Asian Studies

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Gyoung-Ah Lee, anthropology (China and Korea)

David Leiwei Li, English (Chinese film and Asian American literature)

Kenneth B. Liberman, sociology

Susanna Soojung Lim, honors college

Jenny Lin, history of art and architecture

HyeRyoung Ok, journalism and communication (Korean media)

Eileen M. Otis, sociology (China)

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Bharat Venkat, anthropology (South Asia)

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Akiko Walley, history of art and architecture (Japan)

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- **Bachelor of Arts**
- **Minor in East Asian Studies**
- **Minor in South Asian Studies**
- **Minor in Southeast Asian Studies**

Undergraduate Studies

The Asian Studies Program's interdisciplinary program leads to a bachelor of arts (BA) degree in Asian studies.

Students may focus their studies on Japan, China, Korea, or, with outside language study, a special interdisciplinary major in Southeast Asian or South Asian studies. Students may enhance majors in other departments with a minor in East Asian studies, South Asian studies, or Southeast Asian studies.

Students who major in Asian studies often complement their course work with a year or more of residence in Asia or a double major to combine a profession with their area of expertise. Job possibilities are increasing in such fields as business, journalism, government, and education. Many students go on to graduate studies.

The curriculum includes courses in anthropology, art history, dance, ethnic studies, film, geography, history, international studies, linguistics, political science, religious studies, and Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language and literature. The program is administered by the Asian studies committee, which is composed of faculty members with Asian specializations.

Declaring a Major

To be accepted into the Asian studies major, a student must request acceptance as a major in the Asian studies office before attaining senior status. Depending on interests and career objectives, students are encouraged to discuss with their advisors or the program director the advisability of pursuing a second major in a supporting discipline or preprofessional program.

Major Requirements

The major in Asian studies offers

- strong training in at least one Asian language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean)
- knowledge of the histories and cultures of the societies in which that language is used
- a sense of how academic disciplines contribute to interdisciplinary study
- a knowledge of transnational Asia beyond the primary language and civilization focus listed above

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

Students must complete 48 credits as specified below. As many as 8 of these credits may be taken pass/no pass; at least 40 of the 48 credits must be chosen at the 300 level or above. All other courses used to satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with grades of C– or better. Students should consult their advisors in planning programs of study.

Seminar		
ASIA 350	What Is Asia: Theoretical Debates	4
Subregional Interdisciplinary Focus [1]		
Six courses in the chosen subregion, if available; two courses must be in history, two in the social sciences, and two in the humanities; may include as many as 15 credits of upper-division Asian language courses related to the chosen subregion		24
Discipline or Thematic Focus		
Three courses in one discipline or theme [2]		12
Regional Breadth		
Course in Asian studies outside chosen subregion; may include lower-division language courses of a second Asian language		4
Language Requirement		
Two years of Asian language related to the chosen subregion [3]		

1 Subregions: China, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, South Asia

2 Disciplines or themes include but are not limited to film, food, literature, religion, pop culture, linguistics, or art. Discipline and thematic courses may be double-dipped from Interdisciplinary courses, but the major must include a minimum of 48 credits. Courses selected for the thematic area do not need to be taken within the declared subregional focus area. Courses selected for the thematic area cannot be language-based; linguistic and literature courses are acceptable.

3 Chinese and Japanese are taught through the fifth year in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures. Languages must be taken for letter grades and passed with grades of C– or better. Under special circumstances, students may demonstrate an equivalent competence by examination or by work in advanced language courses.

Minor Requirements

Students should consult with the program director to determine whether a course has a full or partial focus on East Asia, South Asia, or Southeast Asia. A list of preapproved courses for each minor is available in the Asian studies office. Students should acquaint themselves with the selection of experimental courses offered each term and may pursue directed readings with East Asian, South Asian, or Southeast Asian specialists. First- and second-year language courses cannot be used to satisfy requirements for the minor.

Minor in East Asian Studies

Courses from at least two departments focused on East Asia		20
ASIA 350	What Is Asia: Theoretical Debates	4
Two years of study in relevant Asian language or equivalent level of proficiency		
Total Credits		**24**

At least 12 of the 24 credits must be upper division.

Minor in South Asian Studies

Courses in South Asia history	4
Course in South Asian history, religion, or philosophy	4
Course in contemporary South Asian issues	4
Course on South Asian media or culture	4
Courses with full or partial South Asia focus	8
Total Credits	**24**

At least 12 of the 24 credits must be upper division. Students must consult with one of the South Asia faculty members when determining courses to take.

In addition, students must either demonstrate first-year proficiency in any South Asian vernacular language or complete a ten-week term of study or internship in South Asia, under the supervision of a member of the UO South Asia faculty.

Minor in Southeast Asian Studies

Courses focused on Southeast Asia [1]	20
Course with partial focus on Southeast Asia	4

1 At least 12 credits must be upper division.

Four-Year Degree Plan

The degree plan shown is only a sample of how students may complete their degrees in four years. There are alternative ways. This degree plan would grant a BA in Asian studies with a focus on Japan.

This degree plan is for general planning purposes only and, due to the interdisciplinary nature of the major, it is imperative that students

speak with advisors to determine which courses would best match their personal, professional, and academic goals.

Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
First Year		
Fall		
JPN 101	First-Year Japanese	5
WR 121	College Composition I	4
Group-satisfying course in science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
Winter		
JPN 102	First-Year Japanese	5
WR 122	College Composition II	4
Group-satisfying course in social science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
Spring		
JPN 103	First-Year Japanese	5
HIST 192	Japan, Past and Present	4
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters unrelated to Asian studies		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
	Total Credits	**51**

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
Second Year		
Fall		
JPN 201	Second-Year Japanese	5
JPN 305	Introduction to Japanese Literature	4
Group-satisfying course in science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
Winter		
JPN 202	Second-Year Japanese	5
JPN 306	Introduction to Japanese Literature	4
Group-satisfying course in social science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
Spring		
JPN 203	Second-Year Japanese	5
JPN 307	Introduction to Japanese Literature	4
ASIA 350	What Is Asia: Theoretical Debates	4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
	Total Credits	**51**

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
Third Year		
Fall		
JPN 301	Third-Year Japanese	5
ARH 209	History of Japanese Art	4
Group-satisfying course in science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
Winter		
JPN 302	Third-Year Japanese	5
JPN 399	Special Studies: [Topic](Ghosts & Monsters)	4
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters unrelated to Asian studies		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
Spring		
JPN 303	Third-Year Japanese	5
ANTH 345	Archaeology of East Asia	4
Group-satisfying course in science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**17**
	Total Credits	**51**

Course	Title	Credits Milestones
Fourth Year		
Fall		
HIST 396	Samurai in Film	4
Group-satisfying course in arts and letters unrelated to Asian studies		4
Group-satisfying course in social science		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**16**
Winter		
JPN 434	Advanced Readings in Japanese Literature	4
Group-satisfying course in social science		4
Multicultural course		4
Elective course		4
	Credits	**16**
Spring		
PS 460	Political Economy of East Asia	4
Elective courses		8
	Credits	**12**
	Total Credits	**44**

- **Master of Arts: Area Studies Track**
- **Master of Arts: Disciplinary Track**
- **Second Master's Degree**
- **Graduate Specialization**

Graduate Studies

The university offers an interdisciplinary program in Asian studies with an emphasis on East Asia, Southeast Asia, or South Asia leading to the master of arts (MA) degree. The MS degree program is inactive.

The curriculum includes courses in anthropology, art history, Chinese language and literature, geography, history, international studies,

Japanese language and literature, linguistics, political science, and religious studies. The program is administered by the Asian studies committee, which is composed of faculty members with Asian specializations.

Prior to registration, the Asian studies committee assigns each student an advisor, who helps the student develop an individualized program. At the end of the first year, the student should form a graduate thesis committee of two to three faculty members to provide guidance through the second year of study and thesis preparation. Graduate students should meet with their advisors at least once a term.

Application for Admission

An applicant for admission to the master's program must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year university. It is expected that applicants have a minimum of three years of language study and some undergraduate preparation in courses relating to Asia. Students lacking adequate Asian language or disciplinary training must take appropriate preparatory courses, for which no graduate credit is earned.

Required materials for admission and financial aid are as follows:

1. University of Oregon application form and application fee
2. Transcripts of all college or university course work, including the final transcripts for any degree received
3. Three letters of recommendation
4. Statement of objectives
5. Writing sample
6. Test score for Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) and either Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores. International applicants must submit a TOEFL score of at least 575 (paper-based test) or 88 (Internet-based test) or an IELTS score of at least 7, unless they have received a bachelor's degree from a college or university in an English-speaking country, such as Australia, Canada (excluding Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom
7. Supplementary Application and Financial Statement for International Students must be submitted to the UO Office of Admissions by international applicants
8. Application for Graduate Award, if applying for graduate employment (e.g., a graduate teaching fellowship)

The application deadline is January 5 for admission the following fall term. Application information and materials are available online and from the Asian studies office.

Master's Degree Requirements

Students pursuing an MA in Asian studies must complete 48 credits of graduate study, including at least 44 in Asia-related courses. Graduate credit for language study may only be earned for work beyond the third-year level.

600-Level Courses. The Graduate School requires that at least 9 credits in courses numbered 600–699 must be taken in residence.

Graded Courses. 24 of the total credits required must be earned at the University of Oregon for a letter grade. A minimum of 36 credits of course work and a minimum of 9 credits of Thesis (ASIA 503) is required. Credit for the thesis is given pass/no pass. In the final term, master's students must register for at least 3 credits, at least 1 of which must be in Thesis (ASIA 503).

Continuous Enrollment and On-Leave Status. Master's students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment for a minimum of 3 credits each term until all degree requirements have been completed, unless on-leave status has been approved.

Minimum GPA. Graduate students must maintain at least a 3.00 grade point average (GPA) in all graduate courses taken with a graded option.

Time Limit. All requirements for the master's degree must be completed within a seven-year time period.

Master of Arts: Area Studies Track

ASIA 611	Perspectives on Asian Studies: [Topic] [1]	1
ASIA 612	Theory and Methodology in Asian Studies: [Topic] [1]	3
Seminars or colloquia		8
Two courses in architecture, art history, literature, music, religious studies		8
Two courses in anthropology, economics, geography, international studies, political science		8
Two history courses		8
Two courses in a region other than the primary language and civilization focus [2]		8
ASIA 503	Thesis	9
Total Credits		**53**

1. Take during first year.
2. Perspectives on Asian Studies: [Topic] (ASIA 611), Theory and Methodology in Asian Studies: [Topic] (ASIA 612), and interdisciplinary courses may be used to satisfy this cross-regional awareness requirement.

In some circumstances and in consultation with advisors, students may petition the director to waive the thesis requirement for the degree. If the waiver is granted, the student is expected to complete 56 graduate credits (of which at least 44 are Asia-related), submit two substantial research papers on Asian topics developed in seminars or colloquia, and pass an examination addressing general Asian studies topics. The thesis and research papers are to include a minimum of two non-English sources appropriate to the region to demonstrate language proficiency.

Master of Arts: Disciplinary Track

Courses within the primary region of focus, drawn from two or more departments		16
Courses in primary discipline with at least one theory or methods course chosen in consultation with an advisor or the program director		12
Courses in region other than primary focus [1]		8
ASIA 503	Thesis	9
Additional course work		3
Total Credits		**48**

1. Perspectives on Asian Studies: [Topic] (ASIA 611) and Theory and Methodology in Asian Studies: [Topic] (ASIA 612) may be counted toward this cross-regional focus.

Academic courses are to be mutually agreed upon by an academic advisor and the program director. A list of Asia-related courses approved

for inclusion in the Asian studies graduate curriculum is available from the program coordinator.

Students should also review the Graduate School's regulations for information on the university's general master of arts degree requirements.

Second Master's Degree

Students enrolled in graduate programs offered by other departments may earn a second master's degree in Asian studies. Besides satisfying the degree requirements set by the other departments, such students must complete the following:

Approved Asia-related graduate courses		32
ASIA 611	Perspectives on Asian Studies: [Topic]	1
ASIA 612	Theory and Methodology in Asian Studies: [Topic]	3
Demonstrate the language competence required for the MA degree in Asian studies		
Thesis [1]		
Total Credits		**36**

[1] Applies the methodology of the student's discipline to an Asian subject.

The requirements for both the Asian studies and the departmental degree programs must be completed at the same time. A student completing this option is granted two master's degrees, one in Asian studies and another in the departmental discipline.

Graduate Specialization in Asian Studies

The 16-credit graduate specialization in Asian studies is open to all UO graduate students except for MA students in the Asian Studies Program. This specialization enhances student education and future marketability in careers with nongovernmental or international organizations, the media, government service, education, or the academe.

Overview

In collaboration with faculty members, students achieve mastery in Asian studies by

- analyzing and critiquing primary and secondary sources related to Asia
- developing multiple disciplinary perspectives, sources, methods, and modes of analyses used in the study of Asia
- identifying major themes in Asian history, particularly historical continuities and critical junctures
- developing an advanced understanding of Asia's physical and political geography
- studying major topical issues relevant to modern Asia, which may include economic development, tropical diseases, environmental change, and globalization
- honing skills to critically analyze modern debates about Asia

Specialization Requirements

Core Seminars		
ASIA 611	Perspectives on Asian Studies: [Topic]	1
ASIA 612	Theory and Methodology in Asian Studies: [Topic]	3
Breadth Requirement		
Three 4-credit courses [1]		12
Total Credits		**16**

[1] Must include more than one academic discipline and more than one Asian country. One course must be outside the student's focal academic division (e.g., humanities, social science). No more than two of the three courses may be substantially focused on the same Asian country.

To apply for the graduate specialization, fill out the Graduate School form (https://gradschool.uoregon.edu/sites/gradschool2.uoregon.edu/files/Specialization%20Declaration.pdf).

The Graduate School has general information (http://gradschool.uoregon.edu/academic-programs/#specializations) about graduate specializations campuswide.