

Asian Studies

Convener: Dr Anne McLaren (AIM)

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. The Asian studies major is taught predominantly in English. Asian languages are offered in separate language majors. 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 Program is housed in the Asia Institute Melbourne and is taught by the University's key faculties. Asian studies draws on the collaboration between Asia Institute Melbourne and other faculties and departments at the University of Melbourne to offer a comprehensive program of study in the rich intellectual, cultural, legal, economic and religious traditions of Asia, with a focus on Japan, China, Indonesia, the Middle East, and Southeast Asian and Pacific societies.

Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

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.5)*. Combined degree students may not be able to undertake subjects offered by the Faculty of Economics and Commerce and the Faculty of Law. They should contact a course adviser for advice.

Prerequisites

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

Completing a major in Asian studies

You can choose to complete a major in Asian studies if you are enrolled in a BA or BA combined degree.

Students may undertake the study of an Asian language in addition to their major in Asian studies. Languages available include Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Thai, Korean and Vietnamese.

Students are encouraged to complete one or more of the first year subjects listed below and to examine carefully subject prerequisites for second/third year Asian studies subjects.

Recommended first-year subjects	Sem.
110-183 Chinese Studies: Culture and Empire (p.9)	2
110-186 China since Mao (p.9)	1
110-187 Chinese Calligraphy (p.9)*	1
110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies (p.2)	1
131-154 The Modern World 1: The Nuclear Shadow (p.4)	1
131-155 The Modern World 2: People Power (p.4)	2
161-134 Asian Philosophies (p.4)	2
166-123 The World is an Amazing Place (p.3)	N/A
175-108 Cross-Cultural Communication (p.2)	2

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 listed above and 75 points of second/third-year subjects selected from the list below, including 131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.14). 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.14).

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 within the Faculty of Arts (25 points); and
- seven second/third-year subjects (87.5 points) which must include:
 - 131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.14), 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.

* Subject requires Asian language prerequisite or equivalent.

First-year subjects	Sem.
Asian studies	
110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies (p.2)	1
Faculty of Music	
740-105 Music and Ideas (p.9)	1
Second/third-year subjects	
Compulsory subject	
131-228 Inventing Asian Traditions (p.14)	1
Anthropology	
121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (p.2)	2
121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements (p.3)	N/A
Asian Law Centre (Faculty of Law)	
If you meet subject prerequisites you may enrol in the following:	
730-327 Issues in Japanese Law (p.13)	Summer
730-352 Law and Society in China (p.14)	N/A
730-358 Law and Society In South East Asia (p.15)	1
730-360 Law and Civil Society in Asia (p.14)	N/A
Chinese studies	
110-048 Modern Chinese Literature (p.9)*	N/A
110-049 Chinese Linguistics (p.9)*	2
110-052 Chinese Thought (p.9)	2
110-053 Taiwan (p.10)	1
110-212 Strategies for Business and Bureaucracy (p.10)	2
110-214 Indonesian Languages in Social Context (p.4)	N/A
110-225 Chinese Theatre (p.8)	1
English	
106-014 Hong Kong Cinema (p.4)	2
106-033 Writing After Empire (p.6)	2
Geography	
121-015 Development and the Third World (p.2)	2
121-023 China in Transition (p.3)	1
121-026 The Mobile World: Migrancy, Home & Exile (p.3)	1
History	
131-034 Gender, Culture and Identity Politics (p.7)	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.10)	N/A
131-066 The Modern Middle East (p.10)	N/A
131-076 Asia, the Pacific & the West in History (p.11)	2
131-210 Total War: Asia & the Pacific 1931-1952 (p.12)	2
131-217 Modern Southeast Asia (p.13)	2
History and Philosophy of Science	
136-211 Asian Civilisations and Science (p.5)	2
Indonesian studies	
110-075 Analysing Indonesia: Concepts and Issues (p.4)	1
110-218 Mass Media in Indonesia (p.4)	2
Islamic studies	
110-089 Understanding the Muslim World (p.1)	1
110-091 Islamic Political Movements (p.2)	2
Japanese studies	
110-221 Dynamics of Japanese Architecture & Art (p.5)	2
Management (Faculty of Economics and Commerce)	
If you meet subject prerequisites you may enrol in the following:	

Second/third-year subjects		Sem.	
325-226	Business and Economy in South East Asia (p.3)	1	
325-310	Japanese Business and Institutions (p.4)	2	
325-332	Chinese Business and Economy (p.6)	2	
Faculty of Music			
740-302	The Music of Java and Bali (p.10)	N/A	
740-341	Music Cultures of Asia (p.10)	N/A	
740-360	Musical Theatre in Asia (p.9)	N/A	
Philosophy			
161-035	Philosophy of Buddhism (p.7)	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.7)	N/A	
166-218	Colonial/Postcolonial S.E.Asian Politics (p.7)	N/A	
Sociology			
166-090	Love, Family and Sexuality (p.3)	1	
* Subject requires Asian language prerequisite or equivalent.			
Third/fourth-year subjects		Sem.	
Anthropology			
121-457	Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (p.4)	N/A	
Asian Law Centre (Faculty of Law)			
If you meet subject prerequisites you may enrol in the following:			
730-428	Land, Race and Law in South East Asia (p.13)	2	
Asian studies			
110-417	Gender and Agency in East Asia (p.10)	2	
Chinese studies			
110-442	Contemporary Chinese Society (p.10)	2	
110-443	Chinese Religion and Ritual (p.11)*	1	
110-470	Chinese Regional Cultures (p.11)	N/A	
Geography			
121-433	China Field Class (p.6)	2	
Indonesian studies			
110-419	Popular Cultures in Indonesia (p.4)	1	
110-422	Indonesian Performance & Performativity (p.4)	N/A	
110-424	Ethnic Variety in Indonesia (p.5)	2	
110-426	Indonesian Political Economy (p.5)	1	
110-429	Islam and the State in Indonesia (p.5)	2	
110-438	Modern Indonesian Literature (p.5)*	N/A	
Japanese studies			
110-447	Social Problems in Japan (p.6)	2	
110-456	Japanese Art: Zen Painting to Edo Prints (p.7)	N/A	
Faculty of Music			
740-439	Rainforest Societies and their Music (p.16)	2	
740-440	Sounding Off: Music Subjugation and Subversion		
740-466	Music and the Shaman (p.9)	N/A	

- 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 convener of Asian studies.

* Subject requires Asian language prerequisite or equivalent.

Honours subjects		Sem.
106-444	Global Culture: History and Theory (p.16)	N/A
110-408	Chinese Translation Project (p.10)*	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.4)	N/A
110-423	Independent Research Project: Japanese (p.6)	1 rep 2
110-424	Ethnic Variety in Indonesia (p.5)	2
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.11)*	1
110-431	Literature & Film in Contemporary China (p.8)*	1
110-434	Japan Today by Satellite Television (p.6)*	N/A
110-435	Chinese Classical Texts (p.10)*	2
110-442	Contemporary Chinese Society (p.10)	2
110-443	Chinese Religion and Ritual (p.11)	1
110-447	Social Problems in Japan (p.6)	2
110-454	Advanced Translation Project (p.6)*	N/A
110-456	Japanese Art: Zen Painting to Edo Prints (p.7)	N/A
110-460	Advanced Chinese 1 (p.7)*	1
110-461	Advanced Chinese 2 (p.7)*	2
110-462	Scientific and Technical Chinese (p.11)*	N/A
110-463	Chinese Economic Documents (p.8)*	2
110-464	Sino-Tibetan Linguistics (p.11)*	N/A
110-465	Chinese Legal Documents (p.9)*	1
110-553	Human Rights in Southeast Asia (p.3)	N/A
110-590	Critical Asian Perspectives (p.3)	1
121-446	Explanation and Understanding (p.4)	N/A
121-475	Problems in Ethnological Theory (p.4)	N/A
131-405	History, Memory and Violence in Asia (p.17)	1
131-443	Social and Cultural History (p.19)	2
131-546	Gender, Globalisation and Development (p.22)	1
131-463	World War Two in Asia and the Pacific (p.20)	2
161-442	Ethical Theory (p.12)	N/A
161-443	Political Philosophy (p.12)	1
166-445	Postcolonial Concerns, Postmodern Theory (p.11)	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

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (p.13).

Combined honours requirements

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

- 110-580 Asian Studies Thesis (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

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

Coordinator: 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 essays of 2000 words each, 50% each (one due mid-semester, one due during the examination period). Students are required to attend at least 80% of tutorials.

Fourth-year subjects

110-580 Asian Studies Thesis

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 37.5

Coordinator: Dr C Stevens (Hons) & Dr M Ewing (PGrad)

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year combined honours in Asian studies.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor over two consecutive semesters of enrolment (*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 100% (due at the end of the second semester of enrolment).

110-549 Religious Freedom in Asia

Availability: postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Admission to the Master of Arts (Asian Societies) or Master of International Politics, or permission of the subject coordinator.

Semester: 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.

110-553 Human Rights in Southeast Asia

Availability: postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Prerequisites: Admission to the Master of Arts (Asian Societies) or Master of International Politics or permission of the subject coordinator.

Semester: Not Offered

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 inventorising violations and narratives of victimisation.

110-590 Critical Asian Perspectives

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr C Stevens

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in Arabic, Chinese, Islamic studies, Indonesian or Japanese or the Master of Arts (Asian Societies).

Contact: A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject aims to consolidate and develop fourth year and postgraduate coursework students' intellectual conception of the interdisciplinary field of Asian Studies. Students will deepen their understanding of their chosen field through readings in Arabic and Islamic studies, Chinese studies, Indonesian studies and Japanese studies as well as interacting with each other in seminar discussions on the assigned readings and topics of student interest. Theoretical topics include indigenous knowledge systems; analytical frameworks such as gender, ethnicity and class, and the concept of reflexivity.

Assessment: A 20 minute oral seminar presentation, which includes question and answer time 20% (throughout the semester), a 2000 word critical essay 30% (due in week 6), and a 2500 word comparative research essay on topic chosen by student and approved by the coordinator 50% (due at the start of the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Materials supplied by the Institute.

