Asian Studies
INTERDISCIPLINARY

Faculty

Joseph A. Adler
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Sarah Blick
Assistant Professor of Art
Jianhua Bai
Associate Professor of Chinese
Ruth W. Dunnell
Storer Associate Professor of Asian History
John H. Finefrock
Adjunct Instructor of Asian Studies
Shuchi Kapila
Assistant Professor of English
Nurten Kilic-Schubel
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
Rita S. Kipp
Director, Robert A. Oden Jr. Professor of Anthropology
Michelle S. Mood
Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science
Vernon J. Schubel
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Wendy F. Singer
Associate Professor of History
Hideo Tomita
Associate Professor of Japanese

With Asia as its point of reference, the curriculum encourages students to deal with Asian peoples as actors on the scene of regional and world history, rather than as objects of non-Asian peoples' enterprises and observations. An important goal of the concentration is the development of a critical understanding of the ways in which people of the interrelated regions of Asia have historically defined and expressed themselves.

The concentration in Asian studies comprises three elements: (1) at least one year of language study; (2) 1 1/2 units of coursework in selected areas of Asian culture, including an approved foundation course; and (3) a one-semester senior seminar. The concentration enables students to study formally the histories, cultures, and societies of Asia in a comparative and interdisciplinary format.

Beginning Asian Studies

First- and second-year students should begin with any of the approved foundation courses listed below. Sometimes the history department offers first-year seminars that focus on Asia. Classical Chinese Literature in English (CHIN 115, 116) is also suitable for entering students. Students hoping to spend all or part of their junior year in China or Japan should begin to study the appropriate language in their first two years at Kenyon. New students interested in Asia who have not yet declared a major or a concentration are welcome to seek specific advice from any of the Asian studies faculty members.

Concentration Requirements and Curriculum

1. Language study
One year of instruction in a relevant Asian language is required. This requirement can be met by taking two semesters of Modern Chinese (CHNS), Japanese, or Sanskrit at Kenyon, or three semesters of Classical Chinese (CHIN). The equivalent of one year of approved college-level Asian language instruction at another accredited academic institution will also meet the requirement, as will some intensive summer programs, or a semester of language study abroad when paired with language immersion. In the case of transfer students, credit will be accepted for a year of Asian language study with a grade of C+ or better pursued at another institution. If the program committee determines that a student possesses native proficiency in an Asian language, it will waive the requirement.

The program committee strongly recommends that students continue their language study beyond the first year.

2. Area and disciplinary coursework
Students are required to take 1 1/2 units (three semester courses) in at least two different departments outside of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and dealing with two different regions of Asia, here defined as (1) East Asia (mainly China, Japan, and Inner Asia); and (2) South and West Asia (India and its neighbors, Southeast Asia, the Islamic world, and Central Asia). Students must take at least one course from the following list of approved foundation courses:

The Asian Studies Program at Kenyon offers a concentration that incorporates a variety of courses in anthropology, art history, history, language, political science, and religious studies. The program also sponsors films, invites speakers to the College, and promotes other social and cultural events to stimulate campus awareness of the societies of East and Southeast Asia, India and its neighbors, and the Islamic world.
ANTH 244 Cultures of Southeast Asia
ARHS 114 Introduction to Asian Art
HIST 156 South Asian History
HIST 160 Modern East Asia
HIST 161 Imperial China
HIST 162 Japan to 1800
RELN 240 Classical Islam
RELN 250 South Asian Religions
RELN 260 Buddhist Thought and Practice
RELN 270 Chinese Religions

Comparative courses that deal with both regions may count for one area or the other, but not for both. A student focusing on East Asian history, for example, may take a course in Islamic religion to fulfill the distribution requirement.

Courses not specifically focused on Asia will not be counted toward the distribution requirement. Where any doubt arises, please ask a member of the Asian studies program committee. Courses that fulfill requirements for the Asian Studies Concentration are listed below and may be so noted in the course guide. Note: double-counting for the major and the concentration is permitted, upon consultation with the relevant faculty advisors.

3. Senior Seminar: Asia in Comparative Perspective

This 1/2-unit course is open to students fulfilling the requirements for the Asian Studies Concentration and to other students on a permission basis. The course will be offered every fall under the direction of a selected Asian studies faculty member and will meet in a seminar format.

Course content will be organized around a common theme that integrates the various disciplines and regions of Asia that students have been studying at Kenyon. Through readings, films, guest lectures by other Kenyon Asian studies faculty members and outside speakers, and other activities, the course will lead students to synthesize their academic and personal (e.g., off-campus) experiences in a broader comparative perspective. Students will produce work that examines one or more topics of their own special interest within the comparative Asian framework.

**Off-Campus Study**

Off-campus study in Asia is not required, but highly recommended. Students should consult Asian studies faculty members and the director of international education for the numerous opportunities available to Kenyon students to study in Asia for one semester or a year. Summer language-study programs are also available for students who need to prepare for off-campus study or desire to learn an Asian language not offered at Kenyon (e.g., Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Vietnamese).

**First-Semester Courses**

**Senior Seminar: Asia in Comparative Perspective: The Silk Road Legacy**

**ASIA 490** (1/2 unit)

Kilic-Schabel

This year's seminar for Asian studies concentrators will focus on the history and legacy of the Great Silk Road, which for centuries connected the civilizations of Asia. Until the coming of new economic and political circumstances of modernity, the Silk Road had a critical impact on all of Asia. The course will explore both the peoples and cultures of the Central Asian region, which was the heartland of the Silk Road, and their impact on and interaction with the rest of Asia—especially China and India. Topics to be addressed will include the role of trade and religion in state formation, the importance of nomadic and sedentary relations in the history and development of the "Asian world system," the pivotal role of the Mongols and Turko-Mongols in Eurasian history, and Asian responses to the changed realities of modernity. The course is designed primarily for Asian studies concentrators, but other students with a strong background in Asian studies are welcome. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

**Intermediate Classical Chinese**

**CHIN 115** (1/2 unit)

Finefrock

This course comprises readings in Classical Chinese and is taught in English using English translations and assumes no previous knowledge of Classical Chinese. No prerequisites.

**Classical Chinese Literature in English**

**CHIN 211** (1/2 unit)

Finefrock

This course is a survey of classical literature, including poetry and prose, in China. The course is taught in English using English translations and assumes no previous knowledge of Classical Chinese. No prerequisites.

Courses that fulfill requirements for the Asian studies program committee. If doubt arises, please ask a member of the Asian studies program committee. Students should consult Asian studies faculty members and the director of international education for the numerous opportunities available to Kenyon students to study in Asia for one semester or a year. Summer language-study programs are also available for students who need to prepare for off-campus study or desire to learn an Asian language not offered at Kenyon (e.g., Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Vietnamese).
English. No prerequisite, but CHIN 111 (11) and 112 (12) are advised.

Advanced Classical Chinese
CHIN 371 (1/2 unit)
Finefrock

This course covers readings in Classical Chinese. It is taught in English. No prerequisite, but CHIN 211 (21) and 212 (22) are advised.

Second-Semester Courses

Elementary Classical Chinese
CHIN 112 (3/4 unit)
Finefrock

See first-semester course description of CHIN 111.

Intermediate Classical Chinese
CHIN 212 (1/2 unit)
Finefrock

See first-semester course description of CHIN 211.

Advanced Classical Chinese
CHIN 372 (1/2 unit)
Finefrock

See first-semester course description of CHIN 371.

Courses offered in 2001-2002 that meet Asian Studies Concentration requirements are as follows:

ANTH 358 Theater and Performance Across Asia
ARHS 114 Introduction to Asian Art
ARHS 235 Art of China
ASIA 490 Asia in Comparative Perspective
CHIN 111, 112 Elementary Classical Chinese
CHIN 115 Classical Chinese Literature in English
CHIN 211, 212 Intermediate Classical Chinese
CHIN 371, 372 Advanced Classical Chinese
CHNS 111-112 Intensive Introductory Modern Chinese
CHNS 213-214 Intermediate Modern Chinese
CHNS 321 Advanced Chinese
HIST 156 History of India
HIST 160 Modern East Asia
HIST 162 Japan to 1800
HIST 186 The Mongolian World Empire (first-year seminar)
HIST 462 Vietnam
JAPN 111-112 Intensive Introductory Modern Japanese
JAPN 213-214 Intermediate Modern Japanese
JAPN 321 Advanced Japanese
PSCI 346 Comparative Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan
RELN 240 Classical Islam
RELN 441 Islam in Central Asia and the Turkic World
RELN 260 Buddhist Thought and Practice
RELN 270 Chinese Religions