

# Asian studies

**Convener:** Dr Mark Wang (Geography)

The Asian studies program at the University of Melbourne is ideal for students who wish to acquire a broad understanding of modern Asian societies and cultures. Students can combine language study with subjects that draw on teaching and research from a number of areas of study in Arts that address the cultural frameworks through which Asian societies can be understood. The program provides students with a comparative view of Asian societies through a critical and interdisciplinary approach. Students may also choose to specialise in a particular region of study to enhance their future career choices.

Asian studies is one of a number of departments that constitute the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies (MIALS). The Institute was established in 1998 as a major teaching and research initiative of the University of Melbourne. MIALS serves to strengthen the University's role as a major international centre for the development of studies in Asian languages and societies. Students who specialise in Asian studies develop transferable skills that will enhance their career options. Alternatively, they are able to expand on their interest and knowledge through an articulated structure of higher degree study options at the University of Melbourne.

Asian studies draws on collaborations with other faculties and departments at the University of Melbourne to offer a comprehensive program of study in the rich languages and intellectual, cultural, legal, political and religious traditions of Asia. Religious, political, social and economic aspects are considered with a focus on Japan, China, Indonesia and other South and East Asian societies.

## Faculty of Arts requirements

Within the Asian studies major, only those subjects offered by departments of the Faculty of Arts are **Arts-approved** ( see *Arts-approved subject requirement* (p.37)). Combined degree students may not be able to undertake subjects offered by the Faculties of Economics & Commerce and Law, and should contact a course adviser for advice.

## Prerequisites

The Asian studies program commences in second year. The general prerequisite for entry is the completion of 50 points of first year in any areas of study within the Faculty of Arts.

Students are also strongly advised to undertake some study of an Asian language at first year. Languages available include Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Thai,\* and Vietnamese.\*

The following first year subjects are recommended for students interested in undertaking a major in Asian studies:

Recommended first year subjects	Sem.
110-027 Chinese Studies: Culture and Environment (p.99)	1
110-031 China Imagined and Perceived (p.100)	N/A
110-045 China in the 1980s and 1990s (p.100)	N/A
110-046 Strategies for Business and Bureaucracy (p.99)	2
110-047 Chinese Calligraphy (p.99)	1
121-011 Australia in Asia (p.180)	2
131-007 The World Since World War Two: 1945-1972 (p.204)	1
131-008 The World Since World War Two: 1973-2000 (p.205)	2
166-009 The World is an Amazing Place (p.307)	N/A
175-006 Cross-cultural Communication (p.268)	2 rep Summer
325-103 The Asian Economies (p.415)	N/A

## Requirements for a major

A major in Asian studies usually consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first year subjects from any area of study (25 points) and;
- seven second/third year subjects (totalling 87.5 points) which must include:
  - 131-146 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.213), the program's compulsory subject (12.5 points) and;
  - six subjects from the list of Asian studies subjects below.

## Asian studies subjects

The following second/third year, third year, and third/fourth year subjects are part of the Asian studies program. You must consult the relevant area of study

\*. Subjects offered by other local institutions to University of Melbourne students.

entries in this Handbook to make sure that you meet the prerequisites, if any, for these subjects. The usual prerequisite for entry to a third year subject is 25 points of second/third year in that area. The usual prerequisite for entry to a third/fourth year subject is 37.5 points at second/third year in that area.

Second/third year subjects	Sem.
<b>Compulsory subject</b>	
131-146 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.213)	2
<b>Anthropology</b>	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.56)	2
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (p.56)	2
121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements (p.58)	N/A
<b>Art history</b>	
107-026 Studies in Asian Art and Architecture (p.73)	N/A
<b>Asian Law Centre (Faculty of Law)</b>	
730-327 Law & Society In Japan (p.702)	N/A
730-352 Law & Society in China (p.702)	N/A
730-358 Law and Society In South East Asia (p.702)	2
730-360 Law and Civil Society in Asia (p.701)	N/A
730-428 Land,Race and Law in South East Asia (p.701)	1
<b>Chinese studies</b>	
110-048 Modern Chinese Literature (p.99)	1
110-049 Chinese Linguistics (p.99)	2
110-051 Chinese Elite and Popular Literature (p.101)	N/A
110-052 Chinese Thought (p.99)	1
110-053 Taiwan (p.100)	2
110-054 Contemporary Chinese Society (p.100)	2
<b>English</b>	
106-033 Postcolonial Writing (p.151)	N/A
<b>Geography</b>	
121-015 Development and the Third World (p.180)	1
121-023 China in Transition (p.181)	1
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (p.182)	1
121-036 China Field Class (p.184)	2
<b>History</b>	
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.207)	1
131-036 Indonesian Nationalism (p.207)	1
131-037 Military and State in Indonesia (p.219)	N/A
131-038 Gender and Development (p.207)	2
131-039 The Rise of Modern Japan 1850s-1990s (p.207)	1
131-046 Great Empires of Islamic Civilisation (p.219)	N/A
131-062 China from the Manchus to Mao (p.209)	2
131-066 The Modern Middle East (p.210)	2
131-076 Asian History: Comparative Perspectives (p.211)	2
<b>Indonesian studies</b>	
110-139 Popular Cultures in Indonesia (p.236)	1
110-140 Mass Media in Indonesia (p.236)	2
110-077 Modern Indonesian Literature (p.236)	1
110-078 Understanding Contemporary Indonesia (p.236)	2
<b>Islamic studies</b>	
110-014 Crime Politics & Law in Islamic Society (p.242)	N/A
110-089 Understanding the Muslim World (p.241)	1
110-090 Gender and Islam (p.241)	2
110-091 Islam and Political Activism (p.242)	2
110-092 Media Portrayal of Islam (p.242)	N/A
<b>Japanese studies</b>	
110-115 Japanese Popular Culture (p.255)	1
110-116 Contemporary Japanese Society (p.255)	2
110-117 Dynamics of Japanese Architecture (p.256)	N/A
<b>Linguistics and applied linguistics</b>	
175-025 Introduction to Japanese Linguistics (p.270)	1
<b>Management (Faculty of Economics &amp; Commerce)</b>	
325-226 Business and Economy in South East Asia (p.416)	1
325-310 The Japanese Business System (p.418)	2
325-332 Chinese Business and Economy (p.419)	1
<b>Philosophy</b>	
161-034 Asian Traditions of Philosophy (p.291)	1
161-035 Philosophy of Buddhism (p.291)	2
<b>Political science</b>	
166-018 Chinese Politics and Society (p.301)	1
166-034 An/Other China:Theorising Everyday Life (p.303)	2
166-105 Gender and Politics in Southeast Asia (p.304)	2
166-106 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (p.305)	1
<b>Sociology</b>	
166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (p.332)	N/A

**Third year subjects****Chinese studies**

110-055 Chinese Research Methods (p.100)

**Third/fourth year subjects****Chinese studies**

110-058 Chinese Religion and Ritual (p.100)

**Geography**

121-036 China Field Class (p.184)

**Indonesian studies**

110-020 Islam and the State in Indonesia (p.237)

110-074 Indonesian Political Economy (p.237)

110-075 Analysing Indonesia: Concepts and Issues (p.236)

110-081 History and Varieties of Malay (p.238)

110-084 Performance and Power in Indonesia (p.237)

110-087 Peoples and Languages of Indonesia (p.237)

**Islamic studies**

110-018 Islam and Questioning of Modernity (p.242)

110-093 Islamic Banking and Finance (p.242)

**Japanese studies**

110-121 Social Problems in Japan (p.255)

110-138 Japanese Art: Zen Painting to Edo Prints (p.71)

Sem.

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Sem.

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**For more information**

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**Fourth year subjects****121-550 Asian Studies Thesis****Credit points: 37.5****HECS-band: 1****Coordinator:** Dr Mark Wang**Prerequisites:** Admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Asian Studies.**Contact:** Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Year long*).**Description:** Students will be required to write a thesis of 12 000 words on a topic approved by the supervisor. They will also be required to present a seminar paper on the results of their research.**Assessment:** A thesis of 12 000 words.**121-551 Asian Studies Thesis (MYE)****Credit points: 37.5****HECS-band: 1****Coordinator:** Dr Mark Wang**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the Postgraduate Diploma or Fourth Year combined Honours in Asian Studies.**Contact:** Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).**Description:** Students will be required to write a thesis of 12 000 words on a topic approved by the supervisor. They will also be required to present a seminar paper on the results of their research.**Assessment:** A thesis of 12 000 words.**Combined honours entry**

Currently there is no pure honours program in Asian studies. This means that students must combine Fourth Year Honours in Asian Studies with another area of study.

The prerequisites for entry to combined honours in Asian studies are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA and;
- completion of a major in Asian studies and;
- an average grade of H2A or higher over the second/third year subjects within the major and;
- admission to honours in another area of study within the Arts Faculty.

Students intending to take combined Honours in Asian studies are advised to undertake at least some elementary study of an Asian language.

**Application procedure**

Entry to honours must be approved by the convenor of Asian studies and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser.

Prospective honours students intending to undertake their thesis in Asian studies should submit an outline of their proposed course of study and a thesis proposal to the convenor of Asian studies during second semester of the academic year preceding commencement of honours.

**Combined honours requirements**

Students undertaking combined honours in Asian studies and another area of study must complete:

- 121-550 Asian Studies Thesis (p.80) or 121-551 Asian Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.80) (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in Asian studies (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (totalling 25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in Asian studies (totalling 37.5 points).

**Honours subjects**

	Sem.
110-018 Islam and Questioning of Modernity (p.242)	1
121-081 Problems in Ethnological Theory (p.57)	2
131-070 Chinese Overseas: Diasporan Histories (p.214)	1
131-088 Asia in Australian Eyes (p.221)	N/A
131-107 Orienteering: Muslim Travel and Writers (p.215)	1
131-112 World War Two in Asia and the Pacific (p.216)	2
131-132 Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.217)	2
131-144 History and New Critical Theory (p.217)	1
166-060 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.306)	2
166-107 Human Rights Theory & Practice: S.E.Asia (p.307)	2

Subjects offered at third/fourth year not already completed at third year level are also available to Asian studies combined Honours students, see *Asian studies subjects* (p.79).

Students may take relevant fourth year subjects from other areas of study including language with the permission of the convenor of Asian studies.