ASIAN STUDIES

Overview & Learning Goals

Overview

The Asian Studies Program offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Asia that spans the regions of East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and the Asian diaspora. In addition to language study, students may take courses in anthropology, art history, cinema, gender and sexuality studies, government, history, literature and culture, music, religion, and sociology. For the major, each student is required to concentrate in a geographic area or discipline, acquire a working proficiency in one of the languages of East or South Asia, develop theoretical or methodological sophistication, and demonstrate a degree of applied specialization. These principles are reflected in the requirements outlined below.

Learning Goals

The Asian Studies Program provides a multidisciplinary curriculum that develops knowledge regarding the history, politics, religions, societies, and visual and literary cultures of East Asia and South Asia.

Majors concentrate on a geographical area (China, Japan, South Asia, or East Asia) or pursue a comparative study of several Asian areas through a sustained focus on a discipline (e.g., government, history, literature and visual culture, or religion). This is combined with sustained training in a relevant Asian language.

Besides being multidisciplinary, the Asian studies major also emphasizes broad temporal and regional scope; students thus pursue at least one course outside their chosen area of focus as well as at least one course each in premodern and modern Asia.

A fair number of Asian studies majors are double majors, finding fruitful connections between Asian studies and disciplines such as political science, economics, art history, and environmental studies.

In the Asian Studies Program, students will develop the following skills:

1. Learn about the language, literature, religion, visual culture, gender relations, history, and politics of a non-Western region and cultivate alternative perspectives on globalization;
2. Develop a broad historical and cross-regional understanding of Asia;
3. Demonstrate basic proficiency in an East Asian language consistent with two years of academic study at Bowdoin; for South Asia majors, this expectation is met by intensive language study for one semester in an approved study-away program;
4. Read primary texts critically and situate them in their historical, social, cultural, and political contexts, as well as interrogate key assumptions in secondary texts and provide informed responses and critiques;
5. Write analytical arguments and speak clearly and articulately about Asia and its diaspora; and
6. Conduct independent research using primary and secondary sources, applying theories and methods developed within the discipline or field.

Department/Program Website (https://www.bowdoin.edu/asian-studies/)

Faculty

Christopher Heurlin, Program Director

Suzanne M. Astolfi, Program Coordinator

Professor: Shu-chin Tsui (Cinema Studies)
Associate Professors: Christopher Heurlin (Government), Belinda Kong (English), Henry C. W. Laurence† (Government), Vyjayanthi Ratnam (History), Rachel L. Sturman (History), Peggy Wang (Art History), Ya (Leah) Zuo‡ (History)
Assistant Professors: Sakura Christmas (History), John Kim, Claire Robison (Religion)
Senior Lecturers: Hiroo Aridome, Xiaoke Jia
Lecturer: Jing Xie
Visiting Faculty: Aki Nakai
Fellow: Christine Marrewa

Faculty/Staff Website (https://www.bowdoin.edu/asian-studies/faculty-and-staff/)

Requirements

Asian Studies Major

Students major in Asian studies by focusing on a particular geographic and cultural area—China, Japan, East Asia, or South Asia—or by specializing in a discipline. Eight courses are required in addition to the study of an Asian language.

Language Requirements

Two years of an East Asian language, or one year of a South Asian language, or the equivalent through intensive language study.

- In addition to the above language requirement, students may apply up to three advanced intermediate (2205–2206) or advanced (3307–3309) East Asian language courses toward the total of eight required courses.
- The College does not directly offer courses in any South Asian language. Arrangements may be made with the director of the program and the Office of the Registrar to transfer credits from another institution. Students should consult with their advisors on choosing an off-campus and/or study abroad program that will meet this language requirement.

Area-Specific or Discipline-Based Requirements

Area-Specific Option Requirements

A concentration in China, Japan, East Asia, or South Asia requires eight courses, six to seven of which must focus on the geographical area of specialization, with up to two courses in an area outside that specialization.

- Students specializing in China must take one pre-modern course in China (2000–2049) and one modern course in China (2050–2249).
- Students specializing in Japan must take one pre-modern course in Japan (2250–2299) and one modern course in Japan (2300–2499).
- Students focusing on South Asia must take courses in at least two of the following disciplines:
  - Anthropology (1026–1038), (1550–1774), (2500–2749), or (2750–2969)
  - History (1026–1038), (1550–1774), (2500–2749), or (2750–2969)
  - Religion (1026–1038), (1550–1774), (2500–2749), or (2750–2969)
Discipline-Based Option Requirements
Students must consult with their advisor concerning course selection.

- At least five courses must be in the chosen discipline: e.g., government, history, literature and visual culture (English, cinema studies, and art history), religion, or any other approved discipline. One of these five courses must be an advanced course (3000–4051) in the discipline of focus.
- Three remaining courses must explore related themes or relate to the student's language study. The study of an Asian language must be in one of the student's areas of study.

Additional Notes for Majors
Additional notes concerning both area-specific and discipline-based options:

- A senior seminar (3000–4051) is required and must be taken at Bowdoin.
- Asian studies majors may not also minor in Chinese or Japanese language.

Asian Studies Minor
Students minor in Asian studies by taking five courses. Of these five, one may be an advanced language course (2205–3309). There are no area-based, disciplinary, or period requirements to the Asian studies minor.

Chinese Language Minor
Students minor in Chinese language by taking five courses. Of these five:

- four courses are required in Chinese; and
- one additional course may be either an advanced Chinese language course or a literature, film, art history, or visual culture course focused on China.

Students who have a background in Chinese must take four language courses from the point where they are placed in the placement exam.

Japanese Language Minor
Students minor in Japanese language by taking five courses. Of these five:

- four courses are required in Japanese; and
- one additional course may be either an advanced Japanese language course or a literature, film, art history, or visual culture course focused on Japan.

Students who have a background in Japanese must take four language courses from the point where they are placed in the placement exam.

Additional Information
Additional Information and Program Policies

Major and Minors Policies

- Students must earn a grade of C- or better for a course to count toward the major or minors; and
- One course may be allowed to double-count toward the major or minors.
- Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate scores, in addition to the language placement exam, are only used for placement.

Off-Campus Study
Study abroad is highly recommended. Established programs in the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan are available for students interested in China. Students are particularly encouraged to attend the ACC, CET, and IUP programs and the Middlebury Program in Kunming. The SILS at Waseda University, IES at Nanzan University, and JCMU programs are recommended for students interested in Japan, but students may select another program based on their academic interests. Students should consult with their advisors and the Asian studies office or website, as well as the Office of International Programs and Off-Campus Study, for information about these and other programs.

Up to three credits from off-campus study (excluding first- and second-year language courses) may count toward the major. Up to two credits from off-campus study (excluding language courses) may count toward the minors.

Program Honors
Students contemplating an honors project in Asian studies should have the following:

- a GPA of B+ or higher in program course offerings, or within their track of concentration;
- a clearly articulated and well-focused research topic; and
- a high measure of academic motivation and commitment.

An honors project in Asian studies is a significant scholarly undertaking. It is at once an opportunity and a responsibility. It allows students to conduct intensive research in an area of their choosing, work closely with several faculty advisors, and contribute their voice to an ongoing scholarly dialogue. It takes students into the library and sometimes beyond campus in search for materials and ideas that students make their own. It is, in many ways, what faculty members do in their own scholarly work.

Students interested in pursuing an honors project in Asian studies are highly encouraged to consult with their advisors early in the spring semester of their junior year.
Courses

ASNS 1007 (c, FYS) Food and Foodways in China: A Cultural History
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

A cultural history of what, when, why, and how people eat in China. Explores a history of Chinese food, and more importantly, a history of China through its food. Structured around four historical periods (antiquity, middle period, late imperial, and modern), studies the connections between food and agriculture, politics, religion, health, technology, and literature. From one perspective, examines foodways in China as cultural constructs and introduces topics such as the human adaptation, experimentation, knowledge formation, technological development, cultural appropriation, and value judgment of food. From another, discusses the material aspects of a culinary history, e.g., the biological facts, ecological sensitivities, environmental adaptation, and historical evolution of foodstuffs. In correspondence with the four historical periods, provides opportunities to prepare and eat four meals, each of them designed to convey a broader sense of historical context. The meals include: Han aristocrat's feast (ancient), Song literati party (middle period), Hubei peasant meal (late imperial), and American Chinese takeout (modern). Meals are scheduled on Friday afternoons throughout the semester (not on regular class-meeting days). Attendance at these meals is not mandatory, but provide additional context and experience. Taken together, students are encouraged to reflect both on what food tells us about Chinese history, and how it causes us to reflect on our own everyday lives. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 1037)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 1014 (c) Envisioning Japan: Landscapes, Cityscapes, and Seascapes
Peggy Wang.
Every Other Fall. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 16.

How do pictures of places incite pride, wonder, desire, or fear? How can they be mobilized to promote national unity or invite social disintegration? From images of the urban pleasure quarters to scenes of sacred mountains, Japanese artists during the Edo period (1603–1868) produced landscapes, cityscapes, and seascapes to enable people to see and consume the country in new ways. This course focuses on Japanese woodblock prints to unpack how artists invested pictures—such as the renowned Great Wave—with the power to shape attitudes towards nature, belonging, and Japan's place in the world. (Same as: ARTH 1017)

ASNS 1020 (c) Japanese Animation: History, Culture, Society
Vyjayanthi Selinger.

Animation is a dominant cultural force in Japan and perhaps its most important cultural export. Examines the ways Japanese animation represents Japan’s history and society and the diverse ways in which it is consumed abroad. How does animation showcase Japanese views of childhood, sexuality, national identity, and gender roles? How does its mode of story-telling build upon traditional pictorial forms in Japan? Focuses on the aesthetic, thematic, social, and historical characteristics of Japanese animation films; provides a broad survey of the place of animation in twentieth-century Japan. Films include “Grave of Fireflies,” “Spirited Away,” “Ghost in the Shell,” “Akira,” and “Princess Kaguya.” (Same as: CINE 1020)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

ASNS 1026 (c, FYS) Religion and Identity in Modern India
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines dynamic interrelationships between religious beliefs, practices, codes of behavior, organizations, and places and identity in India. Surveys religious texts, such as the Bhagavad Gita and the Qur’an, which have shaped India’s competing political identities, and studies nationalist and revivalist movements leading up to India’s independence. Culminates in a role-playing game set in 1945 India, which uses innovative methodology called Reacting to the Past. Students argue in character adhering to religious and political views of historical figures to improve their skills in speaking, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, and teamwork. (Same as: REL 1010)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 1036 (c, FYS) Commodity Life: Objects and Histories of India
Every Fall. Enrollment limit: 16.

What kinds of meanings and histories are held within objects? Uses the lens of four objects in the Indian subcontinent—rice, textiles, yoga, and photography—to trace histories of knowledge and skill, of commodification and global circulation, of power relations, and of personal attachments that these objects have generated. Central is thinking through the creative but also power-laden processes of making, using, and interpreting. This approach to the creative potential of analysis infuses class writing, revision, and discussion. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 1039)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 1041 (c, FYS) Asian Dystopias
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 16.

Focuses on contemporary dystopian novels by Asian and Asian diaspora writers. Explores the idea that dystopic fiction works not simply by reimagining time and forecasting bleak futures but also by remapping political spaces and redrawing social boundaries. Anarchists and vigilantes, aliens and clones, murderous children and mythic animal deities populate these worlds as writers examine totalitarianism and dissidence, globalization and labor slavery, pandemics and biotechnology, race riots and environmental devastation. (Same as: ENGL 1013)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

ASNS 1042 (c, FYS) Dystopian Americas
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores recent dystopian fiction by multicultural writers in English who imagine America’s near futures. While the dystopian genre has long been used to challenge prevailing power structures, we focus on works that further feature minority protagonists, combining examinations of race and ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class in relation to contemporary themes of climate change, immigration, terrorism, globalization, and biotechnology. Authors include Margaret Atwood, Octavia Butler, Omar El Akkad, Chang-rae Lee, and Sabrina Vourvoulias. Also introduces the fundamentals of college-level writing, from a review of grammar and mechanics to discussions of textual analysis, thesis development, organizational structure, evidence use, synthesis of critics, and research methods. (Same as: ENGL 1015)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.
**ASNS 1043 (c, FYS)  East Asian Genre Cinema: The Martial Arts**
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 16.
Explores East Asian cinema from a genre perspective with a focus on transnational martial arts films. The course calls on social-cultural history and genre theory in examining the form and content of such films. The role of local/global and national/transnational relations in cinema is considered. And genre-specific issues, such as spectators’ perception or industry practices, are studied to discern the role of gender, nation, power, and historiography. After taking the course, students will be able to explain the theoretical concepts of genre cinema, analyze the genre’s visual formation, and comprehend the social-cultural implications of the genre. (Same as: CINE 1043)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

**ASNS 1046 (b, FYS)  Global Media and Politics**
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
Examines the impact of media including the Internet, newspapers, and television, on politics and society in cross-national perspective. Asks how differences in the ownership and regulation of media affect how news is selected and presented, and looks at various forms of government censorship and commercial self-censorship. Also considers the role of the media and “pop culture” in creating national identities, perpetuating ethnic stereotypes, and providing regime legitimation; and explores the impact of satellite television and the Internet on rural societies and authoritarian governments. (Same as: GOV 1026)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

**ASNS 1048 (b, FYS)  People Like Us: Class, Identity, and Inequality**
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
Our socioeconomic class shapes who we are. At the same time, class is a powerful form of inequality. We use three ethnographic case studies of class (in China, India, and in the U.S.), along with fiction, poetry, and film, to explore the following questions: How is class “performed” and interpreted in different cultures? How do class identities feed back into systems of inequality? How does class intersect with other forms of identity and inequality, such as gender, race, and caste? Key theorists are also brought into play. (Same as: ANTH 1029)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

**ASNS 1185 (b, ESD, IP)  Introduction to Africa-China Relations**
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.
Chinese and some African government officials speak of Africa-China relations as a “win-win” partnership, “traditional friendship”, and “brotherhood” predicated on historical, mutual marginalization by the West. Despite this, China and individual African countries remain highly unequal in their economic and political strength and global significance. There is also great diversity among the African Union’s fifty-four states in their responses to and engagement with Beijing. Is it possible in this situation to have symmetrical bilateral relations? How do African leaders shape relations between their nation and China? Is China’s engagement with African countries actually promoting development on the continent? Focusing on three key interaction points—precolonial Africa, the Bandung era (1955-1999), and “Going Out” (1999-present) — students will become acquainted with the actors, institutions, and domestic and global conditions driving engagement between the two regions. (Same as: AFRS 1185)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

**ASNS 1560 (c, IP)  Merchants, Mughals, Mendicants: India and the Early Modern World**
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.
Introductory exploration of the history of the Indian subcontinent and its connections to the broader world in an era shaped by the vibrant movement of people, goods, and ideas across the Indian Ocean, Europe, and Central Asia. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia. It also fulfills the non Euro/US and pre-modern requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 1440)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2016.

**ASNS 1625 (b, ESD, IP)  Everyday Life in India and Pakistan**
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.
Focuses on contemporary life in India and Pakistan by looking at everyday experiences and objects. Explores topics such as teen cybertculture, painted truck designs, romance fiction, AIDS activism, and memories of violence. These seemingly mundane topics offer a window onto larger cultural processes and enable us to examine identities and inequalities of gender, religion, caste, class, ethnicity, and nationality. Sources include ethnographic texts, essays, fiction, government documents, newspapers, popular and documentary films, and YouTube videos (Same as: ANTH 1138)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

**ASNS 1770 (c, IP)  Epics Across Oceans**
Christine Marrewa.
Introduces students to the classic Indian epics that form a core literary and cultural tradition within South and Southeast Asia: the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Examines how the epics were adapted across different kingships and polities in South and Southeast Asia, becoming part of the traditional culture of almost every part of this vast region. Since the royal patrons and the heroes of these epics were often linked, the manner in which the epics were told reveals the priorities of the different regions. Drawing on film, graphic novels, and multiple performance genres, explores the continuous reworking of these epics for both conservative and radical ends, from ancient India to the present day. (Same as: REL 1188)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

**ASNS 2002 (c, ESD, IP)  The Foundations of Chinese Thought**
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
Seminar. Addresses Chinese thought from the time of Confucius, ca. sixth century B.C.E., up to the beginning of the Common Era. The first half of the time period nurtured many renowned thinkers who devoted themselves to the task of defining and disseminating ideas. The latter half witnessed the canonization of a number of significant traditions, including Confucianism. Major problems that preoccupied the thinkers include order and chaos, human nature, the relationship between man and nature, among others. Students instructed to treat philosophical ideas as historically conditioned constructs and to interrogate them in contexts. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the pre-modern and non Euro/US requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2780)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2017.
ASNS 2005 (c, IP) Science, Technology, and Society in China
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines Chinese science, technology, and medicine in the cultural, intellectual, and social circumstances. The first part surveys a selection of main fields of study in traditional Chinese science and technology, nodal points of invention and discovery, and important conceptual themes. The second part tackles the clash between traditional Chinese natural studies and modern science from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. Prominent themes include astronomy and court politics, printing technology and books, and the dissemination of Western natural science, among others. Reading materials reflect an interdisciplinary approach and include secondary literature on cultural, intellectual history, ethnography, and the sociology of scientific knowledge. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2781)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

ASNS 2010 (c, IP) The Emergence of Chinese Civilization
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduction to ancient Chinese history (2000 B.C.E. to 800 C.E.). Explores the origins and foundations of Chinese civilization. Prominent themes include the inception of the imperial system, the intellectual fluorescence in classical China, the introduction and assimilation of Buddhism, the development of Chinese cosmology, and the interactions between early China and neighboring regions. Class discussion of historical writings complemented with literary works and selected pieces of the visual arts. Note: This course fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors. (Same as: HIST 2320)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2011 (c, ESD, IP) Late Imperial China
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduction to late imperial China (800 to 1800) as the historical background to the modern age. Begins with the conditions shortly before the Golden Age (Tang Dynasty) collapses, and ends with the heyday of the last imperial dynasty (Qing Dynasty). Major topics include the burgeoning of modernity in economic and political patterns, the relation between state and society, the voice and presence of new social elites, ethnic identities, and the cultural, economic, and political encounters between China and the West. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the pre-modern and non Euro/US requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2321)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2017.

ASNS 2012 (c, IP) China's Path to Modernity: 1800 to Present
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduction to modern and contemporary Chinese history. Covers the period from the nineteenth century, when imperial China encountered the greatest national crisis in its contact with the industrial West, to the present People's Republic of China. Provides historical depth to an understanding of the multiple meanings of Chinese modernity. Major topics include: democratic and socialist revolutions; assimilation of Western knowledge and thought; war; imperialism; the origin, development, and unraveling of the Communist rule. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2322, HIST 2322)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018.

ASNS 2020 (c, IP, VPA) Power and Politics in Pre-modern Chinese Art
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduces students to Chinese art from the First Emperors terracotta warriors in the third century BCE to the waning of the country's dynastic history in the nineteenth century CE. Following a chronological sequence, explores key mortuary spaces, religious objects, court art, and landscape painting with focus on themes of power and politics. Emphasis is placed on understanding changing art formats and functions in relation to socio-cultural contexts, such as shifts in belief systems, foreign imperial patronage, and the rise of literati expression. Readings include primary sources such as ancestral rites, Buddhist doctrines, imperial proclamations, and Chinese painting treatises. (Same as: ARTH 2710)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

ASNS 2050 (c, ESD, IP) Writing China from Afar
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.

The telling of a nation's history is often the concern not only of historical writings but also literary ones. Examines contemporary diaspora literature on three shaping moments of twentieth-century China: the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), and the 1989 Tiananmen democracy movement and massacre. Focuses on authors born and raised in China but since dispersed into various Western locales, particularly the United States, England, and France. Critical issues include the role of the Chinese diaspora in the historiography of World War II, particularly the Nanjing Massacre; the functions and hazards of Chinese exilic literature, such as the genre of Cultural Revolution memoirs, in Western markets today; and more generally, the relationship between history, literature, and the cultural politics of diasporic representations of origin. Authors may include Shan Sa, Dai Sijie, Hong Ying, Yan Geling, Zheng Yi, Yiyun Li, Gao Xingjian, Ha Jin, Annie Wang, and Ma Jian. (Same as: ENGL 2752)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.
ASNS 2060 (b, IP)  Contemporary Chinese Politics
Christopher Heurlin.
Examines the history and politics of China in the context of a prolonged revolution. Begins by examining the end of imperial rule, the development of Modern China, socialist transformations and the establishment of the PRC. After a survey of the political system as established in the 1950s and patterns of politics emerging from it, the analytic focus turns to political change in the reform era (since 1979) and the forces driving it. The adaptation by the Communist Party to these changes and the prospects of democratization are also examined. Topics include political participation and civil society, urban and rural China, gender in China, and the effects of post-Mao economic reform. (Same as: GOV 2440)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

ASNS 2061 (b, IP)  U.S. - China Relations
Aki Nakai.
Examines the development of United States relations with China. Begins with a brief historical examination of the Opium War, then examines United States policy towards the Nationalists and the Communists during the Chinese Civil War. In the aftermath of the civil war and subsequent revolution, the role of China in the Cold War will be discussed. Then focuses on more contemporary issues in United States-China relations, drawing links between the domestic politics of both countries and how they influence the formulation of foreign policy. Contemporary issues addressed include human rights, trade, the Taiwanese independence movement, nationalism, and China's growing economic influence in the world. (Same as: GOV 2540)
Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2017.

ASNS 2071 (c, IP)  China's Urbanization: Art and Architecture
Shu-chin Tsui.
Explores visual cultural trends in modern China with socialist and post-socialist conditions as the contextual setting and visual cultural studies the theoretical framework. Discussion topics include but not limited to the following: architecture, from the Imperial Palace to the Bird's Nest stadium; art, from socialist realism to post-socialist experiment; advertising, from Shanghai modern to global consumerism; and digital media, from the Internet to bloggers. Questions central to the course ask how visual cultural trends reflect and react to China's social-economic transitions, and how the state apparatus and the people participate in cultural production and consumption. This is a research-oriented course. Students gain knowledge about contemporary Chinese culture as well as skills in the critical analysis of cultural artifacts and trends.
Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2072 (c, IP, VPA)  History and Memory: China's Cultural Revolution through Film
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.
Examines China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) through the lens of cinema. Viewed as one of the most destructive mass movements in China's modern history, the CR dramatically shaped national politics and deeply affected the life of ordinary people. With film productions made during and after the CR as primary materials, the course seeks to explain the nature of the Cultural Revolution as well as how motion pictures (re)construct CR rhetoric and why the CR remains a source of trauma that haunts the memories of those who experienced it. Popular film titles such as "The White Haired Girl", "To Live", "Farewell My Concubine", and others will lead students on a journey through history via the cinemas of socialist model operas, post-socialist retrospections, and alternative re-constructions. The course aims to be intellectually thought-provoking and cinematically engaging. It fulfills the minor in Cinema Studies and Chinese as well as the major in Asian Studies. Neither a prerequisite nor knowledge of the Chinese language is required. Note: Fulfills the non-US cinema requirement for cinema studies minors. (Same as: CINE 2254)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 2074 (c, IP)  Gendered Bodies: Toward a Women's Art in Contemporary China
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.
Introduces students to an emerging subject that has yet to receive much attention from art critics or from scholars. Taking the body, especially the female body, as a discursive subject and visual medium, examines how women artists, through their artistic innovations and visual representations, search for forms of self-expression characterized by female aesthetics and perspectives. Included among topics covered are personal experience and history, sexuality and the gaze, pain and memory, and landscape aesthetics and the body. Examines how different visual media—such as painting, photography, installation, performance art, and video work—play a role in the development of women's art in contemporary China. (Same as: GSWS 2605)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

ASNS 2075 (c, IP, VPA)  Ecocinema: China's Ecological and Environmental Crisis
Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.
Examines how China's economic development has caused massive destruction to the natural world and how environmental degradation affects the lives of ordinary people. An ecological and environmental catastrophe unfolds through the camera lens in feature films and documentaries. Central topics include the interactions between urbanization and migration, humans and animals, eco-aesthetics and manufactured landscapes, local communities and globalization. Considers how cinema, as mass media and visual medium, provides ecocritical perspectives that influence ways of seeing the built environment. The connections between cinema and environmental studies enable students to explore across disciplinary as well as national boundaries. Note: Fulfills the non-US cinema requirement and the film theory requirement for cinema studies minors. (Same as: CINE 2075, ENVS 2475)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2017.
ASNS 2076 (c, IP)  Fashion and Gender in China
Shu-chin Tsui.
Examines how the dress women wear and the fashion consumers pursue reflect social-cultural identities and generate gender politics. Readings and discussions span historical periods, geographical locations, social-cultural groups, and identity categories. From bound feet to the Mao suit, and from qipao to wedding gowns, fashion styles and consumer trends inform a critical understanding of the nation, gender, body, class, and transnational flows. Topics include the intersections between foot-binding and femininity, qipao and the modern woman, the Mao suit and the invisible body, beauty and sexuality, oriental chic and re-oriental spectacle. With visual materials as primary source, and fashion theory the secondary, offers an opportunity to gain knowledge of visual literacy and to enhance analytical skills. (Same as: GSWS 2076)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 2078 (c, IP, VPA)  Going Viral: The Cinema of Pandemics
Shu-chin Tsui.
The onset of COVID-19 has led to anxiety and fear in our daily lives. The spread of this infectious disease and its destructive power prompts us to look to the film screen for ways we might comprehend the urgent subject confronting us. In considering how cinema has treated pandemics, the course will examine a number of thematic categories through cinematic articulations. The topics include but are not limited to: pandemics in history, the politics of pandemics, the fantasy or horror of pandemics, pandemics in Asia, and pandemics and animals. A carefully chosen roster of films include: The Seventh Seal, Outbreak and Contagion, The Flu that Killed 50 Million, Casandra Crossing, the South Korean productions of Flu and The Train to Busan, as well as 28 Days Later and Twelve Monkeys. The course meets the requirement for a major or minor in Asian studies, as well as the minor in cinema studies. (Same as: CINE 2080)

ASNS 2110 (c, IP)  Enemies of the State
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.
Seminar. Explores a series of historical individuals who have been incarcerated, exiled, or silenced by the Chinese state from the nineteenth through the twenty-first century. Covers three different regimes: the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912), the Republic of China (1912–1949), and People's Republic of China (1949–present). Main topics include state and state power, ethnic and religious conflicts, gender equality, and cyber activism. The selection of historical figures reflects the wide range and rich diversity of the Chinese population, including women, religious figures, and ethnic/sexual minorities. Note: This course fulfills the non euro/us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2782)
Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

ASNS 2200 (c, IP, VPA)  Art and Revolution in Modern China
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.
Examines the multitude of visual expressions adopted, re-fashioned, and rejected from China's last dynasty (1644-1911) through the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Major themes include the tension between identity and modernity, Westernization, the establishment of new institutions for art, and the relationship between cultural production and politics. Formats under study include ink painting, oil painting, woodcuts, advertisements, and propaganda. Comparisons with other cultures conducted to interrogate questions such as how art mobilizes revolution. (Same as: ARTH 2200)
Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2018.

ASNS 2201 (c, IP, VPA)  From Mao to Now: Contemporary Chinese Art
Peggy Wang.
Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2020; Spring 2021. Enrollment limit: 35.
Examines the history of contemporary Chinese art and cultural production from Mao's Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) until today. Traces experiments in oil, ink, performance, installation, video, and photography and considers these media and formats as artistic responses to globalization, capitalist reform, urbanization, and commercialization. Tracks themes such as art and consumerism, national identity, global hierarchies, and political critique. Readings include primary sources such as artists' statements, manifestos, art criticism, and curatorial essays. (Same as: ARTH 2210)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

ASNS 2252 (c, ESD, IP)  Culture and Conquest in Japan: An Introductory History to 1800
Sakura Christmas.
Every Year. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 35.
How did Japan become Japan? This course introduces the origins of Japan from the archeological record until industrial modernity. Lectures survey the unification of Japan under a court-centered state, the rise and demise of the samurai as its ruling order, and the archipelago's shifting relationship to the larger world. We will not only focus on the culture of conquest by the warrior class, but also conquest via culture as inhabitants of the archipelago transferred and transformed material commodities, knowledge systems, and sacred beliefs from beyond its horizons. Readings emphasize voices that comment on gender, status, religion, science, and nature. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It also meets the pre-modern and non euro/us requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2420)
ASNS 2270 (c, IP)  Gods, Goblins, and Godzilla: The Fantastic and Demonic in Japanese Literature and Film
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

From possessing spirits and serpentine creatures to hungry ghosts and spectral visions, Japanese literary history is alive with supernatural beings. Our study will range from the earliest times to modernity, examining these motifs in both historical and theoretical contexts. The readings will pose the following broad questions: How do representations of the supernatural function differently in myths of the ancient past and narratives of the modern nation? Are monstrous figures cast as miscreants, or do these transgressive figures challenge societal orthodoxy? How do Buddhist ideas influence the construction of demonic female sexuality in medieval Japan, and how is this motif redrawn in modern Japan? How are sociopolitical anxieties articulated in horror films like Godzilla? This course will draw on various genres of representation, from legends and novels to art and cinema. Students will gain an understanding of the cultural history of the monstrous in Japan and develop a broad appreciation of the hold that these creatures from the “other” side maintain over our cultural and social imagination. (Same as: GSWS 2236)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

ASNS 2271 (c, IP, VPA)  Samurai in History, Literature, and Film
Vyjayanthi Selinger.

An examination of representations of samurai in historical, literary, and filmic texts from the twelfth to the twentieth century. Topics include the changing understanding of the way of the warrior, the influence of warrior culture on the arts in medieval Japan, and the modern appropriation of the martial arts. Analyzes the romanticizing of samurai ethos in wartime writings and the nostalgic longing for a heroic past in contemporary films. Focus on the reimagining of the samurai as a cultural icon throughout Japanese history and the relationship of these discourses to gender, class, and nationalism. Readings include the “Tale of the Heike,” “Legends of the Samurai,” “Hagakure and Bushido: The Soul of Japan,” Films may include “Genroku Chushingura,” Akira Kurosawa’s “Seven Samurai,” and the animation series “Samurai 7.”

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2016.

ASNS 2292 (c, IP, VPA)  Sacred Arts of Japan
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduces religious artworks of Japan from the sixth century to the present day. Following a chronological sequence, examines artwork from Buddhist, Shinto, and Christian belief systems. Investigates two-dimensional works, sculpture, and architecture. Explores topics such as the relationship between ritual practice and the visual arts, images of heaven and hell, hidden icons, reliefs, and sacred and secular interactions in the visual realm. Readings taken from primary sources and scholarly articles in the field. (Same as: ARTH 2110)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

ASNS 2300 (c, ESD, IP)  Literature of World War II and the Atomic Bomb in Japan: History, Memory, and Empire
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

A study of Japan's coming to terms with its imperialist past. Literary representations of Japan's war in East Asia are particularly interesting because of the curious mixture of remembering and forgetting that mark its pages. Postwar fiction delves deep into what it meant for the Japanese people to fight a losing war, to be bombed by a nuclear weapon, to face surrender, and to experience Occupation. sheds light on the pacifist discourse that emerges in atomic bomb literature and the simultaneous critique directed toward the emperor system and wartime military leadership. Also examines what is missing in these narratives -- Japan's history of colonialism and sexual slavery -- by analyzing writings from the colonies (China, Korea, and Taiwan). Tackles the highly political nature of remembering in Japan. Writers include the Nobel prize-winning author Ôe Kenzaburô, Ôoka Shôhei, Kojima Nobuo, Shimao Toshio, Hayashi Kyoko, and East Asian literati like Yu Dafu, Lu Heruo, Ding Ling, and Wu Zhou Liu.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2017.

ASNS 2310 (c, ESD, IP)  The Japanese Empire and World War II
Sakura Christmas.

Seminar. Charts the sudden rise and demise of the Japanese empire in the making of modern East Asia. Once stretching from the Mongolian steppe to the South Seas mandate, the Japanese empire continues to evoke controversy to this day. Discussions call attention to competing imperial visions, which challenged the coherence of the project as a whole. Primary sources introduce the lived experience of various individuals—emperors and coolies alike—who both conquered and capitulated to the imperial regime. Topics covered include settler colonialism, independence movements, transnational labor, fascist ideology, environmental warfare, the conundrum of collaboration, and war trials. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the non euro/us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2890)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.
ASNS 2311 (c, ESD, IP) Modernity and Identity in Japan
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry sailed to Japan with four naval warships and issued an ultimatum: open up to trade or face foreign invasion. Charts Japan's swift emergence from its feudal origins to become the world's first non-Western, modern imperial power out of its feudal origins. Lectures introduce the origins, course, and consequences of building a modern state from the perspective of various actors that shaped its past: rebellious samurai, anarchist activists, the modern girl, imperial fascists, and office salarymen. Readings complicate dichotomies of East and West, modern and feudal, nation and empire through the lens of ethnicity, class, and gender. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the non euro/us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2421)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2016.

ASNS 2320 (b, ESD, IP) Japanese Politics and Society
Every Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.

Comprehensive overview of modern Japanese politics in historical, social, and cultural context. Analyzes the electoral dominance of the Liberal Democratic Party, the nature of democratic politics, and the rise and fall of the economy. Other topics include the status of women and ethnic minorities, education, war guilt, nationalism, and the role of the media. (Same as: GOV 2450)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017.

ASNS 2321 (b, IP) Global Media and Politics
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the interconnections between media, politics and society in cross-national perspective. Explores national differences in issues such as free speech policy; privacy rights; censorship and self-censorship; news production and consumption; and the role of public broadcasters such as the BBC and NHK. Also considers the role of pop culture in shaping national identities and creating diplomatic “soft power.” Cases drawn primarily but not exclusively from the UK, Japan and the USA. (Same as: GOV 2446)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

ASNS 2395 (b, IP) Japan and the World
Aki Nakai.

Explores the development of Japanese international relations since the Second World War and how Japan is currently adjusting its policies to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Despite having the world's third-largest economy and advanced technological resources, Japan has been widely viewed as underperforming in world affairs. The central question is whether Japan remains an "underperformer." Begins with a brief examination of Japanese foreign relations after the Meiji Restoration of 1868, then examines postwar Japanese foreign policy. Relations with the United States and China will receive special attention. Topics include Japanese participation in international institutions, the historical legacy of its past actions, the impact of US military bases in Japan, and contemporary debates over immigration. (Same as: GOV 2455)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

ASNS 2402 (c, IP, VPA) Japanese Popular Culture in Literature and Art
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduces students to the world of popular culture in contemporary Japan. With an eye upon historical and social contexts, explores a wide variety of media—manga (comics), anime (animation), literature, and art—and the role of pop culture in daily life, fashion, film, and music. Considers the interplay of Japan's popular culture with that of its East Asian neighbors and Japan's prominence within the global pop-mediascape. Topics include Miyazaki Hayao and environmentalism, gender roles and mobility, the self and subjectivities, idealized worlds and character tropes, disaster and recovery, and the rural-urban divide. No knowledge of Japanese required.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 2403 (c, ESD, IP) Japanese Science and Mystery Fiction
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

A trans-media survey of modern Japanese science and mystery fiction in literature, film, anime, and manga. Explores individual dreams, social nightmares, and the dynamics of utopia, ideology, dystopia, and futurism. Devotes considerable attention to the ways in which these genres respond to social forces, address disasters of natural and human origin, and contemplate the human relationship with science and technology, criminal justice, imagined worlds, and future panics. Also considers theoretical approaches to media studies and the historical and cultural context from which the selected texts have emerged.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

ASNS 2501 (c, IP) Construction of Goddess and Deification of Women in Hindu Tradition
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses include an examination of the manner in which the power of the feminine has been expressed mythologically and theologically in Hinduism; how various categories of goddesses can be seen or not as the forms of the “great goddess”; and how Hindu women have been deified, a process that implicates the relationship between the goddess and women. Readings may include primary sources, biographies and myths of deified women, and recent scholarship on goddesses and deified women. (Same as: GSWS 2289, REL 2289)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

ASNS 2550 (c, ESD, IP) Religion and Fiction in Modern South Asia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explains the nexus between religion and society in modern South Asia via the prism of South Asian literature in English. Confined to prose fiction, considering its tendency to attempt approximations of reality. Interrogates how ideas of religion and ideas about religion manifest themselves in literature and affect understanding of south Asian religions among its readership. Does not direct students to seek authentic insights into orthodox or doctrinal religion in the literary texts but to explore the tensions between textual religion and everyday lived reality in South Asia. (Same as: REL 2219)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2016.
ASNS 2551 (c, IP) Mahayana Buddhism
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Studies the emergence of Mahayana Buddhist worldviews as reflected in primary sources of Indian, Chinese, and Japanese origins. Buddhist texts include the Buddhacarita (Life of Buddha), the Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch, the Prajnaparamita-Hrdya Sutra (Heart Sutra of the Perfection of Wisdom), the Saddharmapundarika Sutra (the Lotus Sutra), the Sukhavati Vyuha (Discourse on the Pure Land), and the Vajracchedika Sutra (the Diamond-Cutter), among others. (Same as: REL 2223)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2017.

ASNS 2552 (c, IP) Hindu Literatures
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

In this exploration of Hindu texts, we delve into some of the most ancient and beloved literature from the Indian subcontinent. Students read major scriptural sources, including the Vedas and Upanishads. In our study of the epics (the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, including the Bhagavad Gita), we discuss translations from Sanskrit and popular retellings of these stories into other languages and media. We discuss the Puranas, reading the story of the warrior Goddess in the Devi Mahatmyam and investigate visual representations of gods and goddesses. We also sample Sanskrit classical poetry and devotional literature to the Goddess translated from Bengali. (Same as: REL 2220)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2016.

ASNS 2553 (c, IP) Religious Cultures of India
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

A view of the religious cultures of India “from the ground up,” focused on studies of lived religion beyond texts and institutional orthodoxies. With more than 1.3 billion people, India is home to an incredible diversity of religious cultures, including Hindu, Jain, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist traditions. Readings examine traditions of pilgrimage, temple worship, yoga, goddess possession, healing practices, and rites of passage, including the ordination of monks and nuns. Themes include women’s lived authority in contrast to patriarchal structures and contemporary intersections between religion, class, and modernity. Religious cultures of India also exist beyond the modern nation’s borders, as diaspora populations have grown around the world and traditions of yoga, gurus, and mantra meditation are popular globally. The course explores these religious cultures in relation to new media and transnational networks, including debates about the practice of Indian religions in Asia and beyond. (Same as: REL 2221)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

ASNS 2554 (c, ESD, IP) Early Buddhism
Claire Robison.

Introduces students to the major trajectories of Buddhist religious thought and practice. Readings include primary sources such as sermons, monastic codes, miracle tales, sutras, and poetry, as well as secondary scholarship on diverse lived Buddhist practices. Examines Buddhism’s transformations in specific historical and cultural settings, from its origins in South Asia to its spread throughout Central, East, and Southeast Asia. Highlights important historical developments, including early Buddhist monastic communities, philosophical traditions, the development of Buddhist art and architecture, Tibetan Buddhist traditions, devotion to the Lotus Sutra, Pure Land practice, and Chan/Zen traditions. Focuses on varied Buddhist practices and goals; dynamics of lay and monastic relations; debates about gender and ethnicity in Buddhist communities; and the interplay of everyday and transcendent concerns. (Same as: REL 2222)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2017.

ASNS 2555 (c, IP) Religion and Politics in South Asia
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introduction to religion and politics in a region that is home to about one-fourth of the world’s population, with a focus on India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Topics include religious nationalism, religion and violence, and the role of religion in legislative debates about sexuality and gender. Over the past few decades, the region has seen the growth of religious nationalisms in India and Pakistan, a civil war in Sri Lanka that divided citizens along religious and ethnic lines, and the militarization of Kashmir. But South Asia is also home to shared religious shrines and communities whose identities are “neither Hindu nor Muslim,” resisting easy categorizations. Pride parades are held in Indian cities, but debates ensue on the role of religion in legislating sexuality. Questions include: How is religion related to national identity? Should religion have a place in democratic legal systems? Can Buddhist monks justify the use of violence in times of war? (Same as: REL 2288)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020.

ASNS 2569 (b, IP) Health and Healing in South Asia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the universe of sickness and healing from the perspectives of people living in South Asia—India and surrounding countries—and addresses several related topics: how people in South Asia have conceived of the body, health, and illness; how local and global cultural, political, and economic factors influence health, illness, and healing; and how people in South Asia understand and experience illness and seek healing through biomedicine, indigenous medical systems, ritual, and religious healing. Readings include ethnographic, historical, and theoretical texts from cultural and medical anthropology. (Same as: ANTH 2440)

Prerequisites: ANTH 1101 or SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.
**ASNS 2581 (c, ESD, IP) The Making of Modern India and Pakistan**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Traces the history of India and Pakistan from the rise of British imperial power in the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Topics include the formation of a colonial economy and society; religious and social reform; the emergence of anti-colonial nationalism; the road to independence and partition; and issues of secularism, democracy, and inequality that have shaped post-colonial Indian and Pakistani society. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia and Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement of history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2342)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

**ASNS 2582 (c, ESD, IP) Media and Politics in Modern India**

Rachel Sturman.


Examines the new forms of politics and of popular culture that have shaped modernity in India. Topics include the emergence of mass politics, urbanization, modern visual culture, new media technologies, and contemporary media and democracy. Course includes a film component. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia and Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2343)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017.

**ASNS 2585 (c, ESD, IP) Global Cities, Global Slums of India**

Rachel Sturman.


Seminar. How have cities in the so-called "developing world" come to take their contemporary forms? How is life in these cities and slums lived? Explores these and other questions through a focus on modern India. Drawing on film, fiction, memoirs, urban planning, and other materials, examines the processes through which cities and slums have taken shape, ongoing efforts to transform them, as well as some of the diverse ways of representing and inhabiting modern urban life. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Colonial Worlds and South Asia. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2802)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017.

**ASNS 2586 (c, IP) Science and Technologies of Life in South Asia**

Rachel Sturman.


Seminar. Examines the history of science and technology by exploring how these knowledges have defined and shaped human and nonhuman life in South Asia in the modern era. Considers debates about scientific evidence, the making of scientific authority and expertise, and the cultures of technology, as well as the circulation of popular knowledges and their entanglements with privileged sciences. Focuses on how people have thought—and produced knowledge—about nature, the human body, and bodily differences (such as race, caste, gender, sexuality, ability). Topics may include: science and technology in the service of empire, nation, or capital (such as race science, tropical medicine, plantation agriculture, nuclear power, natural resource extraction); modern yoga and Ayurveda; the pharmaceutical industry and bioprospecting; theories of the origins of castes, tribes, or linguistic communities; and new reproductive and assistive technologies. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia, Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2804)

**ASNS 2601 (c, IP) Militancy and Monasticism in South and Southeast Asia**

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines monastic communities throughout South and Southeast Asia and the ways they have been at the forefront of right-wing religious politics in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Across Asia, Hindu and Buddhist monks have been playing a political role that some consider contradictory to their spiritual image. Investigates how various monastic communities harness political power today, as well as how different communities in early-modern Asia used their spiritual standing and alleged supernatural powers to influence emperors and kings. (Same as: REL 2228)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

**ASNS 2610 (b, IP) Saved By the Girl? Politics of Girlhood in International Development**

Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.

In recent decades, girls' education and empowerment has emerged as a key site for investment and advocacy. Girls are often represented as having the potential to solve wide-ranging societal issues, from poverty to terrorism. Interrogates the current focus on girls in international development by examining its cultural politics. What kinds of knowledges about people in the global south are produced in/through girl-focused campaigns? What is highlighted and what is erased? What are the consequences of such representations? Examinations lead to an exploration of the different theories of 'girl,' 'culture,' 'empowerment,' 'rights,' and 'citizenship' that are operative in this discourse. Situates girl-focused campaigns within the broader politics of humanitarianism and asks critical questions about conceptualizations of 'freedom' and the constitution of the 'human'. To provide a more nuanced understanding of the lives of girls in the global south, brings to bear ethnographic studies from Pakistan, Egypt, India, and Nepal. (Same as: GSWS 2268)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.
ASNS 2611 (b, ESD, IP)  The World’s Most Dangerous Place?: Gender, Islam, and Politics in Contemporary Pakistan
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.

The January 2008 cover image of The Economist calls Pakistan “The world’s most dangerous place.” Indeed, Pakistan has been variously called a “terrorist state,” a “failed state,” and a “lawless frontier.” This course engages in an academic study of the gender, religion, and politics in Pakistan to deepen students’ understanding of the world’s sixth-most populous country. We begin with accounts of the British colonization of South Asia and the nationalist movements that led to the creation of Pakistan. We then consider the myriad issues the nation has faced since 1947, focusing in particular on the debates surrounding gender and Islam, and Pakistan’s entanglements with the US through the Cold War and the War on Terror. In addition to historical and ethnographic accounts, the course will center a number of primary texts (with English translations) including political autobiographies, novels, and terrorist propaganda materials. Students will write a research paper as the final product. (Same as: GSWS 2271, GSWS 2710)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2620 (b, ESD, IP)  Sociological Perspectives on Asia(ns) and Media
Shruti Devgan.

Explores Asian national and diasporic/transnational social contexts through the lens of various media, including print, film, television, advertising, music, and digital media. Helps understand how media construct societies and cultures and, in turn, how social institutions, interactions, and identities get reflected in media. Focuses on South Asia to explore questions of ideology and power; political economy of media; construction and representations of gender, sexuality, race, social class, nation, and religion; generations; and social movements and change. (Same as: SOC 2520)

Prerequisites: SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2739 (c, IP)  Tantric Traditions
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Developed in the Indian subcontinent in the second millennium CE, tantric traditions often used transgressive practices, which violated rules of ritual purity. Examines “esoteric” (tantric) religious traditions, which spanned the continuum between heterodox and orthodox Hinduism, Buddhism, and Daoism. Studies tantric doctrines, rituals, and cosmologies, analyzing the role of deities, mantras, yantras (ritual diagrams), mudras (ritual gestures), meditation, and visualizations in tantric ritual. Surveys scriptures, philosophical treatises, and historical and anthropological studies to discuss the rise of tantric traditions and investigate contemporary constructions of Tantra in the West. (Same as: REL 2225)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

ASNS 2740 (c, ESD, IP)  Goddesses, Gurus, and Rulers: Gender and Power in Indian Religions
Claire Robison.

Provides a historical perspective on how gender and power have intertwined in the diverse religious traditions of India. Explores ideas about femininities, masculinities, and genderqueer identities in religious texts and premodern religious communities, analyzing the influence of monastic ideals, economic patronage, and gendered notions of divine authority. Readings examine mythology, rituals, and ideas about gender and social power in Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Muslim traditions; including gender roles in family and culture; transgender identity and religion; and, in the latter part of the course, the impacts of colonialism, nationalism politics, and migration on gender and religion. (Same as: REL 2280, GSWS 2292)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

ASNS 2745 (c, IP)  The Tigress’ Snare: Gender, Yoga, and Monasticism in South and Southeast Asia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

There is no dearth of stories regarding the dangers of women and sexuality for Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Nath yogis and ascetics. Texts after texts written on ancient, classical, and early modern Asian monasticism point to the evil of women and the dangers they pose to those attempting to live monastic lives. Women, however, have historically been and continue to be involved in these religious traditions. This class will examine the highly gendered worldview found within South and Southeast Asian yogic and monastic texts. Primarily reading Hindu, Nath yogi, Jain, and Buddhist canonical teachings, the class will discuss the manner in which women have historically been viewed within these religious traditions. It will then shift to look at the manner in which women have been and continue to take part in these communities in their everyday life. Through the use of both academic readings and multimedia texts, the class will examine how women navigate their roles within these male-dominated communities, their reasons for joining these communities, and the differences that exist for women within the different monastic and yogic communities. (Same as: GSWS 2745, REL 2745)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019.

ASNS 2750 (c, IP)  The Poetics of Emotion in China and Korea
John Kim.

Explores the relationship between form and feeling through a wide variety of poetry, fiction, philosophy, and visual sources from Chinese and Korean traditions, from The Classic of Poetry to Korean pop culture. With particular attention to the premodern period, examines how classical, vernacular, and popular forms create new spaces of feeling; how particular emotions shape cultural, philosophical, and political imaginations; and how environments and spaces, both real and projected, dialogue with selfhood and subjectivity. Addresses issues of language and representation, gender and sexuality, psychology and cognition, and crosscultural translation. Authors may include Wang Wei, Cao Xueqin, Yi Yulgok, and examples from Korean drama.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.
ASNS 2760 (c, IP) The Buddhist Tradition and Women
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores and explains the position of women in Buddhist canonical texts and women in Buddhist society. Analysis and discussion focuses on the complex "separate interdependence" between the family on the one hand, and the life of the renouncer on the other. This tension lies at the heart of the Buddhist position on women. Special attention given to selected narratives of women encountering the Buddha: Patacara and Kisagotami, the two women in deep sorrow from loss in the family, and Maha-Pajapati, the first fully ordained nun in Buddhism. Considers implications for the economic roles, access to education, and religious freedom for women in contemporary (Thai) Buddhist society. (Same as: REL 2287, GSWS 2355)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

ASNS 2801 (c, ESD) Asian American Literature
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introduction to the writings of Asian America and this literature's development from mid-twentieth century to the present. Focuses on the ways Asian American writers have responded to and contested dominant American discourses of Asia/Asians. Also explores the intersections of race with gender, sexuality, class, and country of origin in shifting notions of Asian American identity. Authors include Carlos Bulosan, David Henry Hwang, Maxine Hong Kingston, le thi diem thuy, Chang-rae Lee, and John Okada. (Same as: ENGL 2750)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2016.

ASNS 2802 (c, ESD, IP) Asian Diaspora Literature of World War II
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate Seminar. Focuses on World War II as a global moment when modernity's two sides, its dreams and nightmares, collided. Emphasis on contemporary Asian diaspora Anglophone fiction that probes the exclusions and failures of nation and empire—foundational categories of modernity—from both Western and Asian perspectives. On the one hand, World War II marks prominently the plurality of modernities in our world: as certain nations and imperial powers entered into their twilight years, others were just emerging. At the same time, World War II reveals how such grand projects of modernity as national consolidation, ethnic unification, and imperial expansion have led to consequences that include colonialism, internment camps, the atom bomb, sexual slavery, genocide, and the widespread displacement of peoples that inaugurates diasporas. Diaspora literature thus constitutes one significant focal point where modernity may be critically interrogated. (Same as: ENGL 2005)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 2804 (c, ESD, IP) Asian America's Aging
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Asian American literature is dominated by voices of youth: the child narrator and the bildungsroman genre have long been used by writers to tell not only personal coming-of-age stories but also that of Asian America itself, as a relative newcomer into the American nation-state and its cultural landscape. Focuses instead on the latecoming figure of the aged narrator in recent Asian American fiction, who constellates themes of dislocation and reclamation, memory, and the body rather than those of maturation and heritage. Explores old age as a vehicle for engaging contemporary issues of globalization and diaspora; historical trauma and cultural memory; life and biopolitics. Examines these works within the paradigm of transnational Asian America, which goes beyond the United States as geographical frame to shed light on the new diasporic identities and cultural politics emerging from twentieth-century global transits. (Same as: ENGL 2755)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

ASNS 2806 (c, ESD) New Fictions of Asian America
Belinda Kong.
Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2020; Spring 2021. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines developments in Asian American literature since 2000 and asks how postmillennial fictions extend earlier writings' core concerns with racial identity and national belonging in the United States. Themes and contexts include globalization and transnationalism, illegal immigration and refugee experience, the post-9/11 security state and surveillance, the expansion of Asian capital, the global financial crisis, digital technology and social media, and climate change. Considers the diverse genres and functions of Asian American literature as not simply ethnic self-writing but also social satire, political critique, historical archaeology, cultural memory, and dystopic science fiction. (Same as: ENGL 2758)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

ASNS 2808 (c) Asian Dystopias
Belinda Kong.

Intermediate Seminar. Focuses on contemporary dystopian novels by Asian and Asian diaspora writers. Explores the idea that dystopic fiction works not simply by reimagining time and forecasting bleak futures but also by remapping political spaces and redrawing social boundaries. Anarchists and vigilantes, aliens and clones, murderous children and mythic animal deities populate these worlds as writers examine totalitarianism and dissidence, globalization and labor slavery, pandemics and biotechnology, race riots and environmental devastation. (Same as: ENGL 2023)
ASNS 2809 (c, ESD, IP) Global Asian Popular Fiction
Belinda Kong; Hilary Thompson.

Explores the ways global Asian women writers have transformed popular genres as well as traditional forms as they address issues of gender identity, migration, political polarization, imperialist expansion, and ecological crisis. Examines how writers from East, South, and Southeast Asian lineages merge the anglophone novel and modern short story with modes spanning Asian and Western literary traditions, including myth, fairy tale, ancient epic, fantasy, romance, ghost tale, martial arts and magical narrative (wuxia and xianxia), and science fiction. Featured authors include Zen Cho, R. F. Kuang, and Tasha Suri, with possible brief works by Amanda Lee Koe, Anjali Sachdeva, Vandana Singh, Nghi Vo, and J. Y. Yang. (Same as: ENGL 2749)

ASNS 2831 (c) Religion on the Move: Religion, Migration, and Globalization
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Contemporary migration and globalization patterns have transformed where and how religious traditions are practiced, radically altering the landscape of local religion around the world. While migration has been integral to the development of many religious traditions, this course considers the role of colonialism, transnational religious networks, and the global flow of people and ideas in the creation of new religious identities. Readings highlight debates about the relation of religion to gender, ethnicity, and nationality, including the global popularity of yoga, Hindu identity in diaspora, transnational networks of Islamic learning, and changing gender norms in Buddhist monasteries. Through historical primary sources and recent ethnographies, this course focuses on questions such as: How is religious identity transformed by migration? Do religious rituals change in diaspora? And what role does religion play in shaping trends of globalization? (Same as: REL 2229)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2839 (c, ESD) Buddhism in America
Joshua Urich.

Examines the two major strands of Buddhism in America: that of immigrant communities and that which is practiced by Americans without preexisting cultural ties to Buddhist traditions. After a brief introduction to Buddhism’s emergence and spread in the first millennium, readings trace the differences between these varieties of American Buddhism. Themes to be explored include temples as sources of material, emotional, and spiritual support, Buddhist practices as source of cultural identity and connection to homelands, and religious innovations and controversies among American “converts.” These latter include the poetry of Allen Ginsberg, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, and the widespread commercialization of Zen. (Same as: REL 2522)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2855 (ESD, IP) The New Scramble for Africa: Capital Accumulation in the Global
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

More than a century after European powers initially carved up the African continent during the Berlin Conference (1884–1885), Africa is again attracting the renewed attention of foreign powers interested in its extractive resources, land, markets, and positioning. The contemporary landscape differs from the “Scramble for Africa,” as it marks a shift from a solidly Western-led initiative to one in which new actors from the global south are taking on more pivotal roles. Superpowers (the United States, China, and Russia), colonial powers (UK, France, and Belgium), and less powerful states (Japan, India, and Brazil) are in competition with emerging African nations (Nigeria and South Africa) for wealth and influence on the continent. The course dedicates considerable time to exploring contemporary interactions between African states and their most significant external partner—China—considering questions of neocolonialism and neoimperialism, and asks students to conclude whether a new scramble for Africa is underway. (Same as: AFRS 2826)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

ASNS 2860 (b, IP) Asian Communism: The Politics of China, Vietnam, North Korea, and Mongolia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the Asian communism in China, Vietnam, North Korea, and Mongolia. Asian communism presents a series of fascinating questions. Why did communist revolutions occur in some Asian states but not others? Why were relations between some Asian communist states peaceful while others were hostile? Why did some adopt significant economic reforms while others maintained command economies? Why did communist regimes persist in most Asian states, while Communism fell in Mongolia and all of Europe? The approach of the course is explicitly comparative and structured around thematic comparisons between the four states. (Same as: GOV 2445)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

ASNS 2872 (b, IP) The Two Koreas and Geopolitics of Northeast Asia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the tumultuous developments on the Korean peninsula over the past century and their significance from historical, security, economic, and geopolitical perspectives. The challenges and choices facing the Korean people, their governments, neighboring countries, and the United States are assessed to understand how conditions have evolved to the high-stakes tensions that exist today, and what forces are shaping the future of both Koreas and Northeast Asia. The first half of the course considers the history of both Koreas and the conditions that underlie the modern political environment. The second half focuses on political developments of the last twenty-five years. (Same as: GOV 2550)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018.
ASNS 2874 (c, IP) Madness in Korean Literature and Film  
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.

Madness as a theme cuts across many literary and cultural traditions in the world, but it also takes distinct forms within Korea. Examines fiction, poetry, and film from Korea's colonial period in the early twentieth century to the present emerging Korean pop culture industry. Explores the forms madness takes in these works and the politics of madness in Korea over the last century, including the discourse of madness around North Korea. With attention to political, economic, social, and technological forces, asks how madness illuminates problems of language and representation, gender and sexuality, and morality and cynicism. Authors may include Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Han Kang, Kim Tongni, Na Hong-jin, Park Chan-wook, O Chonghui, and Yi Sang.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2018.

ASNS 2875 (c, IP) Korea Beyond Borders: Contemporary Literature and Film  
John Kim.  

Examines the ways in which contemporary Korean literature and film take on the world. Looks beyond received cultural and historical boundaries by exploring how the world figures within the Korean cultural imagination, as well as how Korea might fit in with the rest of the world. Drawing from, but not limited to, the fiction and films emerging after the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and Asian financial crises of the 1990s and as part of the recent global surge of Korean pop culture, follows Korean writers, filmmakers, and their characters, as they move between national borders (North/South Korea, Japan, China, Vietnam Soviet Union, Europe, Australia, and the US) and boundaries of genre, form, language, and identity. Explores themes of history and memory; relocation and dislocation; capitalism and globalization; technology and reimagining the human. Authors and filmmakers may include: Han Kang, J. M. Lee, Bong Joon-ho, Min Jin Lee, Lee Chang-dong, Kim Youngha, and Bae Suah.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2880 (c, ESD) Asian American History, 1850 to the Present  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Surveys the history of Asian Americans from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Explores the changing experiences of Asian immigrants and Asian Americans within the larger context of American history. Major topics include immigration and migration, race relations, anti-Asian movements, labor issues, gender relations, family and community formation, resistance and civil rights, and representations of Asian Americans in American popular culture. Readings and course materials include scholarly essays and books, primary documents, novels, memoirs, and films. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2161)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2017.

ASNS 2881 (c, ESD) Japanese American Incarceration: Removal, Redress, Remembrance  
Connie Chiang.  
Every Other Year. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines the mass imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Focuses on how historians have interpreted this episode and how Japanese Americans have remembered and reclaimed it. Topics include government justifications for incarceration, the operation of the camps, the diverse experiences of Japanese Americans, the postwar redress movement, and historical memory and commemorations. Also analyzes the political application of this history in discussions of contemporary immigration policy and social justice more broadly. Readings include secondary and primary sources, such as court cases, government documents, films, photography, art, oral histories, memoirs, and fiction. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2641)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

ASNS 2890 (c, IP) East Asian Environmental History, 1600-2000  
Every Other Spring. Fall 2020. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. The Anthropocene defines an epoch in which humans have become the dominant force in shaping their environment. Examines the role of East Asia in the emergence of this new era, from the seventeenth century to the present. In debating the narrative of ecological change in China, Japan, and Korea, readings and discussions focus on how successive regimes transformed their environments, and conversely, how those environments also structured modern human society. Questions what specific political, social, and economic changes triggered the Anthropocene in East Asia; how cultural, religious, and intellectual constructs have conditioned its arrival and acceleration. Weekly topics include: commodity frontiers, environmental sustainability, public health, industrial pollution, and nuclear technology. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the non euro/ us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2891, ENVS 2491)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

ASNS 2892 (c, IP) Maps, Territory, and Power in Asia  
Sakura Christmas.


Seminar. From the Mercator projection to GPS, maps structure our lived experience as much as they reflect “objective” representations of our surroundings. This seminar examines the geopolitical formations of and within Asia through the history of cartography from the seventeenth century to the present. In exploring both inland and maritime frontiers, we analyze how this technology has sought to exert scientific hegemony over alternate conceptions of space in Asian contexts in order to legitimize state power, be it imperialist, nationalist, or globalist. In so doing, we trace the deep history of contemporary border disputes on land and at sea. In Spring 2021, this seminar will consist of a combination of remote and in-person discussions, with hands-on labs focusing on original specimens in special collections. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Colonial Worlds, East Asia and South Asia. It fulfills the non euro/us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2892)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.
ASNS 2900 (c, IP, VPA)  Hollywood Imagination of Asia  
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

How has Hollywood treated Asia and Asians? To what extent have Hollywood film productions engaged in either erotic fascination or racial prejudice, when presenting Asia as a cinematic setting and Asians as a cultural other? Examining Hollywood’s imaginative visions of the east, the course takes students on an exploratory journey from classic Hollywood films to contemporary blockbusters. Issues may include race and stardom in "Shanghai Express", yellowface in "Good Earth", the exotic Asian female in "The World of Suzie Wong", stereotypes of Tibetans in "Seven Years in Tibet", and an American’s perception of Tokyo in "Lost in Translation". We will also explore the Orientalist imagination through sexualized Geisha or masculinized Mulan as well as transnational crossings in the animated film "Kungfu Panda". In addition to analyzing themes and the social-cultural implications of films, the course also introduces students to the cinematic language: mise-en-scene, cinematography, and editing. Counts toward the major in Asian studies and the minor in cinema studies. (Same as: CINE 2078)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2018.

ASNS 2910 (b, ESD) Asian American Experience  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores the experience of Asian Americans in contemporary US society. Focusing on the present but drawing from historical experience, we look at important elements and issues for Asian Americans today: the role of immigration and immigration policy; the advantages and disadvantages of the promotion of a pan-Asian culture; the particular experiences of different Asian cultures in the US; the “myth of the model minority”; and the role of gender in these experiences. Also discusses what an understanding of Asian American experience adds to our understanding of race and ethnicity in the US today. (Same as: SOC 2268)

Prerequisites: SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

ASNS 2920 (b, IP) Political and Economic Development in East Asia  
Aki Nakai.  

Provides an introduction to diversity and development in East Asia. The course first focuses on the rise and decline of a China- and a Japan-centric order before WWII and discusses their historical impacts on today's domestic politics and international relations. The course then traces the postwar political economic developments. It examines the economic miracles in Asian countries and discusses their democratization. It also presents the process of Chinese economic reform and its impacts on the regional order. The course finishes with an examination of the Asian financial crisis and its impacts on regional politics. (Same as: GOV 2444)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2921 (b, IP) International Relations in East Asia  
Aki Nakai.  

Analyzes relations between the various states in East Asia and between those states and countries outside the region, including the United States. The course addresses empirical and theoretical questions, including: What are the threats to peace and prosperity in the region, and how are the different countries responding? What explains the foreign policy strategies of different countries, including China and Japan, and how have they changed over time? How can broader theories of international relations inform, and be informed by, the nature of foreign policy choices in this region? Is East Asia headed toward greater cooperation or conflict? (Same as: GOV 2694)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019.

ASNS 2959 (c, ESD, IP) A History of Human Rights  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Traces the emergence of ideas of universal humanity and human rights, as these took shape in the context of European imperial expansion from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries. Uses case studies of Europeans and their interlocutors in Latin America, Asia, and Africa to explore the seeming contradiction and actual historical connections between empire and appeals to humanity, as well as to consider the operation of transnational institutions like the United Nations since the mid-twentieth century. Students will engage in original research on a topic of their choice. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for History majors and minors. This course emphasizes the skills and approaches to writing in History (Same as: HIST 2803)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2018.

ASNS 3010 (c, IP) Neo-Confucianism  
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the so-called Neo-Confucian philosophy in historical contexts. The principle themes include ethics, cosmology, and epistemology. When most people think of Chinese philosophy, they think of philosophers from the classical period, e.g., Confucius. But these thinkers marked only the beginning of a rich and prolific philosophical tradition that continued for over two millennia. This class presents the central texts and themes of Neo-Confucianism and guides students to investigate them in the history of East Asia from 900 through early 1900s. The primary geographical focus is China, but we will also read works of important thinkers in Japan and Korea. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the pre-modern and non Euro/US requirements for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 3321)

Prerequisites: ASNS 1000 - 2969 or ASNS 3000 or higher or HIST 1000 - 2969 or HIST 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.
ASNS 3060 (b, IP) Capitalism and State Power in China
Christopher Heurlin.

Seminar. Explores the paradoxes of contemporary China, a communist regime that boasts economic growth rates that are the envy of the world. While communism failed in Eastern Europe decades ago, the Chinese Communist Party has been surprisingly successful and leads one of the oldest dictatorships in the world. Explores how capitalism and state power actually work in China. Topics include ethnic patronage and corruption, elite politics, popular protest, elections, and civil society. Students develop and write a research paper on contemporary Chinese politics. Previous coursework in Chinese politics is not necessary. (Same as: GOV 3410)

Prerequisites: GOV 1000 - 2969 or GOV 3000 or higher or ASNS 1000 - 2969 or ASNS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017.

ASNS 3070 (c, VPA) Historicizing the Contemporary: Topics in Recent Chinese Art
Peggy Wang.

Identifies and explores key topics in recent publications of contemporary Chinese art. Alongside of subject matter, students analyze usages of socio-political context and methodologies for framing different narratives of contemporary Chinese art. Through studies of individual artists and larger contemporary art trends, students unpack current art histories while also proposing alternative approaches. Readings include monographs, exhibition catalogs, interviews, and systematic reviews of journals. Questions include: What are the challenges of historicizing the present? How does the global art world reconcile the existence of multiple art worlds? How have artists intervened in narratives of contemporary Chinese art? (Same as: ARTH 3200)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

ASNS 3080 (c, IP, VPA) China’s Cultural Revolution through Film
Shu-chin Tsui.

Examines China’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) through the lens of cinema. Viewed as one of the most destructive mass movements in China’s modern history, the CR dramatically shaped national politics and deeply affected the life of ordinary people. With film productions made during and after the CR as primary materials, the course seeks to explain the nature of the Cultural Revolution as well as how motion pictures (re)construct CR rhetoric and why the CR remains a source of trauma that haunts the memories of those who experienced it. Popular film titles such as “The White Haired Girl”, “To Live”, “Farewell My Concubine”, and others will lead students on a journey through history via the cinemas of socialist model operas, post-socialist retrospections, and alternative re-constructions. The course aims to be intellectually thought-provoking and cinematically engaging. Note: The course fulfills the major in Asian studies and minor in Chinese. It also fulfills the non-US cinema requirement for cinema studies minors (Same as: CINE 3053)

Prerequisites: ASNS 1000 - 2969 or ASNS 3000 or higher or CINE 1000 - 2969 or CINE 3000 or higher.

ASNS 3260 (c, IP, VPA) Japanese Prints
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 12.

Introduces students to the breadth of Japanese print culture, from early Buddhist images to twentieth-century artworks. Explores early modern landscapes, “beautiful women,” and actor prints, as well as modern political, creative, and revival prints. Uses the collection of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art to investigate relevant artworks. Emphasis is placed on issues of economy, production, and socio-cultural contexts such as the masculine culture of early modern urban Japan, and globalization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Chronological topics focus on the seventeenth through twentieth centuries. (Same as: ARTH 3180)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

ASNS 3300 (b, IP) Advanced Seminar in Japanese Politics
Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 15.

Analyzes the political, social, and cultural underpinnings of modern politics and asks how democracy works in Japan compared with other countries. Explores how Japan has achieved stunning material prosperity while maintaining among the best healthcare and education systems in the world, high levels of income equality, and low levels of crime. Students are also instructed in conducting independent research on topics of their own choosing. (Same as: GOV 3400)

Prerequisites: ASNS 2320 (same as GOV 2450) or GOV 2450.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

ASNS 3760 (c, IP) Beyond Western Harmony: Composing with a Global Perspective
Vineet Shende.

Although functional harmony is the central organizing principle of Western music, it is completely absent in other complex musical systems around the world. Considers other means of music organization and how to incorporate those concepts in students’ compositions. Topics include traditional polymeter in Ewe drumming, scale construction and metric design in Indian raag and taal, Confucian philosophy in Chinese sizhu music, and colotomic organization in Javanese gamelan. (Same as: MUS 3502)

Prerequisites: MUS 2401 or MUS 2403 or MUS 2501.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.
ASNS 3801 (c, ESD, IP) Imagined Asias
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines how Asia has been represented by America and Europe and how Asian authors have responded. Draws from a wide archive of literature, theory, film, and mass culture from mid-nineteenth century to the present. Not a survey. Focus on case studies that explore historical exemplars of as well as conceptual alternatives to the critical model of orientalism, which regards western depictions of Asia as necessarily reflecting the culture of empire. Issues include US racial discourses of exoticism and the yellow peril; western modernist and postmodern appropriations of “oriental” cultures for self-critiques; and strategies of hybridity, self-orientalism, and occidentalism by Asian and Asian diasporic writers and filmmakers. Possible works by Edward Said, Pierre Loti, Bret Harte, Jack London, Winnifred Eaton, David Henry Hwang, Ezra Pound, Italo Calvino, Roland Barthes, Gayatri Spivak, Rey Chow, J. G. Ballard, Kazuo Ishiguro, Amitav Ghosh, Haruki Murakami, Bei Dao, Shan Sa, Su Tong, Ang Lee, Wong Kar-wai, and Stephen Chow. (Same as: ENGL 3028)

Prerequisites: ENGL 1000 - 2969 or ENGL 3000 (same as GSWS 3000) or higher or ASNS 1000 - 2969 or ASNS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017.

ASNS 3811 (c, IP, VPA) Art for the People: Between Propaganda and Protest in East Asia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 12.

Examines manifestations and mobilizations of “art for the people” from the early twentieth century to today. Focuses on ideological imperatives in modern and contemporary Chinese art and invites cross-cultural examples from East Asian democracy movements and global pop spectacle. Asks “Who are the people?” and how art has been used to define and serve them. Discussions call attention to the implication of art in politics as well as the use of art in protest. Considers artists’ tactics for intervening in institutional and ideological claims on “the people” and limitations of national and class boundaries. Topics include publicness, mass media, art school pedagogy, and social art practice. (Same as: ARTH 3210)

Prerequisites: ARTH 1000 - 2969 or ARTH 3000 or higher or ASNS 1000 - 2969 or ASNS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

ASNS 3820 (c) Law and Justice in East Asia
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines how law and justice in East Asia became markers of modernity and sovereignty from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries. The kinds of punishment used in a society often act as a measure in judging whether that society is civilized or barbaric, advanced or backward. Major themes include: stereotypes of “oriental barbarism,” torture and capital punishment, village law and gender, extraterritoriality and imperialism, sentiment and mass media, war tribunals, and thought reform. Students analyze legal documents in translation alongside recent scholarship in the field and write a major paper based on primary source research. No prior knowledge of an Asian language necessary. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: East Asia. It fulfills the non euro/us requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 3420)

Prerequisites: ASNS 2000 - 2969 or HIST 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2017.