

Asian studies

Convener: Dr Wu Yunji (MIALS)

The Asian studies program at the University of Melbourne is ideal for students who wish to acquire a broad understanding of 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 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.4). Combined degree students may not be able to undertake subjects offered by the Faculties of Economics and 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, Thai¹, Vietnamese¹ and Korean¹.

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.7)	2
110-045 China since Mao (p.8)	1
110-047 Chinese Calligraphy (p.8)	1
110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies (p.2)	1
110-212 Strategies for Business and Bureaucracy (p.8)	2
121-011 Australia in Asia (p.2)	2
131-007 The World Since World War Two: 1945-1972 (p.3)	1
131-008 The World Since World War Two: 1973-2000 (p.3)	2
166-009 The World is an Amazing Place (p.2)	1
175-006 Cross-Cultural Communication (p.2)	2 rep Summer
325-103 The Asian Economies (p.1)	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 (87.5 points) which must include:
 - 131-146 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.10), 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 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

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

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.

First year subject	Sem.
Asian studies	
110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies (p.2)	1
Second/third year subjects	Sem.
Compulsory subject	
131-146 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.10)	2
Anthropology	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.4)	N/A
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (p.4)	N/A
121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements (p.4)	N/A
Art history	
107-026 Studies in Asian Art and Architecture (p.2)	2
Asian Law Centre (Faculty of Law)	
730-327 Law and Society In Japan (p.10)	Summer
730-352 Law and Society in China (p.10)	2
730-358 Law and Society In South East Asia (p.10)	2
730-360 Law and Civil Society in Asia (p.9)	N/A
730-428 Land,Race and Law in South East Asia (p.9)	1
Chinese studies	
110-048 Modern Chinese Literature (p.8)	1
110-049 Chinese Linguistics (p.8)	2
110-051 Chinese Elite and Popular Literature (p.8)	1
110-052 Chinese Thought (p.8)	1
110-053 Taiwan (p.8)	1
110-442 Contemporary Chinese Society (p.9)	2
English	
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.5)	1
Geography	
121-015 Development and the Third World (p.3)	2
121-023 China in Transition (p.7)	N/A
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (p.8)	N/A
History	
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.5)	1
131-037 Military and State in Indonesia (p.6)	1
131-038 Gender and Development (p.6)	2
131-039 The Rise of Modern Japan 1850s-1990s (p.6)	1
131-046 Great Empires of Islamic Civilisation (p.6)	1
131-062 China from the Manchus to Mao (p.17)	N/A
131-066 The Modern Middle East (p.7)	2
131-076 Asia, the Pacific & the West in History (p.18)	N/A
131-210 Total War: Asia & the Pacific 1931-1945 (p.10)	2
Indonesian studies	
110-075 Analysing Indonesia: Concepts and Issues (p.4)	1
110-140 Mass Media in Indonesia (p.4)	1
110-077 Modern Indonesian Literature (p.4)	1
110-419 Popular Cultures in Indonesia (p.4)	2
Islamic studies	
110-014 Crime Politics & Law in Islamic Society (p.3)	N/A
110-089 Understanding the Muslim World (p.1)	1
110-090 Gender and Islam (p.3)	N/A
110-091 Islam and Political Activism (p.1)	2
110-092 Media Portrayal of Islam (p.3)	N/A
Japanese studies	
110-115 Japanese Popular Culture (p.5)	1
110-116 Contemporary Japanese Society (p.5)	2
110-117 Dynamics of Japanese Architecture (p.5)	1
Linguistics and applied linguistics	
175-025 Introduction to Japanese Linguistics (p.7)	N/A
Management (Faculty of Economics and Commerce)	
325-226 Business and Economy in South East Asia (p.2)	1
325-310 The Japanese Business System (p.4)	2
325-332 Chinese Business and Economy (p.6)	2
Philosophy	
161-035 Philosophy of Buddhism (p.5)	1
161-134 Asian Philosophies (p.3)	2
Political science	
166-018 Chinese Politics and Society (p.3)	1
166-034 An/Other China:Theorising Everyday Life (p.5)	2
166-105 Gender and Politics in Southeast Asia (p.11)	N/A
166-106 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (p.5)	1
166-211 East Timor: History, Politics & Culture (p.11)	N/A

Second/third year subjects**Sociology**

166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (p.3)

Third year subjects**Chinese studies**

110-055 Chinese Research Methods (p.9)

Third/fourth year subjects**Chinese studies**

110-443 Chinese Religion and Ritual (p.9)

Geography

121-433 China Field Class (p.6)

Indonesian studies

110-422 Indonesian Performance & Performativity (p.5)

110-424 Peoples and Languages of Indonesia (p.5)

110-425 History and Varieties of Malay (p.5)

110-426 Indonesian Political Economy (p.5)

110-429 Islam and the State in Indonesia (p.4)

Islamic studies

110-416 Islam and Questioning of Modernity (p.2)

110-418 Islamic Banking and Finance (p.2)

Japanese studies

110-447 Social Problems in Japan (p.6)

110-456 Japanese Art: Zen Painting to Edo Prints (p.8)

Sem.

1

Sem.

2

Sem.

1

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N/A

2

N/A

Honours subjects

166-417 Human Rights Theory & Practice: S.E.Asia (p.8)

166-445 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.8)

Sem.

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2

For more information

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First year subject**110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies****Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr L Mayo & Dr M Ewing**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines the intimate relationship between language and society in the historical and contemporary contexts of three internationally strategic regions: East Asia, Insular Southeast Asia, and the Arabic world. It will explore recurring themes such as the relationship of language to power, hegemony and political struggle; the effect of nationalism on language; language as a means for creating social organisation and hierarchy; the relationship between minority and majority languages and cultures; and the role of the media, popular culture and literacy in contemporary linguistic and social relations.

Assessment: Two 1500 word essays and a 1-hour examination.**Fourth year subjects****110-573 Asian Studies Thesis****Credit points:** 37.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Wu Wunji**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.**110-580 Asian Studies Thesis (MYE)****Credit points:** 37.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Wu Wunji**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**

Honours coordinator: Dr Wu Yunji

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 H2B 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 Semester 2 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:

- 110-573 Asian Studies Thesis (p.2) or 110-580 Asian Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.2) (37.5 points) and;
- two honours subjects in Asian studies (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 (25 points) and;
- three honours subjects in Asian studies (37.5 points).

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.1).

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

Honours subjects

110-416 Islam and Questioning of Modernity (p.2)

121-475 Problems in Ethnological Theory (p.3)

131-410 Asia in Australian Eyes (p.11)

131-447 Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.12)

131-457 Orienteering: Muslim Travel and Writers (p.13)

131-463 World War Two in Asia and the Pacific (p.14)

131-469 History and New Critical Theory (p.15)

Sem.

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