

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

REQUIREMENTS

Interdisciplinary

Asian and Middle East Studies at Kenyon is an interdisciplinary program that offers two concentrations and a joint major. In the major, students combine their study of Asia and the Middle East with major requirements in one of several departments: art, history, modern languages and literatures, or religious studies. Students may also opt for concentration in Asian Studies and/or Islamic Civilizations and Cultures. In addition, students will find courses in Asian and Middle East Studies in anthropology, music, philosophy, political science and sociology.

The Asian and Middle East Studies curriculum encourages students to acquire the analytical and critical ability to explore the linguistic, literary, historical and cultural traditions of Asia and what is commonly referred to as the Middle East to develop the cultural sensitivity and humanistic knowledge needed in our increasingly globalized world. Students come to understand the interconnected worlds of Asia and North Africa as a culturally diverse region with deeply intertwined histories, and to understand the peoples of Asia and the Middle East as major actors in regional and world history, rather than as objects of other peoples' enterprises and observations. An important goal of the curriculum is the development of a critical understanding of the ways in which people of the interrelated regions of Asia and the Middle East have historically defined and expressed themselves. The program also sponsors films, invites speakers to the College, and promotes other social and cultural events to stimulate campus awareness of the societies of East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and Central Asia, West and Southwest Asia and North Africa.

BEGINNING ASIAN AND MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

Students hoping to spend all or part of their junior year in China, Japan or the Arabic speaking world, should begin to study the appropriate language in their first two years at Kenyon. New students interested in Asia even those who have not yet declared a major or a concentration may enroll in any 100- or 200-level course offered by an Asian studies faculty member, or should consider taking ASIA 201, which provides an introduction to the entire region.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JOINT MAJOR

The Asian and Middle East Studies joint major provides a structured yet flexible curriculum to enable students to focus their work on the region while acquiring a solid methodological grounding in an academic discipline. Students must fulfill all the requirements of the departmental major, in addition to the specific requirements of the Asian and Middle East Studies Program as described below. The Senior Exercise will follow the requirements of the joint department and will focus on the area of Asia and the Middle East in which the student's relevant language and study-abroad requirements were fulfilled. (Unlike in a double major, in a joint major there is only one Senior Exercise.) Double-counting of courses for the departmental major and for the Asian and Middle East Studies Program is permitted.

1. Language Study - One to two-and-a-half (1-2.5) units

For Asian and Middle Eastern languages taught at Kenyon — at present Chinese, Japanese and Arabic — two years of language study are required. Students electing a joint major with modern languages and literatures (Chinese

and Arabic?) will take more than two years of language. One semester of intensive language study in a country where the language is spoken will be considered equivalent to a full year at Kenyon.

For languages not taught at Kenyon, one year of intensive study abroad (or an approved intensive summer program combined with a semester abroad) will fulfill the requirement. In the case of transfer students, credit will be accepted for a year of relevant language study pursued at another institution.

If the program committee determines that a student possesses native proficiency in an Asian language, both oral and written, it will waive this requirement, but only if the Senior Exercise focuses on populations that speak that language.

2. Study Abroad

At least one semester or one summer (minimum six weeks) in an approved study-abroad program is required. The program must be in a country where the student's Asian and Middle East language is spoken. A full year of study abroad is highly recommended.

3. Foundation Courses — One (1) unit

At least one (1) unit from the following list, in two different areas and two different departments or programs. Areas are defined as East Asia (China, Japan, Korea), South/Southeast Asia (India, Vietnam, Indonesia), and the Islamic world, which includes West, Southwest and Central Asia as well as North Africa). With the approval of the director, other courses can be counted.

East Asia:

- ASIA 201 The Silk Road
- ARHS 114 Introduction to Asian Art
- HIST 160 Modern East Asia
- HIST 161 East Asia to 1800
- HIST 162 Modern Japan
- HIST 163 Modern China
- INST 131 China in Transition
- PHIL 212 Early Chinese Philosophy
- RLST 270 Chinese Religions
- RLST 275 Japanese Religions

South/Southeast:

- ARHS 114 Introduction to Asian Art
- HIST 156 History of India
- HIST 166 History of the Islamic World (covers South Asia every other year)
- HIST 260 Medieval Islamic Empires
- RLST 250 South Asian Religions
- RLST 260 Buddhist Thought and Practice

The Islamic World:

- ASIA 201 The Silk Road

- HIST 166 History of the Islamic World
- HIST 260 Medieval Islamic Empires
- HIST 261 The Mongol Empire
- HIST 264 History of Modern Middle East
- RLST 240 Classical Islam

4. Area Courses — One-and-a-half (1.5) units

Students must complete one-and-a-half (1.5) units in additional courses in one area. One additional foundation course in the area of the student's focus can count as an area course (i.e. the other two must be from the list below). Courses not specifically focused on Asia will not be counted toward the joint major. Language courses beyond the intermediate level that focus specifically on literature, film or culture may count as area courses. Equivalent courses taken abroad may also count as area courses. Area courses currently offered at Kenyon include:

East Asia:

- ARHS 235 Art of China
- ARHS 238 Modern Chinese Art
- ARHS 239 Contemporary Chinese Art
- CHNS 321, 322 Advanced Chinese Language and Culture
- CHNS 324 Modern China through Film and Fiction
- CHNS 325 Chinese Literary Tradition
- CHNS 326 Women of the Inner Chambers
- HIST 262 Japan to 1850
- HIST 263 Imperial China
- HIST 353 Tibet Between China and the West
- HIST 450 Chinese Topics in History
- HIST 452 Women, Gender, and State in China
- JAPN 322 Advanced Japanese: Language and Culture
- JAPN 323 Advanced Reading and Composition
- JAPN 325 Introductory Japanese Linguistics
- PHIL 212 Early Chinese Philosophy
- PSCI 346 Riots, Ballots and Rice: Comparative Asian Politics
- RLST 360 Zen Buddhism
- RLST 471 Confucian Thought and Practice
- RLST 472 Daoism
- SOCY 221 Global Religions in Modern Society
- SOCY 249 Knowledge of the Other: Journey to the East

South/Southeast Asia:

- HIST 260 Medieval Islamic Empires
- HIST 345 History of the Indian Ocean
- HIST 353 Tibet Between China and the West
- HIST 356 Vietnam
- HIST 358 Imagined India: Film and Fiction

- MUSC 206 Seminar in Ethnomusicology
- MUSC 485 Indonesian Music Ensemble
- PSCI 346 Riots, Ballots and Rice: Comparative Asian Politics

The Islamicate World:

- HIST 258 Ottoman Empire
- HIST 261 The Mongol Empire in World History
- HIST 264 History of Modern Middle East
- HIST 365 Middle East through Film and Fiction
- HIST 370 Women and Gender in the Modern Middle East
- RLST 440 Seminar on Sufism
- RLST 443 Voices of Contemporary Islam
- RLST 447 Islam in North America

5. Senior Seminar: Asia and the Middle East in Comparative Perspective (.5 unit)

This course is required for both the joint major and the concentration. It is offered every spring under the direction of a selected Asian and Middle East studies faculty member and meets in a seminar format. Topics will vary with the instructor. Majors and concentrators must take the course in their senior year, unless there are special circumstances preventing them from doing so.

SENIOR EXERCISE

The Senior Exercise will follow the requirements of the joint department. It will focus in a significant way on the area in which the student's relevant language and study-abroad requirements were fulfilled, and will be supervised by an Asian and Middle East studies faculty member in the joint department.

HONORS

Honors in the Asian and Middle East studies joint major will follow the requirements for honors in the joint department. The supervising faculty member in that department will present the honors proposal to the Asian and Middle East Studies faculty for approval early in the fall semester. An Asian and Middle East Studies faculty member in the joint department will participate in the project's evaluation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONCENTRATION

The concentration in Asian Studies enables students to integrate their studies of the histories, cultures and societies of Asia in a comparative and interdisciplinary format. It comprises three elements: (1) at least one year of language study; (2) 1.5 units of coursework in at least two departments other than Modern Languages and Literatures and representing at least two regions of Asia and the Middle East; and (3) the senior seminar.

1. Language Study

For Asian languages taught at Kenyon — at present Chinese and Japanese— one year of instruction is required. The equivalent of one year of approved relevant college-level language instruction at another accredited academic institution also will meet the requirement, as will an approved intensive summer program.

For languages not taught at Kenyon, one semester of intensive language study in a country where the language is spoken, or an approved intensive summer program, will be considered equivalent to a full year at Kenyon. In the case of transfer students, credit will be accepted for a year of relevant language study with a grade of C+ or better pursued at another institution.

If the program committee determines that a student possesses native proficiency in a relevant language, both oral and written, it will waive the requirement.

The program committee strongly recommends that students continue language study beyond the first year.

2. Area and Disciplinary Coursework

Students are required to take one-and-a-half (1.5) units about Asia other than language courses. These courses must be from the list of courses offered under Asian Studies at Kenyon but may also include relevant courses taken in study-abroad programs. Students must take at least one course representing a region different from that of their language study. For example, students who are primarily focused on East Asia and are studying Chinese or Japanese at Kenyon (or taking Korean abroad or off-campus) must take at least one course focused on South/Southeast Asia or the Islamic world (see lists under Requirements for the Joint Major). A course that covers more than one region of Asia— e.g., "Asian Art," "The Silk Road" or "Comparative Asian Politics" — will also fulfill this requirement.

Courses not specifically focused on Asia will not be counted toward the concentration. Where any doubt arises, please ask a member of the Asian Studies faculty. Double-counting for a student's major and the concentration is permitted.

3. Senior Seminar: Asia and the Middle East in Comparative Perspective

This course is required for both the joint major and both concentrations. It is offered every spring under the direction of a selected Asian studies faculty member and meets in a seminar format. Topics will vary with the instructor. Majors and concentrators must take the course in their senior year, unless there are special circumstances preventing them from doing so.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Off-campus study in Asia is not required for the concentration but it is highly recommended. Students should consult with Asian studies faculty members and the director of the Center for Global Engagement to learn about the numerous opportunities available to Kenyon students to study in Asia for one semester or a year. Summer language-study programs are also available for students who need to prepare for off-campus study or desire to learn an Asian or Middle East language not offered at Kenyon (e.g., Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Vietnamese)...

COURSES

ASIA 201 THE SILK ROAD

Credit: 0.5

"The Silk Road" is a rather misleading term coined in 1877 by Ferdinand von Richthofen. What it actually refers to is a vast network of trade routes that connected East, South, and Southeast Asia with the Mediterranean region, North Africa, and Europe. While travel and migration along these routes date back to prehistoric times and

continue today, communication via the land routes across the Eurasian continent primarily flourished from the second century BCE through the 15th century CE, most notably linking China with western Asia and the Mediterranean region. And while silk was one of the major products transported from China to the West as far back as the Roman Empire, the trade, especially in such other luxury goods such as spices (from India) and gemstones (from western Asia), was active in both directions. Along with the trade in material goods, the Silk Road was the medium for cultural exchange. One of the prime examples of this was the spread of Buddhism from India into Afghanistan, China, Korea, Japan and Southeast Asia. As an extensive and many-layered system of economic and cultural exchange, the Silk Road can therefore be considered a premodern example of what today we call globalization.

This course will survey the history of economic and cultural exchange along the Silk Road from prehistoric times to the present day. We specifically will examine geographic factors, the various ethnicities and empires that contributed to Silk Road history, the exchange of goods and technologies, the religions of the Silk Road, and the spread of artistic traditions across Asia. The general aims will be to enable students to think critically about Asia (or Eurasia) in a more holistic way, to understand the interconnections of our various academic disciplines, and to appreciate some of the rich cultural heritages and exchanges that have contributed to our world. No prerequisite.

Instructor: Staff

ASIA 490 SENIOR SEMINAR: ASIA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Credit: 0.5

This capstone seminar is taught by Asian Studies Program faculty in rotation and is organized around a common theme that integrates the various disciplines and regions of Asia. Through readings, films, guest lectures and other activities, the course will lead students to synthesize their academic and personal (e.g., off-campus) experiences in a broader comparative perspective. Students will produce work that examines one or more topics of their own interest within the comparative Asian framework. Required for Asian studies concentrators and joint majors. Permission of instructor required. No prerequisite. Offered every spring.

ADDITIONAL COURSES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CONCENTRATION:

- ARHS 114: Introduction to Asian Art
- CHNS 213Y: Intermediate Chinese
- CHNS 214Y: Intermediate Chinese
- CHNS 322: Advanced Chinese
- HIST 352: Family and State in East Asia
- HIST 356: Vietnam
- HIST 450: Topics in Chinese History
- JAPN 213Y: Intermediate Modern Japanese
- JAPN 214Y: Intermediate Modern Japanese
- JAPN 325: Japanese Linguistics
- MUSC 485: Asian Music Ensemble
- RLST 472: Taoism
- SOCY 249: Knowledge of the Other: Journey to the East