

ASIAN STUDIES

Director: [Scott Langton](#)

The Asian studies program introduces students to different aspects of Asian societies and cultures through interdisciplinary study. Through examination of the many cultures of ancient and modern Asia from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, students develop an appreciation for diversity as well as a deeper awareness of themselves and western culture in the context of the larger world.

Degrees Offered in Asian Studies

Minor in Asian Studies

A **minor in Asian studies** consists of:

Cultural Survey Requirement (2 courses to be chosen from 2 different groups)

Group A:

_____ REL 110 Introduction to Buddhist Traditions

_____ REL 115 Introduction to Hinduism

_____ REL 222 Religions of East Asia

Group B:

_____ EAS 110 Origins of East Asian Civilization

_____ EAS 120 Transformation of Classical Culture in East Asia

_____ EAS 130 East Asia in the Modern Era

Electives (select 3 courses from 200-level or higher)

_____ ASST 250 Intermediate Topics in Asian Studies

_____ ASST 350 Advanced Topics in Asian Studies

_____ ANTH 250 Topics in Anthropology (depending on the topic)

_____ ART 250 Topics in Art (depending on the topic)

_____ COMM 455 Intercultural Communication

_____ REL 220 Illness, Medicine, and Healing in Asian Religions

_____ REL 225 Sacred Image, Sacred Space in South Asia & Tibet

_____ REL 250 Topics in Religious Studies (depending on the topic)

_____ Any EAS course 200-level or above

Other Considerations When Planning for the Minor:

- A minimum of two credits must come from full-credit courses taken at Austin College, and if a student takes fewer than three courses at Austin College, only one course credit may be earned during a January term.
- As it is an interdisciplinary major, students must take courses from at least three disciplines.
- This list of courses is not exhaustive, so consult with program faculty for more suggestions.
- It is recommended that students organize coursework in their Asian studies minor to stress a theme, such as Asian culture or social systems; or a geographical concentration, such as East Asia or South Asia.
- It also is recommended that students pursue a senior research project tying together their course experiences and interests.

Total Credits Requirement = 5 course credits

Disciplinary courses approved for Asian Studies are listed in the course schedule each term using “AS” in the search features of WebHopper.

COURSES

ASST 250 Intermediate Topics in Asian Studies

A study of selected topics for beginning students based on faculty and student interests. Offered on an occasional basis. Course may be repeated when topic varies. 1 course credit.

ASST 260 Intermediate Directed Study

Student investigation of topic of interest working in collaboration with a faculty member resulting in significant oral and written work. See On-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Freshman January term or Sophomore standing. Special permission required. Offered in variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

ASST 350/450 Advanced Topics in Asian Studies

An investigation of selected topics for more advanced students based on faculty and student interests. Offered on an occasional basis. Course may be repeated when topic varies. PREQ: Asian Studies 250 or equivalent. 1 course credit.

ASST 460 Advanced Directed Study

Student investigation of topic of interest related to the major or minor working in collaboration with a faculty member resulting in significant oral and written work. See On-Campus Learning

Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Junior or Senior standing. Special permission required. Offered for variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

ASST 490 Independent Study

Student-driven independent work to produce a high quality body of work such as paper, report, art project, etc. See On-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Junior or Senior standing. Special permission required. Offered in variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.

ASST 491 Honors Thesis in Asian Studies

Extensive independent study in the major in a topic of special interest culminating in a bachelor's thesis with oral examination by thesis committee resulting in a bachelor's degree with Honors upon completion. See Departmental Honors Program for more information. Completed in last three semesters before graduation. Offered for variable course credit from 1.00-2.00.

ASST 492 Independent Study Off-Campus/NSOC

Student-driven independent study in a topic related to the major completed at an off-campus site. See Off-Campus Learning Opportunities for more information. PREQ: Junior or Senior standing. Special permission required. Offered in variable course credit from 0.25-1.00.