South Asian Studies (SOA)
Interdisciplinary Minor in South Asian Studies

Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

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Other minors of particular interest to students minoring in South Asian Studies: Anthropology (ANT), China Studies (CNS), International Studies (INT), Japanese Studies (JNS), Korean Studies (KOR), Religious Studies (RLS)

South Asian Studies (SOA)
The minor in South Asian Studies provides a broad introduction to a major world civilization through a set of coordinated courses in selected areas of South Asian society and culture. Courses are offered in South Asian languages, religions, philosophy, history, politics, culture, literatures, linguistics, and performing arts. Both traditional and contemporary aspects are covered. The minor serves as a foundation for specialization in area studies (South Asia), complements knowledge of other areas in Asian Studies, and offers cross-cultural experience valued in many fields, including international business. With the approval of the director of the minor, the student constructs a coherent and individualized program of study. Students may also earn academic credits through Study Abroad in India opportunities.

The Center for India Studies (telephone: 631-632-9742), located in E-5350 Melville Library, offers a reference library, lectures and performing arts programs, publications, and internship opportunities for students minoring in South Asian Studies. Visit http://www.sunysb.edu/india for details.

Requirements for the Minor in South Asian Studies (SOA)
All courses offered for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. At least nine credits toward the minor must be upper-division.

Completion of the minor requires seven courses or 21 credits.
1. AAS 201 Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent
2. AAS 338 Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy
3. One of the following:
   • AAS/RLS 256 Hinduism
   • AAS/RLS 260 Buddhism
   • AAS/RLS 280 Islam
4. Three of the following:
   • AAS 110 Appreciating Indian Music
   • AAS 209 Indian Classical Dance
   • AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   • AAS/LIN 250 Languages and Cultures of Asian Americans
   • AAS 320 Literature of India
   • AAS 330 Language and Society in South Asia
   • AAS 326 Indian Mythology
   • AAS 327 Great Epics of India: Ramayana and Mahabharata
5. One additional course (a minimum of 3 credits) chosen from the following:
   • AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences (appropriate topic only)
   • AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities (appropriate topic only)
   • ANT 311 Immersion in Another Culture (appropriate topic only)
   • ARH 203 History of Asian Art
   • CLT 220 Non-Western Literature (appropriate topic only)
   • EGL 373 Literature in English from Non-Western Cultures (appropriate topic only)
   • EGL 374 Literature in Relation to Other Disciplines (appropriate topic only)
   • HIN 111 Elementary Hindi I
   • HIN 112 Elementary Hindi II
   • HIN 211 Intermediate Hindi I
   • HIN 212 Intermediate Hindi II
   • LIN 431 Analysis of an Uncommonly Taught Language (appropriate topic only)
   • AAS/RLS 367 Meditation and Enlightenment
   • AAS/RLS 380 Islamic Classics
• AAS 391, 392 Special Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies
• AAS 447 Directed Readings
• AAS 487 Supervised Research
• SKT 111 Elementary Sanskrit I
• SKT 112 Elementary Sanskrit II
• THR 313 Asian Theatre and Drama
AAS
Asian & Asian American Studies

AAS 102: 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.

DEC: B
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

AAS 110: 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.

DEC: G
SBC: ARTS
3 credits

AAS 118: Introduction to Asian Studies
Provides students with information on subjects of common concern to people in both Asia and America, including education, health, religion and values, consumer issues, family and home, mobility (including immigration), children, careers and work, entertainment and leisure, etc. In this context, Asia as a cultured space includes India, Southeast Asia, China, Korea and Japan. Students will design their own maps and timelines to represent tongues, texts, and scripts, as well as ethnic identities. This course has been offered previously as a topic in AAS 211. AAS Topics in the Social Sciences and is not for credit in addition to the topic of the same name offered as AAS 211.

DEC: F
SBC: GLO, SBS
3 credits

AAS 201: 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, Asokha, Akbar and great emperors, impact of Islam and Western colonization, and Gandhi and the impact of South Asia on the world.

DEC: J
SBC: GLO
3 credits

AAS 209: 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 Nandikeswarar’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 Shlokam (poem).

Advisory Prerequisite: Any dance class
DEC: D
SBC: ARTS
3 credits

AAS 210: Indian Classical Dance: Kathakali
An introduction to the stories, histories, and aesthetics of Indian classical performing arts. The course focuses on Bharatanatyam, the solo dance form from South India. Kathakali, Manipuri, Odissi, and Kathak will be introduced to compare and contrast dance-theatre forms of South Asia. Students will be introduced to each performance form by studying its ancient and modern history, practitioners, technique, stage presentation, and aesthetics. The course explores the commonalities of all these performing art forms including: mythology, the classic text: Natya Shastra, abhinaya (mime) and the theory of rasa. Lessons will be accompanied by suitable reading material and visual demonstrations either on video or by a practitioner of the art form.

Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. A
DEC: D
SBC: ARTS
3 credits

AAS 211: 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. May be repeated as the topic changes.

DEC: F
SBC: SBS
3 credits

AAS 212: 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. May be repeated as the topic changes.

DEC: G
SBC: HUM
3 credits

AAS 215: Classical Performing Arts of India
An introduction to the stories, histories, and aesthetics of Indian classical performing arts. The course focuses on Bharatanatyam, the solo dance form from South India. Kathakali, Manipuri, Odissi, and Kathak will be introduced to compare and contrast dance-theatre forms of South Asia. Students will be introduced to each performance form by studying its ancient and modern history, practitioners, technique, stage presentation, and aesthetics. The course explores the commonalities of all these performing art forms including: mythology, the classic text: Natya Shastra, abhinaya (mime) and the theory of rasa. Lessons will be accompanied by suitable reading material and visual demonstrations either on video or by a practitioner of the art form.

Prerequisite: Completion of D.E.C. A
DEC: D
SBC: ARTS
3 credits

AAS 216: 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: one D.E.C. B or HUM course
DEC: J
SBC: ESI, GLO
3 credits

AAS 217: 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.

DEC: J
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

AAS 220: 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.

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** GLO, SBS  
3 credits

**AAS 221: 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  
**DEC:** H  
**SBC:** STAS  
3 credits

**AAS 222: Indian Cinemas and Cultures**

The course examines the contemporary global art form known as 'Indian cinemas' from its advent of the moving picture in the late 1800's to the present. In this Asian film course, we explore the various cinemas of India and the Indian diaspora such as Bollywood cinema, art cinema, films by Indian directors inside and outside India, music videos, and documentaries. Factors behind its ascent to the most popular art form as well as a lucrative medium of entertainment and potent vehicle for social change not only in India but also beyond its shores are examined in some depth. We discover how these various Indian cinemas address and depict the social, cultural, political and economic issues of the South Asian subcontinent. Themes for our discussions include but are not limited to nationalism, sexuality, censorship, activism, tradition, modernity, identity, gender roles, and the pleasures and politics of song, dance, and music, as we look at historical, thematic and aesthetic issues of these cinemas and their impact and influence in India as well as globally.

**DEC:** D  
**SBC:** ARTS, GLO  
3 credits

**AAS 232: Introduction to Asian American Fiction and Film**

The course is an introductory survey of Asian American fiction (short stories and novels) and films (narratives and documentaries). A central premise of the course is that the histories of racial segregation in the U.S., immigrant exclusion acts, colonial and contemporary wars in Asia, and global migrations are the political and historical contexts of Asian American narratives.

**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HUM, USA  
3 credits

**AAS 236: Korean Religions**

Throughout its long history, Korea has experienced and created various religious traditions and became one of the most religiously diverse societies. Korean culture includes a wide variety of religious elements that have shaped the Koreans' way of thinking and living, in the way rarely seen in the European traditions. The objectives of this course are to understand and appreciate the religious heritage of Korea. Instead of trying to abstractly define religions, this course will serve to identify religious practices in which Koreans are engaged. In the process, students will obtain an understanding of important religious concepts, theories, activities, and lives of the religious leaders from ancient times to the present.

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** GLO, HUM  
3 credits

**AAS 237: Introduction to Japanese Literature**

An introduction in English to the great literary works of Japan from the earliest extant writing to works of the present.

**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HUM  
3 credits

**AAS 240: Confucianism and Daoism**

An introduction to the basic philosophies and doctrines of Confucianism and Daoism, such as the concept of Dao, 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.

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** GLO, HUM  
3 credits

**AAS 246: 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 246 and RLS 246.

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** GLO, HUM  
3 credits

**AAS 260: 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 various central concepts, with particular emphasis on Buddhism in China and Japan.
AAS 305: The Pacific, Travel & Empire
This cultural studies course examines the cultures of travel (i.e., fiction, memoirs, photography, and filmmaking) in narratives by and about the Pacific, South and Southeast Asia. We will study "empire" by analyzing narratives about the former colonies of Spain, France, Britain and the United States. As we discuss the metaphors or tropes of empire, we will also examine the concept of empire as a historical and contemporary formation, or what an empire meant in the 19th century and what it means today in the early 21st century. The course begins with the premise that travel narratives and modern visual culture illuminate the relationship between the violence and romance of travel. The course includes modern travel narratives (i.e., novels by Asian Americans) that focus on the lives of those who are forced to travel or migrate due to civil war, poverty and/or economic instability. This course is offered as AAS 305 and EGL 305.
Prerequisite: Any 200 and/or 300 level course offered by the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies or the English Department
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 307: Women in U.S.-Asian Relations
Critically examines the important and, at times, even crucial roles played by women in US-Asian relations over a roughly 125-year period, from the 1850s to the 1970s; and it compares/contrasts these roles to those in the present day. We will study the transformative occupations (writers/poets, missionaries, journalists, diplomats, medical and social workers, scientists, scholars and chefs) to understand how women used motivational discourse and social networking to interpret China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam for diverse audiences in America and their native lands in Asia. This course is offered as both AAS 307 and POL 307.
Prerequisite: One 200-level course in Asian Studies
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 310: America's Wars in Asia
Explores America's involvement in and execution of wars in Asia in the 19th and 20th centuries notably in the Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, with an incisive analysis of American empire building. If war is "an act of violence intended to compel our opponent to fulfill our will," how far did these wars succeed in their aim? Focusing both on American and Asian perspectives on global conflicts, we will draw upon international relations and historical interdisciplinary sources in our investigations, including newer tools such as online digitized oral history collections through the Library of Congress Veterans' History Project.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits
AAS 322: 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)
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 326: 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
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 327: 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 central concept of Hidusim. The course will compare the two epics with each other.
Prerequisite: AAS 201 or 212
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 328: Race, Humor and Asian America
This comparative ethnic American cultures course examines how contemporary American comedians, fiction writers, visual artists, independent filmmakers, feminist and transgendered comics deploy the language of comedy to invoke serious social matters in contemporary American life such as racism, immigration, homophobia, class biases against the poor and the undocumented, misogyny, war and other burning issues of the day. We will explore how the ends of comedy are more than laughter and how comedy confronts political issues that are constitutive of and threatening to the U.S. body politic.

AAS 330: Language and Society in South Asia
Study of the evolution, stucture, and role of representative languages in South Asia. Focus is on multilingualism, lingua francas, national language, contact, convergence, and use, especially in education, administration, business, religion, literature, and the media. Topics may also include language, ethnic identity, and conflict; English in India; globalization and localization; and India's impact on linguistics.
Advisory Prerequisite: LIN 101
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 331: Japanese Literature in the Feminine Domain
This course examines both writings of Japanese women and writings about Japanese women. It will challenge the application of current Western feminist standards to Japanese culture through the analysis of Japanese literary works. We will begin with Japanese mythology focusing on the stories of the creator goddess and Amaterasu, the sun goddess, from whom the imperial line was descended. We will consider the great Heian Era women writers and their culture, examining the difference between men's and women's writing. From the Heian era we will move to the Meiji Era, when Japan's isolationist period had ended and centuries' worth of Western literature was introduced to Japan. We will concentrate on the writings of Higuchi Ichiyo, noting how the position of women had changed by her day and how it affected her literary style. The course will close with a focus how literature treats Japanese women in our own time. This course is offered as AAS 331 and WST 331.
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 332: Japanese Literature in the Meiji Era
This course examines Japanese literature of the Meiji era, an era unique in the history of the world. Until the 1400s, Japan had no contact with the West due to its geographic location. After a brief and limited exposure to Western literature, Japan closed its doors to the West and remained isolated from approximately 1600 until 1868. During the Meiji Era (1868-1912) Japan was flooded with examples of all the phases of Western literature it had missed, and Japanese writers soon responded to the Western developments. This course will deal with that response, from Tsubouchi Shoyo's criticism of modern Japanese novels and their lack of appreciation for Realism, to the development of the Japanese I-novel. Due to Japan's literary response to the West, it can also be argued that the Meiji Era marked the end of Japanese literature as a unique entity, and this course will explore this issue as well.
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 333: English in Asia
Study of the expanding roles of English in South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia. With more non-native speakers than native speakers, and more in Asia than elsewhere, English has acquired new identities. We will study functions of English in colonial and post-colonial times; how it competes with, and complements local languages in business, advertising, media, education, research, administration, judiciary, creative literature, call centers, and on the Internet; the evolution of dynamic new Asian Englishes, such as Indian English, and their social and cultural contexts; controversies regarding English medium education and its impact on local languages, relevance of native English standards, and implications for theory, description, and method in diverse disciplines, such as, business communication, cultural studies, English, lexicography, speech recognition, journalism, media studies, sociolinguistics, teaching English as a second language, and Asian Studies.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status
Advisory prerequisite: LIN 101
DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AAS 337: History of Korea
Examines Korean history from ancient to modern times. Korea is one of the many ancient, non-European civilizations claiming a cultural influence on the region and one of the main players in the history of East Asia. Reflecting its unique historical experiences, Korean history has raised diverse debatable issues. The primary goal of this course is to provide an overview of Korean history and, at the same time, through introducing multiple debatable issues of historical significance, the
AAS 338: Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy

Study of the forces shaping India's post-independence history, domestic politics, and foreign diplomacy. As the world's largest democracy, second most populous nation, and Asia's second fastest growing economy, its impact on the international scene in the coming years will be carefully analyzed. The course, taught by a former Ambassador, will also focus on emerging trends in Indo-U.S. relations and impact of the Indian diaspora. This course is offered as both AAS 338 and POL 338.

Prerequisites: One previous course in AAS or POL; U3 or U4 standing

DEC: J
SBC: GLO, SBS+
3 credits

AAS 339: Contemporary China: History, Politics, and Diplomacy

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: One previous course in AAS or POL; U3 or U4 standing

DEC: J
SBC: GLO, SBS+
3 credits

AAS 340: Topics in Asian History

Past topics have included titles such as Late Imperial China; The Chinese Diaspora; and Overseas Chinese and Chinatowns. 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 340 and HIS 340.

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AAS 344: Acquisition of Asian Languages

Inquiry into issues in the acquisition of Asian languages. This course introduces the foundational knowledge of first and second language acquisition as well as the characteristics of multiple Asian languages, focusing on their structural similarities and differences. Students are expected to critically analyze the issues in the acquisition of Asian languages in light of their linguistic characteristics as well as the social and educational contexts that surround their learners.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status
Advisory Prerequisite: CHI 212, HIN 212, JPN 212, KOR 212, or equivalent proficiency in

DEC: J
SBC: GLO, SBS
3 credits

AAS 347: South Asia Before Colonialism

The South Asia region (contemporary India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Afghanistan) has been a crossroads of diverse people, ideas and commodities for millennia. This course covers key themes and developments in the subcontinent from antiquity to the rise of British colonialism. We will begin by covering major issues in early South Asia, and proceed to consider closely the medieval and early modern periods. Central themes include pre-modern dimensions of the Hindu-Muslim encounter, emergence of South Asian regions, the subcontinent in global networks, and early presence of European powers. This course is offered as both AAS 347 and HIS 347.

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AAS 351: 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

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AAS 352: 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.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; one D.E.C. E or SNW course

DEC: H
SBC: STAS
3 credits

AAS 357: 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

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AAS 366: 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, cosmosology, 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. 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

**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+

3 credits

### AAS 367: 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

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** HFA+

3 credits

### AAS 368: Yoga: Theory and Praxis

In this course we investigate Yogic systems of philosophy and self-transformation in 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  
**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** HFA+

3 credits

### AAS 370: 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 SBS+ or one previous course in Linguistics

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** SBS+

3 credits

### AAS 371: Ancient China

Examines social, economic, political, and cultural systems in ancient China, from the prehistoric 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; one D.E.C. F or SBS course

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** SBS+

3 credits

### AAS 372: 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

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** SBS+

3 credits

### AAS 379: 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 379 and ANT 379.

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

**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** SBS+

3 credits

### AAS 380: 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 260

**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+

3 credits

### AAS 382: 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

**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+

3 credits

### AAS 385: Translation Studies of Asian Languages

Inquiry into issues in the translation of Asian languages into/from English. This course introduces the recent theories and concepts of translation studies and applies them to the analysis of a variety of Asian texts as source texts or target texts. Students are expected to gain insights into the lexical, grammatical, cognitive, pragmatic, and socio-cultural characteristics of Asian languages as well as social and political issues that surround translation of Asian texts. Texts to be analyzed include, but are not limited to, literary works, newspaper articles, advertisements, brochures,
and business letters. Advanced skills in one of the Asian languages are required.  
Prerequisite: CHI 312, HIN 312, JPN 312, KOR 312, or equivalent proficiency in one of the Asian languages.

3 credits

AAS 387: 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

DEC: J

SBC: HFA+

3 credits

AAS 391: Humanities Topics in Asian and American Studies

Past topics have included titles such as Sikhism: Introduction to Indian Philosophy; Modern Indian Literature; and Appreciating Indian Music. 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: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: G

SBC: HFA+

3 credits

AAS 392: Social Science Topics in Asian and American Studies

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: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: F

SBC: SBS+

3 credits

AAS 394: Topics in Asian Art

An in-depth exploration of a particular theme within the field of Asian art, that may include topics on ancient arts or contemporary artists, movements and cultural practices. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. This course is offered as both AAS 394 and ARH 394.

Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one ARH course

DEC: J

SBC: GLO, HFA+

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 standing; AAS major

SBC: SPK, WRTD

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: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: 

SBC: 

3 credits

AAS 394: Topics in Asian Art

An in-depth exploration of a particular theme within the field of Asian art, that may include topics on ancient arts or contemporary artists, movements and cultural practices. May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. This course is offered as both AAS 394 and ARH 394.

Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; one ARH course

DEC: J

SBC: GLO, HFA+

3 credits

AAS 441: East Asia: History and Culture

Examines the history of East Asia from ancient times to the twentieth century with an persistent interest in understanding how the historical developments in East Asia have interacted with its cultural expressions. In doing so, it will help students have a solid knowledge of East Asian society and culture. The primary focus is on China, Japan, and Korea. During the course of amassing knowledge of East Asia throughout the semester, this course often invites the contemporary discussion of globalization to relate it to the enduring characteristics of East Asian civilization.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status

Advisory Prerequisite: one AAS course

SBC: HFA+

3 credits

AAS 444: Experiential Learning

This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a "real-world" setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.

Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)

SBC: EXP+

S/U grading

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 458: Speak Effectively Before an Audience
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any AAS course that provides opportunity to achieve the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's SPK learning objective.
Pre- or corequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor
SBC: SPK
S/U grading

AAS 459: Write Effectively in Asian and Asian American Studies
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level AAS course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.
Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor
SBC: WRTD
S/U grading

AAS 472: Topics in Asian Philosophy (I)
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. May be repeated as the topic changes. This course is offered as both AAS 472 and PHI 472.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status; two courses in PHI, in AAS or together
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 473: Orientalism
Investigation of the history and theory of Western engagement with Asian cultures. Following from Edward Said's influential book Orientalism, we examine the alleged imperialism inherent in the study of the Orient, also considering some opponents of Said's thesis. Special attention is paid to the history of interpretation of Asian philosophies in the West, and of Asian postcolonial responses to such portrayals. We conclude by exploring the possibilities for post-orientalist approaches to the study of Asia.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status; two courses in PHI, in AAS or together
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AAS 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Students assist instructors in Asian and Asian 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
SBC: EXP+
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
SBC: EXP+
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
SBC: EXP+
0-6 credits, S/U grading

AAS 495: Senior Honors Project in AAS
This is a course for AAS majors who are candidates for the degree with honors. The project involves independent readings or research and the writing of a thesis. Not for major credit.
Prerequisite: Admission to the AAS Honors Program; permission of department
3 credits