Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

Major and Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies

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

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Asian and Asian American Studies: Anthropology (ANT), Business (BUS), China Studies (CNS), International Studies (INT), Japanese Studies (JNS), Korean Studies (KOR), Linguistics (LIN), Religious Studies (RLS), Sociology (SOC), South Asian Studies (SOA)

Asian and Asian American Studies

The interdisciplinary major in Asian and Asian American Studies combines analytical perspectives and research methods of the social sciences and humanities in an integrated curriculum that is based on area studies and ethnic studies scholarship. Students acquire in-depth knowledge of particular regions of Asia, enhanced appreciation of Asian cultures and societies, greater awareness of contemporary issues of global concern facing both Asia and the United States, and a better understanding of the histories, struggles, and contributions of Asian Americans.

The major includes training in a relevant Asian language, a concentration in a specific region of Asia, and courses in various disciplines that converge on an identified theme of study. It complements minors in China Studies, Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, and South Asian Studies, as well as the major and minor in Religious Studies.

Students are encouraged to gain a first-hand experience of living in and studying Asian cultures by participating in Study Abroad programs. Stony Brook offers a summer program in China, Japan and India and academic year programs in China, Japan, and Korea. Similar programs are being planned in other countries.

The academic offerings of the department are complemented by the rich array of resources and programming at the program in China Studies, Center for India Studies, Center for Japan Studies, the Center for Korean Studies, the Asian American Center Bridge, and the Charles B. Wang Center, which collaborate with various academic departments, student groups, community organizations, and individuals to promote a better understanding of Asia and Asian Americans today.

The Department of Asian and Asian American Studies has strong ties with selected academic and cultural organizations in Asia, and Asian and Asian American institutions on Long Island and in the greater New York area. Stony Brook's proximity to the New York City metropolitan area, with its Asian ethnic communities, offers rich opportunities for cultural and intellectual enrichment.

A major in Asian and Asian American Studies will open attractive opportunities for students who plan to pursue a wide range of careers, including the arts, business, education, economics, government, journalism, law, literature, and media. Many students increase their employment opportunities by pursuing a double major. In addition, Asian and Asian American Studies offers challenging opportunities at the graduate and professional school level as well.

Requirements for the Major and Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies

The major in Asian and Asian American Studies leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses taken for the major must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or higher. Completion of the major requires 39 credits, including at least 21 upper-division credits.

A. Language Proficiency

Majors are required to take six credits (or the equivalent of one year) of college study of an Asian language at the intermediate level or above. Students who already have a pre-established language proficiency in an Asian language can be exempt from this requirement with approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, and in that case, they should take two additional AAS courses at 200-level or above.

B. Core Courses to Asian and Asian American Studies

Majors are required to take three of the core courses to AAS major, including one course in Asian American Studies:

- AAS 102 Eastern Religions
- AAS 118 Introduction to Asian Studies
- AAS 201 Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent
- AAS 216 Introduction to Japanese Studies
- AAS 220 China: Language and Culture
• AAS 232 Introduction to Asian American Fiction and Film
• AAS 217 Introduction to Korean Culture

The choice of core courses may be changed with the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies as long as the choice ensures the diversity within AAS and appropriate core knowledge needed for completing the major in AAS.

C. Areas of Concentration

Majors are required to take fifteen credits from an area of focus, including at least nine credits from upper-division courses. Students are encouraged to construct their own analytic focus within the major in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Some sample areas of focus include Asian diaspora, contemporary Asia, intellectual history, language and communication, literature and art.

1) Asian Philosophy and Religions

Courses in this concentration include but are not limited to:

• AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities
• AAS 240 Confucianism and Taoism
• AAS 256 Hinduism
• AAS 260 Buddhism
• AAS 271 Religion in Ancient Mesopotamia
• AAS 280 Islam
• AAS 300 Intellectual History of East Asia
• AAS 326 Indian Mythology
• AAS 366 Feminine Spirituality
• AAS 367 Meditation and Enlightenment
• AAS 368 Yoga: Theory and Praxis
• AAS 380 Islamic Classics
• AAS 382 Japanese Buddhism
• AAS 386 Topics in Asian Philosophy
• AAS 387 Islam and Confucianism
• AAS 391 Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies

2) Literature, Arts, and Culture of Asia

Courses in this concentration include but are not limited to:

• AAS 110 Appreciating Indian Music
• AAS 209 Indian Classical Dance: Bharatanatyam
• AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities
• AAS 215 Classical Performing Arts of India
• AAS 232 Introduction to Asian American Fiction and Film
• AAS 319 Arts of China
• AAS 320 Literature of India
• AAS 321 Korean Literature
• AAS 322 Literature of Japan
• AAS 327 Great Epics of India: Ramayana and Mahabharata
• AAS 391 Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies
• AAS 394 Topics in Asian Art

3) Society and Contemporary Issues

Courses in this concentration include but are not limited to:

• AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences
• AAS 221 China: Science and Civilization
• AAS 232 Introduction to Asian American Fiction and Film
• AAS 328 Race, Comedy and Asian America
• AAS 338 Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy
• AAS 339 Contemporary China: History, Politics, and Diplomacy
• AAS 351 Revolutionary China: Politics, Culture, and Power
• AAS 340 Topics in Asian History
• AAS 347 South Asia Before Colonialism
• AAS 348 Colonial South Asia
• AAS 352 Environmental History of China
• AAS 357 India's Foreign Policy
• AAS 370 Intercultural Communication

Stony Brook University: www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin
• AAS 372 Family, Marriage, and Kinship in China
• AAS 379 Ethnicity and Ecology in China
• AAS 392 Social Science Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies

4) Region and Language

Courses in this concentration include but are not limited to:

• AAS 211 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Social Sciences
• AAS 212 Asian and Asian American Studies Topics in the Humanities
• AAS 320 Literature of India
• AAS 321 Korean Literature
• AAS 322 Literature of Japan
• AAS 326 Indian Mythology
• AAS 327 Great Epics of India: Ramayana and Mahabharata
• AAS 330 Language and Society in South Asia
• AAS 338 Contemporary India: History, Politics, and Diplomacy
• AAS 339 Contemporary China: History, Politics, and Diplomacy
• AAS 344 Acquisition of Asian Languages
• AAS 385 Translation Studies of Asian Languages
• AAS 391 Humanities Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies
• AAS 392 Social Science Topics in Asian and Asian American Studies
• AAS 347 South Asia Before Colonialism
• AAS 348 Colonial South Asia
• AAS 351 Revolutionary China: Politics, Culture, and Power
• AAS 352 Environmental History of China
• AAS 357 India's Foreign Policy
• AAS 370 Intercultural Communication
• AAS 371 Ancient China
• AAS 372 Family, Marriage, and Kinship in China
• AAS 379 Ethnicity and Ecology in China
• AAS 400 Seminar in Korean Studies
• AAS 404 Senior Seminar in China Studies
• CHI 426 Structure of Chinese
• JPN 426 Structure of Japanese

D. Asian and Asian American Studies Electives

Majors are required to take two electives in AAS to meet the total credit and upper-division credit requirements.

E. Senior Seminar

Majors are required to take the following course as a capstone requirement:

• AAS 401 Senior Seminar in Asian and Asian American Studies

F. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

By the end of their junior year, students must register for the 0-credit AAS 459, and complete one upper-division course from requirements C that includes a minimum of ten pages of written English work. Written assignments for the course must be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for assessment of advanced writing skills appropriate to the major. This review is separate from the evaluation made by the course instructor and has no effect on the course grade.

Students should consult with the department advisor to ensure that their plan for completing the Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent with university graduation requirements for General Education. Students completing the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) must complete a course that satisfies the "Write Effectively within One's Discipline" (WRTD) learning objective to graduate. The Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent in most cases with the SBC learning outcomes for WRTD.

Notes:

1. A course is used to satisfy only one requirement category.
2. At least 12 of the upper-division credits must be taken at Stony Brook University.
3. Acceptable courses may include, but are not limited to courses with the following designators: ANT, ARH, CCS, CHI, CLT, ENG, HIN, HIS, JPN, KOR, LIN, PHI, POL, RLS, SKT, SOC, THR.

The Honors Program in Asian & Asian American Studies (AAS)
To be eligible to participate in the honors program, majors must have an overall g.p.a. of 3.00 and an average g.p.a. of 3.50 in AAS through their junior year. An eligible student wishing to write a senior thesis must find a faculty member to act as thesis advisor. The student, with the approval of this advisor, must submit a proposal of a project in writing to the Director of Undergraduate Studies. The deadline for submission of the proposal is April 30 for the spring semester, and November 30 for the fall semester. Selection of candidates and topics is made by a committee within the Department. Students in the honors program must enroll in AAS 495 for the semester in which the thesis is written. The thesis is evaluated by the thesis advisor, and approved by two additional faculty. For further information consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Secondary Teacher Education Program

See the Education and Teacher Certification entry in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.

Requirements for the Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS)

The Minor in Asian and Asian American Studies encourages students of any academic major to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Asian cultures, societies, and histories. Students with a minor in Asian and Asian American Studies consult with the Undergraduate Director of Asian and Asian American Studies to select a curriculum of interdisciplinary comparative study that speaks to their particular interests and career goals. All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade and passed with a grade of C or higher.

Completion of the minor requires 18 credits, including at least 9 upper-division credits.

A. AAS minors are required to take six credits from the core courses.
   • AAS 102 Eastern Religions
   • AAS 118 Introduction to Asian Studies
   • AAS 201 Introduction to the Civilization of the Indian Subcontinent
   • AAS 216 Introduction to Japanese Studies
   • AAS 220 China: Language and Culture
   • AAS 232 Introduction to Asian American Fiction and Film
   • AAS 217 Introduction to Korean Culture

The choice of core courses may be changed with the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies as long as the choice ensures the diversity within AAS and appropriate core knowledge needed for completing the minor in AAS.

B. AAS minors are required to take nine credits from one area of concentration, including at least six credits from upper-division courses. For available courses, refer to the AAS major requirement C.

1. Asian Philosophy and Religions
2. Literature, Arts, and Culture of Asia
3. Society and Contemporary Issues
4. Region and Language

C. Asian and Asian American Studies Elective

Minors are required to take one elective in AAS to meet the total credit and upper-division credit requirements.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Asian and Asian American Studies

A course planning guide for this major may be found here. The major course planning guides are not part of the official Undergraduate Bulletin, and are only updated periodically for use as an advising tool. The Undergraduate Bulletin supersedes any errors or omissions in the major course planning guides.

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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 cultural 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, Ashoka, Akbar and great emperors, impact of Islam and Western colonization, and Gandhi and the impact of South Asia on the world.
DEC: G
SBC: HUM
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 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 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 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 transformation from mid-nineteenth times to the present.  
**DEC: J**  
**SBC: GLO, HUM**  
**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: G**  
**SBC: HUM, USA**  
**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 247: Modern Korea through Visual Culture**  
Examines Korea's historical experiences and social transformation from mid-nineteenth century to present through visual materials such as photographs, films, postcards, print materials and paintings as well as historical texts and secondary analysis. Students will acquire in-depth knowledge of Korea's modern experiences as well as its contemporary society and culture. The course aims to cultivate students' visual literacy on modern Korea through interpreting and analyzing historical visual documents and creating their own visual essays. This course is offered as both AAS 247 and HIS 247.  
**DEC: F**  
**SBC: GLO, SBS**  
**3 credits**

**AAS 250: 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.  
**DEC: K**  
**SBC: SBS, USA**  
**3 credits**

**AAS 256: 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.  
**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 faith, practice, and enlightenment in Buddhism. This course is offered as both AAS 260 and RLS 260.

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

**AAS 271: 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.

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

**AAS 280: 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.

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

**AAS 300: 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  
**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+  
3 credits

**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:** U3 or U4 standing  
**DEC:** J  
**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. This course is offered as both AAS 310 and POL 340.

**Prerequisite:** U3 or U4 standing  
**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** SBS+, WRTD  
3 credits

**AAS 320: 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  
**Advisor Prerequisite:** AAS 201 (or the former SAS 240)  
**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+  
3 credits

**AAS 321: 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  
**Advisor Prerequisite:** AAS 217 (formerly KRH 240)  
**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  
**Advisor Prerequisite:** AAS 216 (formerly JNH 240)  
**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+  
3 credits

Stony Brook University: www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin
AAS 323: Language and Society in Korea
A multidisciplinary exploration of Korean society and culture through the medium of its language. It examines the complex relationship between Korean language and major historical and sociocultural context of the Korean society and analyses how the language has encoded culturally and socially constructed practices and experiences of Korean people. The topics include ethno-linguistic identity, nationalism, regionalism and dialects, kinship and gender, English education, popular culture, linguistic hybridization and intercultural communication in globalizing and digitalizing world, as well as historical development of spoken and written system of Korean language.
Advisory Prerequisite: KOR 111
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, SBS+
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 Hinduism. 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.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status and one 100-level or higher AAS, AMR, EGL, or CLT course
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+, USA
3 credits

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: SBS+
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 334: 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 336: Asian and Pacific Islanders in American History
Asian and Pacific Islanders in American History is an examination of the historical factors that have molded Asian and Pacific
ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AAS) - COURSES

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 course attempts to enhance students' analytical capability in approaching complicated historical issues. This course is offered as both AAS 337 and and HIS 337.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status
Advisory Prerequisite: AAS 217

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

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 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 341: A History of the South Asia Region
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 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, 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 both AAS 366 and 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

**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 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

**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

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; 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 408

**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 Asian 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 Asian 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 Asian American Studies

An intensive study of the theoretical and methodological issues in Asian and Asian 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

SBC: SPK, WRTD

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

DEC: G
SBC: GLO, 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+

0 credit, S/U grading

AAS 447: Directed Readings in Asian and Asian American Studies

Independent readings in advanced topics in Asian and Asian 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

0 credit, 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

0 credit, 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. This course is offered as both AAS 473 and PHI 473.

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

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