

Regional Specialization Courses Overview Asia

The purpose of these informational documents is to help GRS students choose courses that would be of interest for their regional focus.

This is an overview of courses that may change in the future. The most updated information can be found on the UBC course website: <https://courses.students.ubc.ca>

As there are many courses related to South, Southeast, and East Asian studies, the courses listed here provide information of Inter-country, China, Japan, Korea, and India specific courses.

Asian (South/Southeast/East) Studies

Last updated: 2021W

Course Number	Course Name	Description
ARTH 251	Asian Arts: From Chinese Warriors to Bollywood Posters	A thematic examination of Asian arts, such as historic, religious, and secular painting and sculpture to contemporary visual culture.
ARTH 360	The Rise of Literati Painting in China: 1100 – 1700	Chinese literati art and theory will be analyzed through careful study of relationships between visual and textual productions.
ARTH 361	Modern and Post-Modern Art in China	An investigation of China's varied resistance to and pursuits of modernity and post-modernity through examination of Chinese art from the 18th to 21st centuries.
ARTH 459	Seminar in Chinese Art	See website for updates
ASIA 101	Introduction to Modern Asia	A survey of the emergence of modern Asia. Aims at an understanding of how the various peoples of Asia have maintained distinctive cultural identities despite centuries of political, economic, social and cultural change.
ASIA 208	Cultural Foundations of South Asia	A survey of South Asian cultures, including language and literature, art, religion, polity and society, as they developed in the past and have been transformed in the modern period.
ASIA 300	Writing and Culture in East Asia	Practical, aesthetic, historical, technological and political issues pertaining to the use of Chinese characters - hanzi (Chinese), kanji (Japanese), or hanccha (Korean) - throughout the region.
ASIA 309	South Asian Beyond South Asia	A history of South Asian peoples and communities that emigrated overseas, including Indo-Canadians.
ASIA 313	Tibetan and Himalayan Culture and Society	History and culture of the Himalayan regions, including India, China, Tibet, Nepal, and Bhutan.
ASIA 315	Japan from Feudal to Modern State	Japanese history from 1600 to the Meiji Restoration. Political, economic, social and cultural forces which were involved in transforming Japan.
ASIA 317	The Rise of Korean Civilization	The evolution of a distinctive Korean civilization within the East Asian cultural sphere. Primary focus on cultural, social and political development from the earliest times to the sixteenth century.
ASIA 319	Contemporary Chinese Popular Cultures	Chinese popular cultures of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, in relation to social changes, national policies, individual choices, everyday experience, and globalization.
ASIA 320	History of Early China	History of China from the earliest times to the disintegration of the Tang empire. Students will acquire the analytical skills and tools to understand the origins and foundations of Chinese society.
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ASIA 338	India in the Age of Revolutions	History of the political shifts and revolutions that transformed India to a British colony.
ASIA 339	The Construction of South Asian Communities in the Diaspora	An examination of contemporary South Asian communities in the diaspora. Topics of particular importance are family life, religious life, notions of space, communal memory, literary and visual representation.
ASIA 340	History of Later Imperial China	History of China from the end of Tang to the eve of its modern transformation. Students will acquire the analytical skills and tools to understand the political, socio-economic, and cultural changes in imperial China.
ASIA 352	Topics in Traditional Chinese Vernacular Literature	Traditional Chinese culture as seen through reading and discussion of exemplary literary works in the vernacular language.
ASIA 355	Chinese Cinema	Introduction to the work of major directors.
ASIA 367	Contemporary Korean Culture	An introduction to the literature, drama, music, and art of Korea today. Particular attention will be paid to the continuing influence of traditional themes and forms.
ASIA 371	Foundations of Chinese Thought	Chinese thought from its beginnings until the Han dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE) in its historical and cultural contexts. Includes, among others: Confucius; Mo Zi; the Legalists/Authoritarians; Zhuang Zi; the Lao Zi book.
ASIA 372	Development of Traditional Chinese Thought	Chinese thought from the Han dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE) to Wang Yangming (1472-1529) in its historical and cultural contexts.
ASIA 373	History of Hong Kong	History, culture, and identities of Hong Kong from the early 1800s to the present.

ASIA 382	Buddhism in China	History, thought, and practices of Chinese Buddhism from its beginnings until the twentieth century
ASIA 390	History of the Indian Ocean World	Societies and empires shaped by voyages of exploration, religious pilgrimages, trading diasporas and forced migration in the world of the Indian Ocean.
ASIA 393	History of Iran from the Sasanians to the Safavids	Iranian history from the fall of the Sasanian empire and the Arab conquest of Iran to the rise of Iranian dynasties in the east, the reign of Turkic and Turko-Mongolian rulers, and the formation of a Shi'ite Iran under the Safavids.
ASIA 397	The Idea of India	History of cultural ideas that led to India's transformation from a traditional, colonial society tied to the British empire to a postcolonial, pluralistic, development oriented parliamentary democracy.
ASIA 407	North Korea in Historical Context	Analytical overview of North Korea's politics, society, and economy.
ASIA 410	International Relations in Premodern East Asia	International relations, particularly between Korea and Japan in the premodern East Asian context, focusing on migration, trade, diplomacy, war, collective memory, mutual perceptions, and the context of the Sinocentric international order.
ASIA 411	Chinese Political Thought and Institutions	Chinese theories and practices of government and administration from earliest times to 1949.
ASIA 428	Mughal India	History of the politics, economy, society, and culture of South Asia from the Great Mughals to the British conquest.
ASIA 430	International Relations in Modern East Asia: Korea and Japan	Trade, diplomacy, war, imperialism, militarism, colonialism, collective memory, mutual perceptions Korean-Japanese relations are examined as an exemplary case for exploring the dimensions of international conflict and partnership.
ASIA 440	Cultural History of Imperial China	An in-depth examination of the construction, transmission, and transformation of Chinese culture(s) prior to 1800.
ASIA 441A	Masterworks of Chinese Fiction and Drama in Translation	Reading of a classic novel or play, with attention to intellectual, social, and political subtexts as well as aesthetic dimensions and problems of interpretation.
ASIA 456	History and Culture of Taiwan	The major social, economic, political, and cultural changes in Taiwan since the seventeenth century; the post-World War II process of democratization and Taiwan's place in the contemporary world.
ECON 342	The Economy of China since 1949	The Maoist strategy of development, the commune system and rural development, the pace and pattern of industrialization, management and planning, incentive policy, economic lessons from China. Students who wish to contrast different approaches to development may find it useful to
GEOG 484	Geography of Southeast Asia	A critical analysis of significant features of political, economic, and cultural development in the region from pre-colonial times to the present.
GEOG 485	Geography of China	An introduction to the changing cultural, social and economic geography of China. Normally alternates with GEOG 425.
GRSJ 230	Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Representation in Modern Asia	The complex relationships between mechanisms of power, gender, and representation in Asia in different spaces examined through an interdisciplinary lens.
GRSJ 235	Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Structures in Modern Asia	Situates "Asia" in a global context and explores the complex relationships between gender, social structures, and social change.
HIST 270	Modern China and the West	The invasion of China since the 1600s by western civilization; the impact of Chinese culture and of the modern Chinese revolution on the West, Canadian relations with China included. Open to
HIST 270A	China in World History - CHINA WORLD HIST	The history of China in a global context, from the earliest times to the most recent past; how China has changed the world and how engagement with the world has changed China.
HIST 273	History of India	Societies, cultures, and politics of the Indian subcontinent from its ancient civilizations to the formation of the modern nation-states of South Asia.
HIST 373	History of Hong Kong	History, culture, and identities of Hong Kong from the early 1800s to the present.
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HIST 380C	The Making of Modern China: Nationalism, War and Revolution	The history of China from 1800 to the present including the decline of the Qing empire, the rise of modern nationalism, foreign invasion, and China's multiple revolutions.
HIST 381	Imperialism and Nationalism in Southeast Asia	The history of European imperial rule, the forms of resistance to it, and the formation of nationalist movements in Southeast Asia. The countries studied include Vietnam, Indonesia, the
HIST 382	Post-Colonial Southeast Asia	The history of the Japanese occupation, wars of independence, international relations of the independent nation-states, and internal armed conflicts. Special attention will be paid to the wars
HIST 385	India from Raj to Republic	Exploration of the rise of the East India Company as territorial power, the formation of a colonial society in India, competing responses to British rule, the struggle for independence, and the
HIST 386A	Korea Since 1860	An examination of the political, economic, social, and cultural transformations of Korea since the late nineteenth century. Topics include the end of the Choson Dynasty, the history of Japanese

POLI 321A

HIST 480	Social History of Modern China	Changes and continuities in Chinese society and culture from the late Imperial Period to the present; rural and urban life, social stratification, social movements and ideology, family and
HIST 481	Education and Society in Modern China	The relationship between education and society in China since 1600; classical learning and the civil service examination system; popular literacy; sino-foreign interactions in education;
HIST 483	Asian Migrations to the Americas	Examines both the historical and contemporary contexts for migration from Asia to Canada and the Americas.
HIST 487	Medicine and Healing in Chinese History	Health and healing in China's history; the modern re-imagining of a Chinese medical tradition in contemporary society.
PHIL 371	Foundations of Chinese Thought	Chinese thought from the Han dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE) in its historical and cultural contexts. Includes among others: Confucius; Mo Zi; the Legalists/Authoritarians; Zhuang Zi; the Lao Zi
POLI 321A	Chinese Politics and Development - CHIN POLIT DEVEL	The course will explore various aspects of Chinese politics and the dynamics of China's development since 1949. Topics include: the Cultural Revolution, political reform and protest,
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POLI 324A	Southeast Asian Government and Politics	The political systems of contemporary Southeast Asia.
POLI 379A	China in World Politics - CHINA WORLD POLI	Impact and implications of the rise of China in historical and contemporary perspective.
POLII 322	Japanese Government and Politics	A general introduction to modern Japanese politics from various theoretical and comparative perspectives.
SOCI 490	Contemporary Chinese Society	Current social topics in Chinese society; perspectives on gender, inequality, culture, and social relations.
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Any and All Courses under 'ASIAN STUDIES' (ASIA)

Any and All Courses under 'ASIAN CANADIAN and ASIAN MIGRATION STUDIES' (ACAM)

Every year, there are different student directed seminars offered on various topics. If there is none for your very specific interests, you can make your own course! For more information, please see: <https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/courses/student-directed-seminars>

Previously available courses (may be available again in the future):

ANTH 302D Ethnography of South Asia
 ARTH 253 Aspects of Asian Architecture
 ASIA 410 International Relations in Premodern East Asia
 HIST 434 History of Southeast Asia Since 1800
 RELG 204 Introduction to Asian Religions
 WMST 230 Women and Representation in Modern Asia
 WMST 235 Women and Social Structures in Modern Asia
 ANTH 322 Archaeological Foundations of East and Southeast Asia
 ANTH 350 Ethnography of the Pacific Islands: Polynesia and Micronesia
 ANTH 351 Ethnography of the Pacific Islands: Melanesia
 ASIA 300 Writing and Culture in East Asia
 ASIA 339 The Construction of South Asian Communities in the Diaspora
 ASIA 381 Daoist Religion and its Philosophical Background
 RELG 204 Introduction to Asian religions
 RELG 354 The Hindu Religious Tradition
 RELG 364 Buddhism in India and East Asia
 RELG 365 Daoist religion and its philosophical background
 RELG 367 Approaches to Zen
 ECON 341 Economic Development of Asia
 ASIA 310 Studies in the History of a Major Asian Civilization (not given every year)
 ASIA 410 International Relations in Premodern East Asia
 ASIA 434 History of Southeast Asia Since 1800 (Equivalent: HIST 434)
 ASIA 438 Twentieth Century South Asia
 GEOG 380 Introduction to the Geography of Monsoon Asia
 GEOG 484 Geography of Southeast Asia
 HIST 170 Introduction to South Asia
 HIST 171 Introduction to East Asia
 HIST 434 History of Southeast Asia Since 1800 (Equivalent: ASIA 434)
 HIST 475 First Conta *Japan Specific*
 ANTH 416A The Ethnography of Japan - ETHNOGRAPHY JAPN
 ARTH 366 Japanese Painting Traditions: 7th -15th Centuries
 ARTH 367 Japanese Painting Traditions: 16th -19th Centuries
 ARTH 464 Seminar in Japanese Art

ASIA 315 Japan from Feudal to Modern State
ASIA 387 Japanese Religions
ECON 444 The Contemporary Japanese Economy
HIST 422 Modern Japanese History Since 1800
ANTH 416 The Ethnography of Japan (Equivalent: SOCI 416)
ASIA 387 Japanese Religions
ECON 343 The Economic Development of Modern Japan
ECON 444 The Contemporary Japanese Economy
ASIA 315 Japan from Feudal to Modern State
ASIA 422 Modern Japanese History Since 1800 (Equivalent: HIST 422)
GEOG 481 Geography of Japan
HIST 383 History of Japanese Civilization
HIST 422 Modern Japanese History Since 1800 (Equivalent: ASIA 422)
POLI 330 Japanese Political Economy
POLI 368 Japan's Foreign Relations
Korea Specific
ASIA 317 The Rise of Korean Civilization
ASIA 377 History of Korean Thought
HIST 386 History of Korean Civilization
HIST 486 Korea in the 20th Century
POLI 331 Korean Go India Specific
ASIA 328 Medieval India
HIST 384 History of Indian Civilization
HIST 385 History of India Since 1800
HIST 387 Medieval I China Specific
ANTH 402 Ethnography of China
ASIA 351 Modern Chinese Fiction in Translation
ASIA 382 Common Religious Traditions in China
ASIA 480 Economic and Social History of Modern China to 1940 (Equivalent: HIST 480)
GEOG 425 Historical Geography of China
GEOG 485 Geography of China
ASIA 384 The Zhuangzi (Chuang-Tzu)
HIST 382 History of Chinese Civilization (Equivalent: ASIA 311)
HIST 482 Chinese Migration
POLI 424 Chinese Pc Indonesia Specific
ASIA 329 Gender in Indonesia
ASIA 319 History of Indonesian Civilization