issues related to representations of women and conventional social, familial roles in premodern China, Korea, and Japan; cross-cultural comparison of different perceptions and portrayals of women in premodern East Asian literary traditions. Taught in English. Recommendations: completion of all ESL courses. GE: Diversity and Inclusion. Same as GWSS:2222, WLLC:2222.

ASIA:2231 Introduction to the Art of China 3 s.h.
Visual arts of China and their history; emphasis on understanding in context of Chinese civilization, history. Same as ARTH:2220.

ASIA:2248 The Invention of Writing: From Cuneiform to Computers 3 s.h.
Invention of writing as one of the most momentous events in the history of human civilizations; how the use of written sign systems, notations, maps, graphs, encryptions, and most recently, computer programs have consequences that reach deeply into all aspects of people's lives; how writing fascinates and delights, fosters reflexive thinking and facilitates development of complex societies, and gives rise to institutions of social power and control; students explore the invention of writing and its consequences in broad international and interdisciplinary context. Taught in English. Same as ANTH:2248, CL:2248, CLSA:2048, COMM:2248, GRMN:2248, HIST:2148, IS:2248, LING:2248, TRNS:2248, WLLC:2248.

ASIA:2444 Envision India 3 s.h.
Introduction to world view and civilization of the South Asian subcontinent, not as a timeless and isolated culture, but as a dynamic and interactive part of evolving global cultural exchanges.

ASIA:2450 India Beat: The Aesthetics and Politics of India Today 3 s.h.
Ways in which music forms a crucial part of Indian public sphere, reflecting and shaping culture, society, and economy; wide range of genres commonly performed and heard across India and South Asia today (i.e., film music, several folk forms, classical, semi-classical, Indipop, rock) and locating each of them in their respective historical, cultural, and socioeconomic contexts; exploration of themes and questions (i.e., emergence and impact of technologies of mass production, distribution of music in colonial and post-independence India). GE: Values and Culture.

ASIA:2500 Cold War Cultures in Korea 3 s.h.
Analysis of Cold War (1945-1989) not only as an era in geopolitics, but also as a historical period marked by specific cultural and artistic forms; focus on Korean peninsula, looking closely at literary and film cultures of both South Korea and North Korea; how global conflict between United States and Soviet centered societies affected politics, culture, and geography of Korea between 1945 and 1989, treating division of Korea as an exemplary case extending from origins of Cold War to the present.

ASIA:2887 Perspectives on Korea 3 s.h.
History of Korea from earliest times to present; changing meanings of Korea and Koreans; relevant issues of politics, society, and culture; events that shaped ancient Korean kingdoms, the Choson dynasty (1392-1910), Japanese occupation, and divided Korean peninsula; how present perspectives on Korea have influenced understandings of its past; placement of Korea within a regional and global context to examine Korea's relationship with the world. Same as HIST:2687.

ASIA:3055 Death, Dying, and Beyond in Asian Religions 3 s.h.
Survey of cultural and religious approaches to the dying process, post-death rituals, and conceptions about the afterlife in different religions in Asia. Same as RELS:3055.

ASIA:3120 Autobiography in Islamic Literary Cultures 3 s.h.
How the self has been constructed in Islamic literary cultures from classical Islamic period to modernity.

ASIA:3172 Chinese Marriage and Family in Comparative Perspective 3 s.h.
Exploration of Chinese marriage and family from cultural, historical, and sociological perspectives; topics include Chinese family values and traditions, family processes and structures, mate selection, and challenges and impact of social movements and governmental policies on family; readings highlight change and continuity of traditional values of marriage and family in Chinese society; students compare marriage and family processes and practices in American society with Chinese society, understand Chinese culture and society through aspects of marriage and family, and think critically on family issues in Chinese and American society. Same as ANTH:3172.

ASIA:3208 Classical Chinese Literature Through Translation 3 s.h.

ASIA:3210 Comparative Arts 3 s.h.
Cultural and aesthetic issues arising from side-by-side investigation of several art forms, including literature, cinema, painting, music, opera, architecture; periods, schools, styles, and their theories. Taught in English. Same as FREN:3210, IWP:3210, RUSS:3210, SPAN:3211, WLLC:3210.

ASIA:3219 Chinese Art and Culture 3 s.h.
Archaeological discoveries, sculpture, painting, architecture, calligraphy, other arts of Greater China area in historical and cultural contexts of past 5,000 years. Same as ARTH:3220.

ASIA:3220 Chinese Painting I: Pagodas and Palaces 3 s.h.
Early Chinese painting from fourth century B.C.E. through 14th century C.E.; figural style, religious art, emergence of landscape, other nonreligious subjects, interconnectedness of painting and calligraphy as fine arts. Same as ARTH:3230.

ASIA:3270 Themes in Asian Art History 3 s.h.
Same as ARTH:3270.

ASIA:3550 Islam, Secularity, Modernity 3 s.h.
How religiosity and secularity are experienced in the Muslim world today.
ASIA:3561 Religion and Healing  3 s.h.

ASIA:3650 Chinese History from 1600 to 1911  3 s.h.
Chinese history from the 17th to early 20th century, history of the Qing dynasty (1644-1911); Qing's role in shaping aspects of today's politics in China and the mentality of Chinese people; foundation of Manchu state in early 17th century, Ming-Qing transition in 1644, politics and society during the high Qing era, decline of the empire under foreign invasion and inner rebellions in the 19th century, collapse of the dynasty in 1911. Same as HIST:3650.

ASIA:3652 Twentieth-Century China  3 s.h.
Communist revolution from 1920s to founding of People's Republic of China in 1949; Mao Zedong's radical policies, Cultural Revolution; Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms; China today. Same as HIST:3652.

ASIA:3655 Zen Buddhism  3 s.h.
Same as HIST:3655, RELS:3655.

ASIA:3685 Modern Korean History  3 s.h.
Transformation of Choson Korea to North and South Korea; local, regional, and global transformations in Korea from the late 19th century to present; severing of historic ties with China; encounters with the West and Japan; new ideas of civilization and political community; era of Choson as a country in 1910; colonial experience; civil war; industrialization; creation of North Korea; democratic movement in South Korea and spread of diasporic communities abroad; Korean peninsula as a laboratory for analyzing compressed communist and capitalist modernities of the 20th century. Same as HIST:3685.

ASIA:3700 Topics in Global Cinema  3 s.h.
Identification of new models and methods to investigate cinema's relationship to current global issues beyond traditional scholarly focus in Western Europe and the United States; exploration of an emerging field, moving away from the paradigm of national cinema and bringing together shared theoretical frameworks while acknowledging different historical and cultural contexts. Taught in English. Same as JPNS:3700, TRNS:3700, WLLC:3700.

ASIA:3775 East Meets West: The Western Reception of Eastern Religion  3 s.h.
Introduction of religious ideas and forms from India, China, and Japan into Europe and America to late 20th century, from Greeks to New Age. Same as RELS:3575.

ASIA:3890 Comparative Ritual  3 s.h.
Practice and theory; rituals from religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Indian religions; theories of interpretation. Same as RELS:3572.

ASIA:4166 Topics in Asian History  3 s.h.
Same as HIST:4666.

ASIA:4301 Honors Tutorial  arr.

ASIA:4506 Senior Honors Thesis  arr.

ASIA:4507 Topics in Asian Studies  arr.
Topics vary.

ASIA:4508 Asian Studies  arr.

ASIA:4606 Topics in Asian Cinema  3 s.h.
Issues or topics in East or South Asian cinemas. Prerequisites: CINE:1601. Same as CINE:4606.