

Asian Studies at Lafayette College Spring 2025

CORE COURSES

ASIA 101: INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN STUDIES

This course introduces the traditions and modern development of Asia with special attention to theoretical and methodological issues. The approach is interdisciplinary, covering subject areas such as history, culture, art, literature, music, religion, economics, politics, and law. The course offers an introduction to the region and provides an important foundation for students interested in taking more specialized courses. [GM1, GM2]

IL HYUN CHO MW 11:40AM-12:55PM KIRBY HALL OF CIVIL RIGHTS 106

ASIA 391: INDEPENDENT STUDY

Open to Asian Studies majors or minors. Students select a specific area of interest for research in consultation with a faculty member from the Asian Studies program. Students confer regularly with the faculty member on their work and prepare an essay on an approved subject. Open to other qualified students with permission of the Program Coordinator.

STAFF

ASIA 490: CAPSTONE

Students who major in Asian Studies develop a capstone project during the senior year under the direction of a faculty member in the program. [W]

STAFF TBD

ASIA 496: THESIS

Asian studies majors who wish to pursue honors should inform their faculty advisers by the end of the second semester of the junior year. Honors work involves a guided program of independent research culminating in a thesis on a topic to be selected by the student in consultation with his or her adviser. Honors candidates enroll in 496 only upon successfully completing ASIA 495. [W]

STAFF

ELECTIVE COURSES

A&S 256: SOCIAL CHANGE IN CHINA

As the world's most populous country and the second-largest economy, China's development trajectories from 1949 to the present offer important insights into core questions in the study of social change. We will discuss social transformations in contemporary China by focusing on the following domains—the formation of identities under China's social and institutional contexts, the manifestations and politics that shape unequal life chances in China, and popular responses to widening social inequalities in Chinese society. [GM2]

RUI JIE PENG MW 1:15-2:30PM OCGE 314

ART 140: ART & ARCHITECTURE: WORLD TRADITIONS

This course is designed to introduce students to works of art in various media developed in isolation from the European tradition. Lectures will focus on the major artistic traditions of South and Southeast Asia, the Islamic World, China, Japan, Oceania, the Americas, and Africa. Using visual arts as a tool, this course will introduce students to the diverse social customs, religions, and beliefs of peoples from these regions. [GM1, GM2, H]

IFAN CHEN SECTION 01: MWF 8:25-9:15AM WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS 108
SECTION 02: MWF 9:30-10:20AM WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS 108

ART 242: CHINESE ART & ARCHITECTURE

This course introduces students to the evolving narratives of Chinese art and architecture over the past century. We will explore how modern disciplines—Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, Museum Studies, and the History of Art and Architecture—shape our understanding of Chinese art across different historical periods. Drawing on art historian Wu Hung's recent book, *Chinese Art and Dynastic Time*, the course will examine a wide range of materials in Chinese art history, including ritual bronzes, burial pottery, lineage cemeteries, Buddhist and Daoist temples, celadons and porcelains, as well as literati paintings and gardens. We will reflect on the diverse temporalities embedded in these visual and spatial forms and analyze how they are integrated into a cohesive narrative of Chinese dynastic time—an essential framework for constructing Chinese identity in the twentieth century. [GM2, H]

IFAN CHEN MW 1:15-2:30PM WILLIAMS CENTER FOR THE ARTS 208

CHINESE 102: ELEMENTARY CHINESE II

There is no prerequisite requirement for this course. Fundamentals of spoken and written language of the world's most populous country! Mastery of Pinyin system with tones is stressed. Familiarity with Pinyin-based character input method is developed. Chinese cultural topics are also introduced. [EPSL, H]

MOLLY TSAI MWF 9:30-10:20AM PARDEE 113

CHINESE 112: INTERMEDIATE CHINESE II

Prerequisites: CHN 102 or equivalent. Training skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Mandarin Chinese at a higher level. More complex grammar items are introduced. Review and expansion of vocabulary. Attention to developing more elaborate communicative skills and a deeper understanding of Chinese culture. [EPSL, GM2, H]

YINGYING HUANG MWF 10:35-11:25AM PARDEE 419

CHINESE 212: ADVANCED CHINESE II

This course is a continuation of 112, or taken with the instructor's permission. Review of important grammar items. Expansion of vocabulary. More advanced reading and speaking skills are emphasized. [EPSL, GM2, H]

ABNER ZHANG TTh 11:00AM-12:15PM KIRBY 106

CHINESE 312: CONTEMPORARY CHINA II

Through a diversity of authentic materials in various media such as newspapers and periodicals, this course greatly expands students' Mandarin proficiency in all four skills while deepening their understanding of the social and cultural issues facing China today. Students' language skills will be enhanced through intensive reading, discussion, presentation, debate, and essay writing. Prerequisites: Six semesters of Chinese or equivalent. [GM1]

ABNER ZHANG TTh 9:30-10:45AM PARDEE 112

CHINESE 412: CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY II

Through a variety of carefully selected readings as well as media resources such as films, TV shows, and news, this course helps students gain an in-depth, multi-faceted and critical understanding of Chinese people, culture and society. Meanwhile, students continue developing Mandarin proficiency in all four skills with special attention given to the acquisition of formal or written language and the development of analytical and critical thinking skills. The course is instructed in Mandarin Chinese. [GM1, GM2, W]

ABNER ZHANG TTh 2:45-4:00PM KIRBY 106

CL 210: CHINESE SCIENCE FICTION IN CONTEXT

This course explores the development of Chinese science fiction in a global context since the early twentieth century against a history of wars, reform and revolutions, and China's rise as a great economy and technological innovator in the world. With stories, novel excerpts, comic books, and films, we will examine the intersection of literature, science, empire and nation, modernity and modernization. This course will be conducted in English in the form of lectures and discussions. [GM1, GM2]

YINGYING HUANG

MW 11:40AM-12:55PM

PARDEE 419

CL 230: GENDER, ORIENTALISM, and TRANSNATIONAL CHINESE CINEMA

This course, taught in English, examines images of China on the screen with special attention to the transnational connections in filmmaking and gender representations. It contrasts the Orientalist portrayals of China in European and Hollywood films and the self-orientalization or internal Orientalism in cinemas from the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, engaging with topics including the "new woman," masculinity and nationalism, global capitalism, and independent filmmaking, and adopting approaches of film analyses, post-colonial studies, and gender/sexuality theories. [GM2]

YINGYING HUANG

MW 2:45-4:00PM

PARDEE 419

GOVT 238: EAST ASIAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

This course explores the major analytical perspectives on the sources of stability and conflict in East Asian international relations and evaluates them by using empirical evidence from the East Asian region since the "clash civilizations" in the nineteenth century up to the current regional order. Topics for discussion include U.S. strategy in East Asia, the impact of the rise of China on regional security, nuclear proliferation, territorial disputes, nationalism, economic interdependence and regionalism. [GM2, SS]
Prerequisite: GOVT 102 (or permission of the instructor)

SEO-HYUN PARK

TTH 9:30-10:45AM

KIRBY HALL OF CIVIL RIGHTS 107

HIST 121: PARTITION OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

One of the most violent and disruptive events of the 20th century, the Partition of the Indian subcontinent into the nation-states of India and Pakistan in 1947 continues to play a staggering role in the post-colonial histories of both countries. This course will go into the high politics of the Partition, its human costs, and its continued impact on everyday life through oral history. The course will also examine the impact of Partition in literature and cinema. [GM2, SS, W]

HAFSA KANJWAL

SECTION 01 TTh 11:00AM-12:15PM

RAMER 104

SECTION 02 TTh 1:15-2:30PM

RAMER 105

HIST 250: JAPAN GOES TO WAR, 1895-1945

Japan's War against the United States (1941-1945) was the culmination of fifty years of empire-building in Asia. From the 1890s through the 1940s, Japan attempted to remold Asia as it exploited the labor and resources of its peoples. Concurrently, Japan became a nation of civilians and soldiers ever ready to bear the burdens imposed by permanent war mobilization. This course explores the causes, conduct, and consequences of these wars on the battlefield and home front. [GM1, GM2, H, SS, V]

PAUL BARCLAY

TTh 1:15-2:30PM

RAMER 103

HIST 269: CONTESTED LANDS: THE CASE OF KASHMIR

This course examines how histories of borderlands and margins, emanating from empires and nation-states, turn them into simultaneous objects of desire and control, as well as colonization and resistance. Through the

example of Kashmir—the most militarized zone in the world and disputed between India and Pakistan—we will critically parse through orientalist, nationalist, academic, and popular narratives about such regions. Building upon comparisons with similarly contested sites, the course will center a people's understanding of history through an exploration of counter-historical narratives, literature, and documentary/film. [GM1, GM2, SS]

HAFSA KANJWAL TTh 2:45-4:00PM RAMER 104

JAPANESE 102: ELEMENTARY JAPANESE II

This course reviews the basic grammatical patterns and vocabulary from 101 and fosters improvement in the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational), to cultivate overall Japanese language ability. It covers real-life situations, such as: informal speech, comparison, expressing wishes, etc.

Prerequisites: JAPN 101, equivalent proficiency or permission of the instructor. [EPSL, H]

NAOKO IKEGAMI MWF 9:30-10:20AM PARDEE 102A

JAPANESE 112: INTERMEDIATE JAPANESE II

This course reviews and expands upon the basic structures, patterns, and vocabulary of 111, with increasing emphasis on reading. It develops more elaborate social and ritual exchanges such as honorific/humble speech and passive/causative speech. It includes short literary and cultural readings, with attention to developing a deeper understanding of Japanese culture. **Prerequisites: JAPN 111, equivalent proficiency or permission of the instructor.** [EPSL, GM2, H]

NAOKO IKEGAMI MWF 10:35-11:25AM PARDEE 102A

JAPANESE 291: INDEPENDENT STUDY

This course is focused on increased understanding of Japanese language and culture through the use of authentic materials such as newspapers, magazines, novels, dramas, movies, and songs, etc. **Prerequisites: JAPN 112, equivalent proficiency or permission of the instructor.** [EPSL]

NAOKO IKEGAMI TBA

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 207: THE QURAN

Over one billion Muslims believe that the Quran contains the literal words of God. This course attempts to orient students to the most sacred scripture of Islam. It will explore the Quran as an oral, visual, and fluid text. The Quran swiftly traverses concepts such as love and justice, estrangement and community, war, and peace, heaven and hell, good and evil. Occasionally, comparisons will be drawn to other sacred scriptures as well. [H,V]

YOUSHA PATEL TTh 9:30-10:45AM PARDEE 329

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 212: BUDDHISM

In this course we learn about the origins and development of Buddhism and its spread throughout Asia and other parts of the world. We begin with the rise of Buddhism in India, focusing on the development of philosophical concepts and religious practices. We then examine varieties of Buddhism as practiced in Southeast Asia, China, Tibet, Japan, and the West, giving special attention to the changes and adaptations Buddhism undergoes as it encounters new cultural and religious environments. We consider the religious practices of Buddhist monks and nuns, Buddhist laypeople, and their interactions, and study examples of the ways in which Buddhist principles and practices have played a role in social structures, politics, and social movements. [GM1, GM2, H, V]

ROBIN RINEHART SECTION 01: MW 1:15-2:30PM PARDEE 321
SECTION 02: MW 2:45-4:00PM PARDEE 321

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 233: FEMALE DIVINITIES AND DEMONS IN EAST ASIA

This course examines the popular female deities and demons in East Asia. We will discuss the various forms in which women figured in the spirit world of China, Japan, and Korea, how these female images evolved and what they tell us about the nature of East Asian religions, and the social roles and relations attributed to women within Confucian communities/countries. Course readings include primary texts and modern scholarship. Comparisons with Western traditions will be integrated. [H, GM1]

XU MA **TTh 2:45-4:00PM** **PARDEE 329**

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 260: GLOBAL MUSLIM LITERATURE AND FILM

This course introduces students to global Muslim culture and civilization through literature and film. Geographic regions include the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, North America and Europe; historical periods span both pre-modern and modern. Topics covered include but are not limited to: constructions of race, religion, and gender; diaspora and immigration; political Islam and Islamophobia in cultural contexts. Course materials focus on fictional storytelling although characters and plots may be rooted in actual historical events. [H, GM2]

YOUSHAH PATEL **M 1:15-4:00PM** **PARDEE 320B**

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 312: RELIGIOUS BODY & SEXUALITY (ASIA FOCUSED)

The body constitutes a contested site of religious practices, identity politics, gender discourses, and social norms. This course explores the use and understanding of the gendered body in major Asian religions. We investigate various Eastern body images, inscriptions, and practices in relation to piety, divinity, sex/sexuality, identity, morality, and modernity, comparing and contrasting Asian topoi with western counterparts. Course materials consist primarily of literary, social, and historical studies, supplemented by visual arts and films. [GM, H, V]

XU MA **TTh 1:15-2:30PM** **PARDEE 113**

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#### **\* Key to Abbreviations for Common Course of Studies:**

EPSL=Elementary Proficiency in a Second Language; GM1=Global Multicultural 1; GM2=Global Multicultural 2; H=Humanities; SS=Social Sciences; V=Values; W=Writing

**ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR:** Nine courses including ASIA 101 and ASIA 490 (or ASIA 495/496); seven electives from list of approved courses (maximum two language courses); a Foreign Language requirement (Intermediate language proficiency, e.g., Chinese 112 or Japanese 112, or another approved Asian language); and the AB Common Course of Study.

**ASIAN STUDIES MINOR:** Five courses including ASIA 101 and four elective courses from list of approved courses (maximum two language courses).

Electives must be chosen from at least two academic disciplines. A maximum of two language courses may be used as major/minor electives.

See <https://asianstudies.lafayette.edu/courses/> for a complete list of approved elective courses that count towards the Asian Studies major or minor.

For more information, contact Professor Seo-Hyun Park at (610) 330-5412 or [parksh@lafayette.edu](mailto:parksh@lafayette.edu).