

ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

The 21st century has been called the “Asian Century”: indeed, many of the world’s most pressing issues cannot be understood without a grasp of the histories, cultures, and languages of Asia. Asia is home to over half of the world’s population. China, Japan, and India are three of the world’s top economies. For decades, Asian countries have been leaders in global manufacturing, and Asian universities are renowned centers for literary studies and scientific innovation. Fifty percent of the declared nuclear-weapon states are also in the region. Simply put, Asia matters a great deal.

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) offers a wide variety of courses on East, South, and Southeast Asia taught by faculty who are specialists in their regions and disciplines. Whether you are taking your first step toward learning about Asia or you bring some background experience, an ALC major will expand your ability to think and work across cultural and linguistic boundaries. Majors may opt to study Asia in a transnational and transhistorical perspective or in a more focused course of study by choosing one of our named options in East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

To take advantage of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures’ many relationships with other departments and program units across campus, students may choose to double major or enhance their studies in ALC with one of the certificates offered at the university, such as the Certificate in Global Health, the Certificate in Health and the Humanities, or those offered by the area studies centers.

This major is interdisciplinary and offers a wealth of options. Careful planning and consultation with the ALC undergraduate advisor is especially important.

STARTING COURSEWORK TOWARD THE MAJOR

Students may declare the Asian Languages and Cultures major at any time. Before declaring the major, students may begin coursework to explore the language and fields of interest. Those students who have studied an Asian language prior to coming to UW–Madison will have to take a placement test (<https://alc.wisc.edu/languages/placement-tests/>) for a language offered during the academic year to determine the best class to enroll in on campus.

Code	Title	Credits
The courses noted below are open to freshman and have no prerequisites:		
ASIAN 100	Gateway to Asia: Special Topics	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY 103	Introduction to East Asian History: China	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY 104	Introduction to East Asian History: Japan	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY 108	Introduction to East Asian History - Korea	3-4
ASIAN 203	Lost in Translation: Western Experience in Asia	3

ASIAN/RELIG ST 206	The Qur’an: Religious Scripture & Literature	3
ASIAN/RELIG ST 218	Health and Healing in South Asia	3-4
ASIAN/RELIG ST 236	Asia Enchanted: Ghosts, Gods, and Monsters	3
ASIAN/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI/SOC 244	Introduction to Southeast Asia: Vietnam to the Philippines	4
ASIAN/ASIAN AM/HISTORY 246	Southeast Asian Refugees of the “Cold” War	4
ASIAN 252	Contemporary Indian Society	4
ASIAN 253	Japanese Popular Culture	3
ASIAN/HISTORY/POLI SCI 255	Introduction to East Asian Civilizations	3-4
ASIAN/HISTORY/RELIG ST 267	Asian Religions in Global Perspective	3-4
ASIAN 268	Tibetan Cultures and Traditions	3
ASIAN/RELIG ST 274	Religion in South Asia	3
ASIAN 277	Kendo: Integration of Martial Arts and Liberal Arts	2

The language courses below are open to freshman and have no prerequisites:

ASIALANG 101	First Semester Chinese	4
ASIALANG 103	First Semester Japanese	4
ASIALANG 105	First Semester Korean	4
ASIALANG 110	Elementary Chinese I	2
ASIALANG 113	First Semester Elementary Japanese	2
ASIALANG 123	First Semester Filipino	4
ASIALANG 125	First Semester Hmong	4
ASIALANG 127	First Semester Indonesian	4
ASIALANG 129	First Semester Thai	4
ASIALANG 131	First Semester Vietnamese	4
ASIALANG 133	First Semester Hindi	4
ASIALANG 135	First Semester Modern Tibetan	4
ASIALANG 137	First Semester Persian	4
ASIALANG 139	First Semester Urdu	4
ASIALANG 141	First Semester Sanskrit	3-4
ASIALANG 143	First Semester Burmese	4
ASIALANG 145	First Semester Khmer	4

STUDY ABROAD

The University of Wisconsin–Madison is ranked #2 for semester-long study abroad participation among all US institutions, and #16 among all US universities and colleges for total students studying abroad, according to the 2018 Open Doors Report (<https://www.iie.org/en/Why-IIE/Announcements/2018/11/2018-11-13-Number-of-International-Students-Reaches-New-High/>).

Currently there are 60 study abroad programs across Asia. Students who participate in approved programs will receive residence credit for study abroad. More information about study abroad, application process, and costs is available through International Academic Programs (<https://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/>). With pre-planning, students may fulfill

major requirements during study abroad. It is important to meet with the undergraduate advisor to create a study plan.

Students can also gain professional experience through various internship opportunities abroad. More information about internship opportunities is available through International Internship Programs (<http://internships.international.wisc.edu/>).