

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, the Islamic world, and other South-east 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 and Korean¹.

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

Recommended first-year subjects	Sem.
110-183 Chinese Studies: Culture and Empire (p.7)	2
110-186 China since Mao (p.7)	1
110-187 Chinese Calligraphy (p.8)	1
110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies (p.2)	2
121-103 Australia in Asia (p.2)	N/A
131-154 The World Since World War Two: 1945-1972 (p.4)	1
131-155 The World Since World War Two: 1973-2002 (p.4)	2
161-134 Asian Philosophies (p.4)	1
166-123 The World is an Amazing Place (p.3)	N/A
175-108 Cross-Cultural Communication (p.2)	2
325-103 Managing in the Asia Pacific Region (p.1)	1

Diploma in Arts (Asian Studies)

The Diploma in Arts (Asian Studies) is only available to students who are currently enrolled in a degree course at the University of Melbourne. It consists of a three-year sequence of study, and adds one year to the duration of your degree.

Students must complete 25 points of recommended first-year subjects and 75 points of second/third-year subjects selected from the lists above, including 131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.12). Alternatively, students who have completed appropriate background studies at first year may complete 100 points of second/third-year subjects from the lists above, including 131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.12).

Requirements for a major

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

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

- two first-year subjects from any area of study (25 points); and
- seven second/third-year subjects (87.5 points) which must include:
 - 131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.12), 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 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)	2
Second/third-year subjects	Sem.
Compulsory subject	
131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.12)	2
Anthropology	
121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.2)	N/A
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (p.2)	1
121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements (p.3)	2
Art history	
107-026 Studies in Asian Art and Architecture (p.3)	N/A
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)	1
730-358 Law and Society In South East Asia (p.10)	1
730-360 Law and Civil Society in Asia (p.10)	N/A
730-428 Land, Race and Law in South East Asia (p.9)	2
Chinese studies	
110-048 Modern Chinese Literature (p.8)	1
110-049 Chinese Linguistics (p.8)	2
110-052 Chinese Thought (p.8)	1
110-053 Taiwan (p.8)	2
110-212 Strategies for Business and Bureaucracy (p.8)	2
110-432 Chinese Elite and Popular Literature (p.9)	N/A
110-442 Contemporary Chinese Society (p.9)	2
110-470 Chinese Regional Cultures (p.9)	1
English	
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.5)	N/A
Geography	
121-015 Development and the Third World (p.3)	2
121-023 China in Transition (p.4)	1
121-026 The Mobile World: Migration and Tourism (p.4)	2
History	
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.6)	2
131-038 Gender and Development (p.7)	1
131-039 The Rise of Modern Japan 1850s-1990s (p.7)	1
131-046 Great Empires of Islamic Civilisation (p.8)	2
131-062 Making China Modern (p.9)	1
131-066 The Modern Middle East (p.9)	1
131-076 Asia, the Pacific & the West in History (p.10)	N/A
131-210 Total War: Asia & the Pacific 1931-1945 (p.12)	2
131-217 Modern Southeast Asia (p.13)	2
Indonesian studies	
110-075 Analysing Indonesia: Concepts and Issues (p.4)	1
110-077 Modern Indonesian Literature (p.4)	1
110-218 Mass Media in Indonesia (p.4)	2
110-419 Popular Cultures in Indonesia (p.4)	1
Islamic studies	
110-089 Understanding the Muslim World (p.1)	2
110-091 Islam and Political Activism (p.1)	N/A
Japanese studies	
110-219 Japanese Popular Culture (p.4)	1
110-220 Contemporary Japanese Society (p.4)	2
110-221 Dynamics of Japanese Architecture (p.4)	1
Management (Faculty of Economics and Commerce)	
325-226 Business and Economy in South East Asia (p.3)	1
325-310 The Japanese Business System (p.5)	2
325-332 Chinese Business and Economy (p.7)	2

Second/third-year subjects

	Sem.
Philosophy	
161-035 Philosophy of Buddhism (p.6)	2
Political science	
166-018 Chinese Politics and Society (p.4)	1
166-034 An/Other China: Theorising Everyday Life (p.6)	N/A
166-217 Gender and Politics in Southeast Asia (p.8)	N/A
166-218 Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (p.8)	2
Sociology	
166-090 Love, Family and Sexuality (p.4)	N/A

Third/fourth-year subjects

	Sem.
Chinese studies	
110-443 Chinese Religion and Ritual (p.9)	1
110-457 Chinese Research Methods (p.9)	1
Geography	
121-433 China Field Class (p.6)	2
Indonesian studies	
110-422 Indonesian Performance & Performativity (p.5)	N/A
110-424 Peoples and Languages of Indonesia (p.5)	2
110-425 History and Varieties of Malay (p.5)	1
110-426 Indonesian Political Economy (p.5)	1
110-429 Islam and the State in Indonesia (p.5)	2
Japanese studies	
110-447 Social Problems in Japan (p.5)	2
110-456 Japanese Art: Zen Painting to Edo Prints (p.7)	N/A

Combined honours entry

Honours coordinator: Dr Carolyn Stevens

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.3) (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.

	Sem.
Honours subjects	
106-444 Global Culture: History and Theory (p.14)	N/A
110-408 Chinese Translation Project (p.9)	2
110-415 Directed Study Project (p.4)	1 rep 2
110-419 Popular Cultures in Indonesia (p.4)	1
110-422 Indonesian Performance & Performativity (p.5)	N/A
110-423 Independent Research Project: Japanese (p.5)	1 rep 2

Honours subjects

	Sem.
110-424 Peoples and Languages of Indonesia (p.5)	2
110-425 History and Varieties of Malay (p.5)	1
110-426 Indonesian Political Economy (p.5)	1
110-427 Supervised Reading in Indonesian Studies (p.5)	1 rep 2
110-428 Malaysian Language and Culture (p.5)	2
110-429 Islam and the State in Indonesia (p.5)	2
110-430 Advanced Chinese Translation (p.10)	1
110-431 Literature & Film in Contemporary China (p.7)	1
110-434 Japan Today by Satellite Television (p.5)	2
110-435 Chinese Classical Texts (p.10)	2
110-442 Contemporary Chinese Society (p.9)	2
110-443 Chinese Religion and Ritual (p.9)	1
110-447 Social Problems in Japan (p.5)	2
110-453 Research on Japan (p.5)	1
110-454 Advanced Translation Project (p.5)	1
110-456 Japanese Art: Zen Painting to Edo Prints (p.7)	N/A
110-457 Chinese Research Methods (p.9)	1
110-460 Advanced Chinese 1 (p.6)	1
110-461 Advanced Chinese 2 (p.6)	2
110-462 Papers in Academic Chinese (p.10)	2
110-463 Chinese Economic Documents (p.7)	2
110-464 Sino-Tibetan Linguistics (p.10)	2
110-465 Chinese Legal Documents (p.7)	1
110-466 Virtual Reality Chinese (p.7)	N/A
110-469 Introduction to Chinese Medical Texts (p.7)	N/A
110-553 Human Rights in Southeast Asia (p.3)	2
121-446 Explanation and Understanding (p.4)	N/A
121-475 Problems in Ethnological Theory (p.4)	2
131-443 Social and Cultural History (p.16)	1
131-457 Orienteering: Muslim Travel and Writers (p.18)	N/A
131-546 Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.20)	2
131-463 World War Two in Asia and the Pacific (p.18)	2
131-469 History and Critical Theories (p.19)	N/A
161-442 Ethical Theory (p.11)	2
161-443 Political Philosophy (p.11)	2
166-445 Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.11)	2

For more information

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First-year subject**110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies**

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr M Ewing

Contact: A 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

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: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Fourth-year subjects**110-573 Asian Studies Thesis**

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr C Stevens

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)

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 37.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr C Stevens

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.

110-549 Religion and Religious Freedom in Asia

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Abdullah Saeed

Prerequisites: Admission to the Master of Contemporary Asian Analysis or Master of International Politics, or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Not Offered*).

Description: The role of religion in Asian societies has come to international prominence, given recent conflicts in Indonesia. Drawing on theological, historical and legal sources, this subject will examine the relationships between religion and human rights in Asian countries, the role of religion in social change and civil unrest, and the influence of religion on cross-national interactions. Students will thus take a multidisciplinary approach to the topic, using background studies and case analysis. The following will be discussed: belief systems; religious freedom and human rights; religion and law, both constitutional and statutory; religion and the nation-state; interaction between religion and state, with the issue of conflict between the two spheres; established religions compared with struggles for religious freedom and tolerance. Using case studies, students will discuss further issues, including freedom of choice and the right to propagate faiths; the status of religions in regard to property, taxation, legal implications of religious activities; the influence of religion on freedom of speech, access to education and the media; religion and gender differences, including property rights; religious identity; the rights of minority groups. The course will focus on contemporary situations in Asia and will look at future directions.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: Materials prepared by the institute.

110-553 Human Rights in Southeast Asia

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Jaqueline Siapno

Prerequisites: Admission to the Master of Contemporary Asian Analysis or Master of International Politics, or permission of the subject coordinator.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject will focus on human rights and its critics from a historical and comparative perspective in the context of current debates about globalisation, democratisation, and political community. The first part of the course will deal briefly with specific conventions; the rest of the course will engage case studies for understanding the internationalisation of human rights discourses and the role of international organisations and NGOs in implementing them. The seminar introduces students to difference conceptions of rights, citizenship, constitutional rights, and social justice, including feminist critiques of rights discourse and of development; historical analyses of the meaning of freedom and sovereignty; ethnographic studies on the relationship between attitudes towards bodily integrity and human rights; the debates about poverty, economic development and access to adequate health care as human rights; and other formations of violence that cannot be recuperated or inventoried in conventional human rights discourses. We shall draw upon a wide range of sources from theoretical works, philosophical and anthropological critiques of rights discourse, constitutional rights, legal treatises, judicial affairs, and NGO documents. On completion of the subject students should have a broad historical, comparative and critical perspective on the debates about rights and justice in Southeast Asia and be able to analyse political violence beyond inventing violations and narratives of victimisation.

Assessment: written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: Materials prepared by the institute.

