

Asian Studies at Lafayette College Fall 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. [CECS, GP; GM1, GM2]

ROBIN RINEHART TTh 13:15-14:30 PARDEE 320A

ASIA 390: 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 495: 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

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 240: EAST ASIAN ART & ARCHITECTURE

This class will introduce students to the major art and architectural traditions of China and Japan from Neolithic times through the modern period. The course will focus on the cultural, social, and political movements that informed Chinese and Japanese artistic changes over time. [GM2, H]

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

CHINESE 101: ELEMENTARY CHINESE I

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.

YINGYING HUANG MWF 9:30-10:20AM Pardee 419

CHINESE 111: INTERMEDIATE CHINESE I

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, HAH; H]

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

CHINESE 211: ADVANCED CHINESE I

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. [GP; H, GM2]

HAN LUO TTH 11:00AM-12:15PM Pardee 320B

CHINESE 311: CONTEMPORARY CHINA I

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.

YINGYING HUANG MW 2:45-4:00PM Pardee 419

CHINESE 411: CHINESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY I

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. [GP, W; GM1, GM2]

HAN LUO TTH 2:45-4:00PM Pardee 112

GOVT 270: CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY

This course examines the sources and conduct of Chinese foreign policy from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. The first part of the course explores major factors that influence China's foreign relations, including historical legacies, the international system, domestic politics, and nationalism. The second half of the course turns to the practice of Chinese foreign policy over a wide-range of issue areas, such as China's relations with the United States, trade, regionalism, nuclear proliferation, energy and climate change. [SSA; SS]

Prerequisites: ASIA 101, GOVT 102, or GOVT 103 (or permission of the instructor).

IL HYUN CHO MW 2:45-4:00PM Kirby 104

GOVT 415: NATIONALISM IN WORLD POLITICS

This course explores the concept and practice of nationalism, with a particular emphasis on the role that it plays in world politics. We will survey the main concepts and theories in the study of nationalism, identify the major actors and processes in the politics of nationalism, examine the emergence of nationalism as a major force in

international relations, and investigate various links between questions of national identity and interstate cooperation or conflict. [CECS, GP, W; SS, GM2]

Prerequisite: Govt 102 plus one from Govt 221-238 (or permission of the instructor).

SEO-HYUN PARK TTh 9:30-10:45AM Kirby 206

JAPANESE 101: ELEMENTARY JAPANESE I

This course teaches the fundamentals of spoken and written language, including three writing systems (Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji) and basic grammar patterns. It covers real-life situations and contexts, such as: greetings, counting, explaining daily activities, requests, making plans, and shopping, etc.

No prerequisite required.

NAOKO IKEGAMI MWF 9:30-10:20AM Pardee 113

JAPANESE 111: INTERMEDIATE JAPANESE I

This course reviews and expands grammar patterns and vocabulary learned in 102, including new forms such as potential and volitional forms. More elaborate social and ritual exchanges, such as honorific expressions and informal speech, are introduced. It encourages improvement in all three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) to cultivate overall Japanese language ability.

Prerequisites: JAPN 101, 102, equivalent proficiency or permission of the instructor. [EPSL, HAH; H]

NAOKO IKEGAMI MWF 10:35-11:25AM Pardee 113

JAPANESE 290: 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 111, 112, equivalent proficiency or permission of the instructor. [EPSL]

NAOKO IKEGAMI TBA

REL 209: STRANGE TALES & POPULAR RELIGIONS IN EAST ASIA

Exploring the rich tradition of ghost stories and fantasy tales of the oddities (*zhiguai*) in East Asia, this course provides a comprehensive overview of folk religions and cultic practices in China, Taiwan, and Japan. Intensively reading *zhiguai* stories and relevant modern scholarship, students consider and compare Eastern and Western conceptions of self and other, body and soul(s), death and afterlife, and better understand the popular culture, folklore, and religious secularism and syncretism in East Asia. [GP, HAH; GM1, H]

XU MA MW 11:40AM-12:55PM PARDEE 320A

REL 211: HINDUISM

This course is an introduction to the variety of practices and beliefs known as "Hinduism." We will study Hindu mythology and philosophy as expressed in sacred texts and oral traditions, and the many ways in which Hindus express and practice their traditions, with special attention to Hindu ideas about individual, social, and political life and the role of Hinduism in contemporary South Asia. We will also study the history of the idea of "Hinduism," religion as a Western category, and the role of colonialism in defining and studying Hinduism. [GM2, H, V]

ROBIN RINEHART TTh 2:45-4:00PM PARDEE 320A

REL 215: ISLAM

An introduction to Islam, a religion that flowered into a world civilization. It covers the vast and dynamic range of Muslim religious life from Muhammad's time to the present. The broad survey spans the foundational texts of

the Quran and prophetic traditions as well as later Islamic thought, including jurisprudence, theology, and mysticism. The course highlights modern debates within and about Islam. Topics include political Islam, religious pluralism, the limits of jihad, and the possibilities of Islamic feminism. [GP, HAH; H, V]

YOUSHAH PATEL TTh 9:30-10:45AM

PARDEE 329

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

H=Humanities; SS=Social Sciences; GM2=Global Multicultural 2; EPSL=Elementary Proficiency in a Second Language; 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).

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).