

Faculty

- Joseph A. Adler
Professor of Religious Studies
- Sarah Blick
Assistant Professor of Art History
- Jianhua Bai
Associate Professor of Chinese
- Ruth W. Dunnell
Director, Storer Associate Professor of Asian History
- John H. Finefrock
Adjunct Instructor of Asian Studies
- Nurten Kilic-Schubel
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
- Rita S. Kipp
Robert A. Oden Jr. Professor of Anthropology
- Vernon J. Schubel
Professor of Religious Studies
- Wendy F. Singer
Associate Professor of History (on leave)
- Henry Spiller
Henry R. Luce Assistant Professor in Asian Music and Culture
- Hideo Tomita
Associate Professor of Japanese

The Asian Studies Program at Kenyon offers an interdisciplinary 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.

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.

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. With the prior approval of

the director of the Asian Studies Program, a student may use a semester of intensive language study abroad to fulfill the language requirement. 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 language study beyond the first year.

2. Area and disciplinary coursework

Students are required to take 2 units (four semester courses, **including the senior seminar**) about Asia outside of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. These courses must be from the list of courses offered under Asian studies at Kenyon but may also include relevant courses taken in study-abroad programs. Students are strongly encouraged to build comparison into their curricular choices by taking at least one course representing a region of Asia different from that of their language study.

Courses not specifically focused on Asia will not be counted toward the concentration. Where any doubt arises, please ask a member of the Asian-studies faculty. Double-counting for the major and the concentration is permitted.

3. Senior Seminar: Asia in Comparative Perspective

This 1/2-unit course is required for students fulfilling the requirements for the Asian Studies Concentration and is open to other students on a permission basis. The course will be offered every spring 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.

Beginning Asian Studies

First- and second-year students may begin almost anywhere. See the list of all the Asian studies courses offered in the current year.

Students hoping to spend all or part of their junior year in China or Japan should certainly 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.

Off-Campus Study

Off-campus study in Asia is not required, but it is 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

Elementary Classical Chinese

CHIN 111 (3/4 unit)
Finefrock

Classical Chinese is an introduction to the classical literature of China. It is not a spoken language. (See

Modern Chinese [CHNS] in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures for spoken Chinese.) No previous language study, including Modern Chinese, is required. Students who have already studied Modern Chinese should take CHIN 211 as their first course in Classical Chinese, instead of CHIN 111.

Students learn ten characters and read ten lines of Chinese per day. The course moves at a pace that allows discussion of works read. There is a daily vocabulary quiz and in-class reading assignment. There is also a midterm and final. Students read in class from the first day, and by the end of the year (assuming they continue by taking CHIN 112) they will be able to read simple prose with the aid of a dictionary.

In CHIN 111, students learn 700 characters or grammatical particles, learn to write characters in stroke order, and learn basic pronunciation skills for Classical Chinese. Translation of Classical Chinese poetry is an important part of this course, with students compiling a book of their translations into English. The course is suitable for students seeking a reading knowledge of Chinese poetry to inform and enlarge the scope of their own creative writing in English, as well as students wishing to learn a language through translating its literature.

The course is taught in English. No prerequisites, but native speakers must take a more advanced course.

Classical Chinese Literature in English

◆ CHIN 115 (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.

Intermediate Classical Chinese

CHIN 211 (1/2 unit)
Finefrock

This course comprises readings in Classical Chinese and is taught in English. No prerequisite, but CHIN 111 and 112 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 and 212 are advised.

Second-Semester Courses

Elementary Classical Chinese

CHIN 112 (3/4 unit)
Finefrock

See first-semester course description of CHIN 111. In this course, students learn 700 additional characters and are able to use a Chinese dictionary easily. As in CHIN 111, there is a midterm and final, and students compile a book of their translations.

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.

Special Topics in Ethnomusicology

MUSC 392
Spiller

The focus of the course will be on the music of Asia, possibly Southeast Asia. The instructor will use video and audio selections to enhance the coursework. The context of the culture will be important for understanding the music. Methods of research will be discussed. Prerequisite: MUSC 103. Enrollment limited.

Senior Seminar:

Asia in Comparative Perspective: Rice

ASIA 490 (1/2 unit)
Dunnell

This course is a multidisciplinary exploration of Asia's distinctive staple through history. In this seminar, Asian-studies concentrators and other students will examine and reconstruct

the agrarian, ecological, economic, commercial, ritual, religious, social, culinary, political, and nationalist meanings of rice. We will look at various ways that rice has figured in the life and evolution of Asian societies through time, using a wide array of sources, some of which we will probably eat. Students will choose particular topics to research for class presentation and for a final project. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

**Courses offered in
2003-04 that meet
Asian Studies Concen-
tration requirements:**

ANTH 113.02 Introduction to
Cultural Anthropology
ARHS 114 Introduction to Asian
Art
ASIA 490 Senior Seminar: Asia
Comparative Perspective: Rice
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 111Y-112Y Intensive
Introductory Modern Chinese
CHNS 213Y-214Y Intermediate
Modern Chinese
CHNS 321 Advanced Chinese:
Language and Culture
HIST 160 Modern East Asia
HIST 162 Japan to 1800
HIST 452 Women and Gender in
Chinese History
JAPN 111Y-112Y Intensive
Introductory Modern Japanese
JAPN 213Y-214Y Intermediate
Modern Japanese
JAPN 321 Advanced Japanese
RELN 240 Classical Islam
RELN 270 Chinese Religions
RELN 360 Zen Buddhism
RELN 440 Seminar on Sufism
RELN 471 The Confucian Tradition
RELN 492 Muslims in the Middle
Ages