AAS

Asian & Asian American Studies

AAS 102 - B: Eastern Religions
An historical introduction to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Attention is given to the cultural background, art, literature, philosophy, and institutional development of each tradition. This course is offered as both AAS 102 and RLS 102.
3 credits

AAS 110 - G: Appreciating Indian Music
An introduction to the basic elements of Indian classical music, such as "raga" and "tala", "gharanas" (schools) and styles. Vocal and instrumental masterpieces are studied. Topics include: the roles of stringed and percussion instruments; the intimate relationship between music and religion, and music and ethnicity; and the influence of Indian classical music on contemporary art forms such as films and folk music. No previous musical training is required.
3 credits

AAS 201 - J: Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent
Key concepts in South Asian civilization in art, architecture, religion, philosophy, science, society, literature, and politics from the Indus Valley to the present. Topics include evolution of Hinduism, Buddhism, yoga, classical and modern languages, the caste system and reform movements, Asoka, Akbar and great emperors, impact of Islam and Western colonization, and Gandhi and the impact of South Asia on the world.
3 credits

AAS 209 - D: Indian Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam
Introduction to the basics of Bharatanatyam (South Indian classical dance) technique. Includes primary postures and basic steps, or adavus. Class also covers the theory of Bharatanatyam including hand gestures, head, neck and eye movements, as delineated in Nandikeswara's Abhinaya Darpana. Students will gain a well-rounded knowledge of the dance by studying Bharatanatyam's form, content, basic history, music, and repertoire. By the end of the class, students will learn and present short dance pieces including a Jathi (string for adavus) and a Shilokam (poem).
Advisory Prerequisite: Any dance class
3 credits

AAS 211 - F: Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences
Using the methodologies of the social sciences disciplines of history, political science, sociology, and economics, this course provides an introductory overview of important topics in Asian and Asian American studies. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.
3 credits

AAS 212 - G: Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities
Using methodologies of the Humanities disciplines, such as literature, linguistics, classics, cultural studies, philosophy, religious studies, art history and criticism, this course provides an introductory overview of important topics in Asian and Asian American Studies. Topics may range from Women in Japanese fiction to Mahatma Gandhi's impact on politics and ethics. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description of topic and when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.
3 credits

AAS 216 - J: Introduction to Japanese Studies
An introduction to Japanese culture as a foundation for understanding Japan. The changing historical experiences of the Japanese people are examined, exposing students to the diversity of backgrounds, values, and opinions in Japan. Japanese history and culture are also explored in relation to other countries and peoples, especially Korea and China.
Advisory Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. category B
3 credits

AAS 217 - J: Introduction to Korean Culture
A general survey of Korean culture from the earliest recorded periods to the 20th century, including painting, music, dance, ceramic art, sculpture, architecture, literature, and folklore. These are discussed in relation to the intellectual, philosophical, and religious movements of their time. Previously offered as KRH 240. Not for credit in addition to KRH 240.
3 credits

AAS 220 - J: China: Language and Culture
A survey of regional languages and cultures of China. Addresses issues of diversity and standardization in the world's most populous country, particularly the role of language as both a system of spoken and written signs as well as a resource for cultural reproduction and social change. Explores discourse norms, key cultural concepts, and the unique problems posed by cross-cultural translation and interpretation.
3 credits

AAS 221 - H: China: Science and Civilization
An introduction to ancient Chinese science and technology, including engineering, medicine, mathematics, architecture and military technology. The global, social and historical impact of these inventions on Western civilization and the subsequent decline of the Chinese scientific paradigm will be examined.
Prerequisites: One DEC E course and U2 status or higher
3 credits

AAS 240 - J: Confucianism and Taoism
An introduction to the basic philosophies and doctrines of Confucianism and Taoism, such as the concept of Tao, non-action, benevolence, and propriety. The course explores both the similarities and the differences between these two traditions. This course is offered as both AAS 240 and RLS 240.
3 credits

AAS 246 - J: Korean and Japanese Religions
An introduction to Korean and Japanese religious history from earliest recorded periods to the 19th century. Emphasis is given to Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Korean Shamanism, and Japanese Shintoism. Relationships between the Korean variant of religious traditions and those of China and Japan are also investigated. Crosslisted with AAS 246.
3 credits

AAS 250 - K: Languages and Cultures of Asian Americans
Study of language use and cultural accommodation in selected Asian American communities in relation to the changing roles of Asians in U.S. society from the early democracy to the present. Issues include linguistic and cultural diversity of Asia and Asian Americans; comparison of Asian and European immigration patterns; struggle for equality and acceptance; cultural factors in assimilation; patterns of Asian language use and maintenance in various domains; the role of language in ethnic identity; attitudes toward
English and bilingualism; bilingualism as a problem and as a resource. This course is offered as both AAS 250 and LIN 250.

3 credits

AAS 256 - J: Hinduism
Survey of the principal religious and philosophical currents of Hindu civilization in India from the time of the Vedas and Upanishads through the development of the major devotional ways and schools of thought current in India today. These include the polytheism of Hindu mythology, the theism of various forms of devotional practice, and the monotheism and nondualism of Hindu philosophy. This course is offered as both AAS 256 and RLS 256.

3 credits

AAS 260 - J: Buddhism
An introduction to the basic philosophy and doctrines of Buddhism, beginning with a survey of lives and works of major historical figures of Buddhism. The principal issues of Buddhist thought, drawing from Indian, East Asian, and Western sources, are treated. Particular attention is paid to the meaning of faith, practice, and enlightenment in Buddhism. This course is offered as both AAS 260 and RLS 260.

3 credits

AAS 271 - J: Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia
Presents a picture of religion in ancient Mesopotamia based on archaeological data and ancient texts. A major contribution of the Mesopotamian civilization was the development of a special spiritual life of the people. Since the sixth millennium BC, these beliefs were the way they explained un-known and un-seen experiences. Set rules, traditions and special architecture were developed around these beliefs. These will be discussed, including the incorporation of these beliefs by other cultures. Not for credit in addition to AAS 212, Religion of Ancient Mesopotamia.

3 credits

AAS 280 - J: Islam
An introduction to the main features of Islamic revelation as contained in the Koran and its impact on the major spiritual, intellectual, legal, and social teachings and institutions of the Islamic world. The course concludes with an examination of Islam in the modern world. This course is offered as both AAS 280 and RLS 280.

3 credits

AAS 300 - G: Intellectual History of East Asia
Study of the historical development of major intellectual traditions of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea). Topics include the Political Thoughts of the Ancient World (Formations of Confucianism, Taoism, and Yin Yang and Correlative Thinking), Era of Metaphysics (Introduction and Development of Buddhism and East Asian Mysticism), Ethics and Nationalism (Neo-Confucianism and Encounter of the Western Civilization), and East Asia's Modern Transformation (Modernization, Socialism, and Westernization).
Prerequisite: One 200-level course in Asian Studies

3 credits

AAS 313 - J: Asian Theatre and Drama
A comprehensive overview of Asian theatre with special emphasis on drama, theatrical aesthetics, conventions of production, and actor training in India, China, Korea, and Japan. This course is offered as both AAS 313 and THR 313.
Prerequisites: Completion of D.E.C. categories A, B, and D

3 credits

AAS 317 - J: Islamic Art
Art and architecture in the Islamic world from ca. 600 A.D. to the present, introducing the varied traditions of the arts of the Islamic world, from Spain and Morocco to the Indian subcontinent. Consideration of both religious and secular art and architecture in their historical and cultural contexts with emphasis on the development of Islamic forms of visual representation. This course is offered as both AAS 317 and ARH 317.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

AAS 319 - J: Arts of China
A survey of Chinese art from the Neolithic period to modern-day China. Visual media such as bronze, jade, sculpture, ink painting and pottery as well as their cultural influence on philosophy, literature, religion and politics will be explored. The course will also examine the influence of India and Central Asian on Chinese art and, in turn, China's influence on Korean and Japanese art.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

AAS 320 - G: Literature of India
Introduction to selected classics of Indian literature in English translation. Classical and modern works are discussed, representing Sanskrit (the Vedas, the Upanishads, the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, classical drama of Kalidasa and Bhasa), Tamil, Kannada, Hindi-Urdu, and Indian English. Western and Indian literary theories and critical approaches are compared and evaluated.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AAS 201 (or the former SAS 240)

3 credits

AAS 321 - G: Korean Literature
An introduction in English to the literary tradition of Korea. Representative literary texts chosen from various periods are studied with attention to their historical background and the aesthetic and cultural values that inform them. Previously offered as KRH 251. Not for credit in addition to KRH 251.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AAS 217 (formerly KRH 240)

3 credits

AAS 322 - G: Literature of Japan
An introduction in English to the literary tradition of Japan. Representative texts chosen from various periods are studied with attention to their historical background and the aesthetic and cultural values that formed them.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AAS 216 (formerly JNH 240)

3 credits

AAS 326 - G: Indian Mythology
Study of the major themes in Indian mythology and their evolution, including the relation of these myths to philosophy and religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. Myths are traced from the Vedas of 1500 B.C. to the modern Indian myths. The course will consider the impact of myths on classical Indian literature and art forms, as well as their impact on contemporary art forms such as film, television, and theatre.
Prerequisite: AAS 201 or 212

3 credits

AAS 327 - G: Great Epics of India: Ramayana and Mahabharata
The themes, characters, and plots of Ramayana and Mahabharata are analyzed in detail. The moral dilemmas presented and their sometimes controversial solutions are explored in the context of "dharma", or righteousness--the
This course will analyze the evolution of major events in contemporary China following the communist revolution that led to the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. The course, taught by a former Ambassador, will examine major political, economic, and social developments in light of both their general global impact and their particular relationship with the U.S. This course is offered as both AAS 339 and POL 339.

Prerequisites: AAS 219 or POL 101; U3 or U4 standing

3 credits

AAS 348 - J: Colonial South Asia

Colonial South Asia comprised much of what is now India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and was dubbed 'the jewel in the crown' of the British Empire at its height. The Subcontinent's status as the most populous and lucrative colony of the world's largest empire profoundly shaped the world of both colonized and colonizer there. The readings, lectures and discussions call upon students to consider the political, social, economic and cultural and religious effects of Britain's rule in the South Asia during the period of British colonial domination (from about 1700 to 1950). This course is offered as both AAS 348 and HIS 348.

3 credits

AAS 350: Structure of Mandarin Chinese

Mandarin Chinese is only one of a very few contemporary languages whose history is documented in an unbroken tradition extending back to the second millennium BC. At the same time, it has more speakers than any other language spoken in the modern world. This course, which is taught in English, provides an introduction to the phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and writing system of the Mandarin Chinese language. It is designed to familiarize students with some fundamental knowledge of the structure of spoken and written Mandarin Chinese. Specifically, it aims to enable the students to acquire an understanding of basic methods used by linguists to observe and gather Mandarin Chinese data, to delineate structural properties with regard to the sound, tone, word, grammar, and discourse of the language, and to develop a basic typological comparison between Mandarin Chinese and English.

Prerequisite: AAS 220 or previous course in Linguistics

3 credits

AAS 351 - J: Revolutionary China: Politics, Culture, and Power

Explores the history of revolutionary nation-building efforts in 20th century China, examining social, cultural, economic and political developments during the "Republican" and "Maoist" periods. Focuses on key terms and concepts used by agents and analysts of revolutionary change. Draws on interdisciplinary scholarly studies, government
documents, media reports, auto-biographical accounts, and popular fiction to assess the consequences of major events on people's lives, livelihoods, worldviews, and personal relationships. This course is offered as both AAS 351 and HIS 351.

Prerequisite: One AAS or HIS course
3 credits

AAS 352 - H: Environmental History of China
The history of interaction between human activities and the natural environment in China, with special attention to ecological consequences of various paradigms of economic development throughout Chinese history. Focus in on the political ecology of state-level societies, and the relationships between cultural ideas, behavioral practices, human health, and environmental change. This course is offered as both AAS 352 and HIS 352.

Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; completion of D.E.C. category E
3 credits

AAS 357 - J: India's Foreign Policy
A critical analysis of the foreign policy of India since Independence in 1947, especially Non-alignment and relations with major powers. The factors behind India's entry into the nuclear club and its impact on her international relations within the subcontinent and beyond. Analysis of issues such as Kashmir, terrorism, India's quest for a permanent seat in the U.N. Security Council, economic reforms, and role of Indian diaspora to the country's relations with the countries of their adoption.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing or permission of instructor
Advisory Prerequisites: AAS 201 and 348
3 credits

AAS 366 - G: Feminine Spirituality
The role and destiny of human beings as envisaged by the world's great traditions, especially the Chinese and the Islamic. The course focuses on the concept of femininity as a principle in the realms of theology, metaphysics, cosmology, and spiritual psychology; and the theoretical and practical applications of the feminine principle to the place of both men and women in society. Topics include feminine and masculine as metaphysical and cosmological principles; woman and religious law; woman's role in symbolism, mythology, and literature; and the feminine aspects of the self that both women and men need to develop on the path of achieving spiritual perfection. Previously offered as RLS 426, this course is now offered as RLS 366. Not for credit in addition to the former RLS 426. This course is offered as both AAS 366 and RLS 366.

Prerequisite: any 200-level or higher RLS course
3 credits

AAS 367 - J: Meditation and Enlightenment
A critical analysis of the traditions, practices, and literature of Zen and other traditions of Buddhism, with particular attention paid to the meaning of enlightenment and the practice of meditation. Previously offered as RLS 341, this course is now offered as both AAS 367 and RLS 367. Not for credit in addition to the former RLS 341.

Prerequisite: AAS/RLS 102 or 260
3 credits

AAS 368 - J: Yoga: Theory and Praxis
In this course we investigate Yogic systems of philosophy and self-transformation in their many forms throughout history. Topics include the origins of Yoga in ancient India, the philosophy of the Yoga Sutras and its commentarial traditions, Buddhist Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Tantric Yoga, and the medicalization and globalization of Yoga in the modern period. Students are encouraged to supplement class discussions by participating in Yoga classes at the Stony Brook University Wellness Center. This course is offered as both AAS 368 and RLS 368.

Prerequisite: One previous course in AAS or RLS
Advisory Prerequisite: Junior or Senior standing
3 credits

AAS 370 - J: Intercultural Communication
Through combination of theory and research from discourse linguistics and linguistic anthropology, this course examines (i) how culture shapes ways of speaking; (ii) how language constructs identities, dispositions, role relations; and (iii) what challenges people from different cultures may face when they communicate with each other. The following analytical perspectives will be presented: speech act theory, ethnography of communication, linguistic politeness, and sequential organization of turn taking. This course is offered as both AAS 370 and LIN 370.

Prerequisite: One previous course in D.E.C. J or one previous course in Linguistics
3 credits

AAS 371 - J: Ancient China
Explores the development of social, economic, political, and cultural systems in ancient China, from the neolithic period through the Han dynasty. Draws on archaeological data and historical texts to examine the emergence of state-level polities and their subsequent unification under imperial authority. Analytical focus is on political economy, social organization, ritual exchange, and notions of power and rulership expressed in philosophical thought. This course is offered as both AAS 371 and ANT 371.

Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; completion of D.E.C. category F
3 credits

AAS 372 - J: Family, Marriage, and Kinship in China
Examines forms and dynamics of social organizations in Chinese society, focusing on cultural, social, and economic aspects of family, marriage, and extended kinship relations such as lineages, clans, and sworn brotherhoods. Particular attention is paid to how gender, generation, class, and ritual exchange shape identity, status, and power. This course is offered as both AAS 372 and ANT 372.

Prerequisite: ANT 102
Advisory Prerequisites: AAS 220 and ANT 354
3 credits

AAS 373 - J: Ethnicity and Ecology in China
This course explores issues of ethnic and national identity in the context of the social ecology of the Chinese state, both past and present. It focuses on the material and social relationships that have shaped perceptions of, and interactions between, cultural groups in China and along its frontiers. Drawing on case studies from the Himalayan plateau, Yunnan highlands, Inner Asian steppes, Taiwan, and elsewhere, students examine how sustenance strategies, economic organization, and political administration have influenced construct of ethnic identity. This course is offered as both AAS 373 and ANT 379.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AAS 220 or HIS 219 (or the former CNS 249 or 250)
3 credits

AAS 380 - G: Islamic Classics
A study in depth of Islamic texts in translation. Selections may be made from the Qur'an, the Hadith, the Law, and from one or more of the major intellectual schools, such as Kalam (scholastic theology), Peripatetic philosophy, Illuminationist theosophy, Sufism, and the
“transcendent theosophy” of the School of Isfahan. May be repeated as the topic changes. Previously offered as RLS 408, this course is now offered as both AAS 380 and RLS 380. 
Prerequisite: AAS/RLS 280
3 credits

AAS 382 - G: Japanese Buddhism
An introduction to the teachings and practices of two major schools of Japanese Buddhism: Zen and Pure Land. The course focuses on the writings of the founders of the important lineages within these schools. Formerly offered as RLS 406, this course is now offered as both AAS 382 and RLS 382. Not for credit in addition to the former RLS 406.
Prerequisite: AAS/RLS 260
3 credits

AAS 386 - J: Topics in Asian Philosophy
Designed for upper-division students, this course presents in-depth study of a specific topic in an Asian philosophical tradition. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge through mastery of native terms and concepts from that tradition. Semester supplements to this bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes. This course is offered as both AAS 386 and PHI 386.
Prerequisites: One previous course in AAS or PHI
Advisory Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
3 credits

AAS 387 - J: Islam and Confucianism
The goal of this course is to compare the basic teachings of Islam and Confucianism concerning the correct way to achieve true human status. Special stress will be placed on books that Muslim scholars wrote in Chinese beginning in the seventeenth century. These books employed Neo-Confucian language to introduce Chinese Muslims to their own theology, cosmology, and spiritual psychology, thus providing a rare pre-modern example of inter-religious dialogue. This course is offered as both AAS 387 and RLS 387.
Prerequisites: AAS 260 or RLS 260 or AAS 280 or RLS 280; U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

AAS 391 - G: Humanities Topics in Asian and American Studies
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. Past topics have included titles such as Sikhism; Introduction to Indian Philosophy; Modern Indian Literature; and Appreciating Indian Music. Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within humanities disciplines such as music, art, literature, religion, and philosophy. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods used in the humanities discipline(s) studied. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

AAS 392 - F: Social Science Topics in Asian and American Studies
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. Topics may include titles such as Indian Grammatical Tradition, English in Asia, and Indian Economics. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within social sciences disciplines such as history, economics, political science, and linguistics. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena, and knowledge of the major concepts, models, and issues of the social science discipline(s) studied. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
3 credits

AAS 394 - J: Topics in Asian Art
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific descriptions when course is offered. Past topics have included titles such as The Art of India and The Art of the Silk Road. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic relating to non-Western world civilizations. Students will be expected to demonstrate either a knowledge of a broad outline of world history, or the distinctive features of the history, institutions, economy, society, and culture of one non-Western civilization. May be repeated as the topic changes. This course is offered as both AAS 394 and ARH 394.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one ARH course
3 credits

AAS 400: Seminar in Korean Studies
A seminar for upper-division students in the Korean studies minor, exploring in depth a single theme chosen to illustrate the relations among literary, religious, philosophical, historical, and cultural aspects of Korean life. Use of original texts and other materials is emphasized. May be repeated once as topic changes.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one 200-level course in Korean Studies
3 credits

AAS 401: Senior Seminar in Asian and American Studies
An intensive study of the theoretical and methodological issues in Asian and American Studies, examining the intellectual histories and political contexts of ‘area’ and ‘ethnic’ studies and their relationship to broader interdisciplinary research and public discourse. Possible topics may include history, memory, and representation; Asian American social activism; global/local interactions; and the politics of national identity and security.
Prerequisites: U4 status; completion of upper-division writing requirement for AAS majors; permission of instructor for non-AAS majors or non-CNS minors
3 credits

AAS 404: Senior Seminar in China Studies
An intensive in-depth study of key texts and issues relating to China Studies. Emphasizes critical scrutiny of original source materials and close reading of interpretative commentaries, as well as constructive debate and analytical writing at an advanced level. Focal topic varies with offering, ranging from the literary to the political, from the classical canon to contemporary social concerns.
Prerequisite: U4 status; completion of upper-division writing requirement for AAS majors; permission of instructor for non-AAS majors or non-CNS minors
3 credits

AAS 447: Directed Readings in Asian and American Studies
Independent readings in advanced topics in Asian and American studies. May be repeated.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor
1-6 credits

AAS 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Students assist instructors in Asian and American studies courses with large enrollments. Under the supervision of the course instructor, they are responsible for conducting discussion and review sections and helping students with course readings and assignments.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor
3 credits, S/U grading

AAS 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.
Prerequisites: AAS 475; permission of instructor

3 credits, S/U grading

AAS 487: Supervised Research in Asian and Asian American Studies
Independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated to a limit of 6 credits.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor

0-3 credits

AAS 488: Internship
Participation in a local, state, or federal governmental agency or community organization. Students are required to submit progress reports to their department sponsor and a final report on their experience to the department faculty. May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and undergraduate program director

0-6 credits, S/U grading