

# ASIAN STUDIES

The Center for Asian Studies offers a broad, interdisciplinary undergraduate major and minor in Asian studies.

Students planning to major in Asian studies may obtain credit when they participate in study abroad programs in Asia with prior approval from the Asian Studies Program and Education Abroad.

For additional information on the major program, see Asian Studies - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/asian-studies/asian-studies-bachelor-arts-ba/>) or email Dr. Lauren Collins ([lauren.collins@colorado.edu](mailto:lauren.collins@colorado.edu)).

**Course code for this program is ASIA.**

## Bachelor's Degree

- Asian Studies - Bachelor of Arts (BA) (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/asian-studies/asian-studies-bachelor-arts-ba/>)

## Minor

- Asian Studies - Minor (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/asian-studies/asian-studies-minor/>)

## Certificate

- Tibetan and Himalayan Studies - Certificate (<https://catalog.colorado.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/programs-study/asian-studies/tibetan-himalayan-studies-certificate/>)

## Faculty

While many faculty teach both undergraduate and graduate students, some instruct students at the undergraduate level only. For more information, contact the faculty member's home department.

Collins, Lauren ([https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid\\_147078/](https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_147078/))  
Assistant Teaching Professor, Program Director; PhD, University of Denver

Fydenlund, Shae  
Teaching Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Colorado Boulder

Hirschberg, Dan ([https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid\\_172774/](https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_172774/))  
Associate Teaching Professor; PhD, Harvard University

Rinaldo, Rachel Ann ([https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid\\_156309/](https://experts.colorado.edu/display/fisid_156309/))  
Faculty Director; PhD, University of Chicago

## Courses

### ASIA 1000 (3) Origins of Contemporary Southeast Asia

Explores the dynamic present of Southeast Asia in light of its complex past. Introduces the shared historical experiences that have shaped diverse Southeast Asian societies, with a focus on the continuing effects of colonialism, nationalism, and globalization in the region. Examines key issues facing contemporary Southeast Asian communities, including current debates around gender, faith, human rights, democracy, development, etc. Engages with Southeast Asian literature, film, art, journalism, and museum collections from a transdisciplinary perspective. **Recommended:** Prerequisite students may find some prior coursework in history, anthropology, or Asian Studies to be helpful, but this is not required.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-Global Perspective

### ASIA 1700 (3) Introduction to Tibetan Civilization

Surveys the dynamic history of Tibet from its earliest known origins to the present. Offers interdisciplinary perspectives on Tibetan civilization, including religion and politics, society and culture, arts, and literature. Topics include the role of Buddhism in Tibetan society, from the early empire through the rule of the Dalai Lamas; diverse narratives that inform the memory of Tibet's past and construct a shared cultural identity; civil war, sectarian conflict, and ecumenical projects; and modern Tibetan responses to Chinese policies, both domestically and in diaspora abroad.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

### ASIA 2000 (3) Gateway to Modern Asia: Exploring Regional Connections

Introduces main themes, intellectual approaches used in Asian Studies through a transdisciplinary perspective that focuses on interactions and links between geographic regions and national boundaries. Presents Asia as a concept, a powerful imaginary geography, and historically dynamic construct that has shaped / been shaped by global patterns of economic development, nation building, war and diplomacy, colonialism and aspirations for better lives.

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Core Curr: Human Diversity  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-Global Perspective  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences  
Departmental Category: Asia Content

### ASIA 2300 (3) Himalayan Arts of Enlightenment

Incorporating experiential learning and contemplative practice, this course explores Himalayan art and iconography informed by doctrinal, devotional, and philosophical principles grounded in historical context. These forms benefit from the diverse, cross-cultural transmission and innovation of techniques, materials, and aesthetics. At its heart Himalayan art acts as functional support for contemplative practice and devotional inspiration, but the act of creating art itself can be contemplative practice as a path to awakening. This course introduces the deeply interconnected and transnational history of the Himalayas as exemplified by its art forms and investigates their modern practice, economy, and innovation. Students are taught secular contemplative techniques to enhance their analysis.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**ASIA 2500 (3) Catastrophe and Resilience: Asia's Experiences of Climate Change**

This course introduces Asia's battle with climate change and explores scholarship related to climate change and its impacts on Asia, particularly from a community perspective. Explores the resilience and strategies that different parts of Asia have developed in response to a changing climate. This interdisciplinary course will survey ideas from climate sciences, paleoclimate, anthropology, environmental studies, archeology, geography, and history.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

**ASIA 2852 (3) Contemporary Southeast Asia: Environmental Politics**

Examines globally pressing questions of environmental sustainability, regional inequality and development in the dynamic and heterogeneous landscapes of contemporary Southeast Asia. Focuses on interactions between histories of uneven development and contemporary debates over energy and infrastructure, food security, governance and access to land, forest and water-based resources.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** GEOG 2852

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Diversity-Global Perspective  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

**ASIA 3300 (3) Sex and Gender in Asian Film and Literature**

Explores issues of sex and gender in traditional and contemporary Asian cultures by looking at how sex and gendered roles are configured and play out in Asian cultures. Employs film and literary sources which reflect, subvert and act as agents of change in the dominant cultures.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Asia Content

**ASIA 3550 (3) Tibetan Buddhism**

Explores Tibetan Buddhism through literature and film, including sacred biographies, treatises on the Buddhist path and films providing a visual window into Tibetan life worlds. We examine different kinds of Tibetan journeys: moving through the life cycle, treading the path of self-cultivation, embarking on solitary retreat, traversing from death to rebirth and traveling on pilgrimage and into exile.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** RLST 3550

**ASIA 3900 (3) Discovering Urban China: Tradition, Modernity, Nostalgia**

Explores the ways Chinese cities, especially Beijing and Shanghai, are depicted in scholarly articles, films, literature and population culture in terms of tradition, modernity and nostalgia. Begins by defining the terms then discusses texts dealing with these themes. Discussions are linked to what the students observe first-hand as they explore the cities. Takes place in China.

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences  
Departmental Category: Asia Content

**ASIA 4001 (1) Advanced Language Co-Seminar Arts and Humanities**

Acts as a Co-Seminar for advanced Asian Studies students.

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

**Grading Basis:** Pass/Fail

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**ASIA 4002 (1) Advanced Language Co-Seminar Social Sciences**

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours. Allows multiple enrollment in term.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

**ASIA 4100 (3) China's Space Dream: Long March to the Moon and Beyond**

This class will explore the history of China's interest in and development of space technology from the Mao era through today. China became the third country ever to launch a human into space in 2003 and has been expanding its space program ever since. Beijing has poured billions into its military-run space program, with hopes of having a crewed space station by 2022 and eventually sending humans to the Moon. Tracing the development of China's space industry chronologically, this class will consider the long-term policy and industry implications of the growing U.S. - China Space rivalry. Course texts will draw on primary source documents, policy analysis, business case analyses, and contemporary Chinese science fiction to understand the current context for this rivalry and make policy recommendations for the future.

**Recommended:** Prerequisites ASIA 2000 and/or ASEN 1969.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences  
Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**ASIA 4200 (3) Politics of Memory and Heritage in Asia**

Explores the uses of memory and heritage in the present-day politics of Asia. Examines how the past's historical events, heritage sites, shared memories and fuels nationalist movements, diplomatic disputes, grassroots activism, nostalgic tourism, and popular media. Delves especially into the legacies of colonialism and conflict in the region, highlighting how communities today seek justice and reconciliation in the wake of historical trauma. Engages with films, graphic novels, public art, photography, museums, monuments, archaeological sites, and more.

**Recommended:** Prerequisite Familiarity with Asian history, social science or humanities courses.

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

**ASIA 4300 (3) Open Topics in Asian Studies**

Examines selected texts on a particular topic in the Arts & Humanities. Taught by regular or visiting faculty. Topics change each term.

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Asia Content

**ASIA 4400 (3) Open Topics in Asian Studies**

Explores special social science topics in Asian Studies, including, but not limited to, social, political, economic, cultural, and international relations topics. Taught by regular or visiting faculty. Topics change each term.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** ASIA 5400

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

**ASIA 4448 (3) Wars of Liberation in Southeast Asia**

Uses the contemporary nations of Indonesia, Myanmar, and Singapore as case studies to examine the making and unmaking of European and Japanese colonialism in Southeast Asia in the years surrounding World War II. In what ways did diverse communities understand and narrate imperialism and independence? How can we understand wars of liberation as local, regional, and global experiences, with legacies for today?

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** HIST 5448 and HIST 4448

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 27-180 credits (Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors) only.

**ASIA 4500 (3) Urban Asia: Tradition, Modernity, Challenges**

Explores change in urban Asia, the representation of Asian cities, and the challenges of urban life through a transdisciplinary and thematic approach using academic articles, documentaries, and literary materials. The class discusses the role of tradition, concepts of modernity, the impact of tourism, rural to urban migration, poverty, the effects of war, legacies of colonialism, and environmental challenges.

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Asia Content

**ASIA 4600 (3) Encounters: Tibet, the Himalayas, and the West**

Provides a history of encounters and interactions between Tibet and the West from the classical times till the twentieth century. Explores the early medieval European knowledge about Tibet, followed by the historical accounts of various western missionaries, travelers, imperialists, and spiritualists to Tibet and the Himalayas including the growth of Tibetan Buddhism in the West from the last century, and Tibetan diaspora and migration to the West.

**Recommended:** Prerequisite ASIA 1700.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**ASIA 4650 (3) Art and Science of Meditation**

Broadly interdisciplinary and skill-based, this course offers an in-depth theoretical, practical, and experiential exploration of meditation informed by cutting-edge scientific studies. Students read traditional contemplative masterworks in translation, survey current neuroscientific and psychological research on meditation, and employ critical subjectivity in the application of evidence-based contemplative techniques. That is, students train in secularized meditation that is proven to develop three specific skillsets: relaxation and stress reduction; attentional focus and distraction reduction; and compassion and emotional resilience.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**ASIA 4700 (3) Enlightened Visionaries, Dirty Tricksters and Warrior Heroes: Masterworks of Tibetan Literature**

This course surveys an array of Tibetan literary masterworks from ancient times to the present. Students read English Translations of Tibetan materials that are informed and contextualized by modern scholarship. Rather than focus on doctrinal works that comprise the majority of Tibet's textual corpus, this course explores Tibet's great narrative traditions, in both prose and verse, from folktales and trickster stories to heroic warrior epics to the aftermath of enlightenment in Buddhist biographies. Through this literature, students become familiar with the various cultural, intellectual, and historical movements that have shaped the Tibetan literary landscape. This is a discussion-based seminar where students take active roles in directing the conversation towards the topics of their greatest interest.

**Recommended:** Prerequisite ASIA 1700.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**ASIA 4830 (3) Senior Seminar in Asian Studies**

Participates in a discussion seminar on topics in Asian Studies, conducts research and writes a final paper or creates a final project on an approved Asian Studies topic, following guidelines established by the program director. Required for Asian Studies majors but open to non-Asian Study majors.

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Asia Content

**ASIA 4840 (1-3) Independent Study**

Provides an independent study opportunity, by special arrangement with Asian Studies faculty, for students with particular Asian Studies interests.

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

**Requisites:** Restricted to Asian Studies (ASIA) majors only.

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Asia Content

**ASIA 4842 (3) Global Frontiers in Southeast Asia**

Uses the theme of the global frontier to examine and compare three key moments in the modern history of Southeast Asia: the colonial encounter, the rise of the modern territorial state, and the age of contemporary globalization. Examines case studies from earlier eras to analyze emerging global frontiers at the junction of state territoriality and transnational economic expansion.

**Equivalent - Duplicate Degree Credit Not Granted:** GEOG 5842 and GEOG 4842

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Social Sciences

**ASIA 4930 (1-6) Engage Asia: Internship in Asian Studies**

Matches students with supervised internships relevant to academic topics in Asian studies. Students work with CAS faculty and internship supervisors, i.e., intern with companies or non-profits doing Asia-related business or project.

**Repeatable:** Repeatable for up to 6.00 total credit hours.

**Requisites:** Restricted to students with 27-180 credits (Sophomores, Juniors or Seniors) only.

**Recommended:** Requisite Asian language and culture courses.

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Departmental Category: Asia Content

**INDO 1110 (3) Beginning Indonesian 1 - DILS**

Provide students with an integrated introductory Basic Indonesian Course using the Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) method. Classes will also employ "flipped" task-based learning approaches. Reading assignments will include reading, listening and grammar, which students will demonstrate during class sessions, in which they will offer reading summaries, answer questions and practice speaking. Grades will be based on mastery of the assignments and demonstrated proficiency of written and spoken Indonesian, through in-class performance and mid-term and final examinations.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

Departmental Category: Asia Content

**INDO 1120 (3) Beginning Indonesian 2 - DILS**

A continuation of Beginning Indonesian 1 (INDO 1110), this is an integrated course. Classes are offered in person or remotely using the Directed Independent Language Study method. Classes will employ "flipped" task-based learning approaches. Coursework includes reading, listening, grammar, answering questions, and speaking practice. Grades are based on demonstrated proficiency of written and spoken Indonesian through in-class performance and examinations.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of INDO 1110 (minimum grade C).

**Grading Basis:** Letter Grade

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**INDO 2110 (3) Intermediate Indonesian 1- DILS**

Building on Beginning Indonesian, students are exposed to active communication in Bahasa Indonesia. Offered in person or remotely using the Directed Independent Language Study (DILS) method, employing "flipped" task-based learning approaches. Assignments develop the four language skills, with vocabulary, grammar and cultural instruction. Students demonstrate progress during class sessions through reading summaries, answering questions and practicing speaking. Grades are based on demonstrated proficiency of written and spoken Indonesian, through in-class performance and midterm and final examinations.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of INDO 1120 or 1020 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**INDO 2120 (3) Intermediate Indonesian 2- DILS**

Continuation of Intermediate Indonesian 1. In the second year, students will be exposed to more active communication. The structure, vocabulary and language features and the four language skills are embedded within various topics. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to Indonesian vocabulary, structure, and culture.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of INDO 2110 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**TBTN 1010 (4) Beginning Colloquial Tibetan 1**

Provides a thorough introduction to colloquial forms of Tibetan. Focuses on conversation practice, the acquisition of basic vocabulary and grammar in colloquial usage, learning the alphabet, and training in the skills of pronunciation, spelling and handwriting.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan

**TBTN 1020 (4) Beginning Colloquial Tibetan 2**

Provides a thorough introduction to colloquial forms of Tibetan. Continues the development of vocabulary and grammar begun in Tibetan I and expands the range of conversation topics. While students focus on oral and aural skills, they begin to learn to read and write modern Tibetan to produce an overall knowledge of the language.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 1010 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan

**TBTN 1110 (3) Beginning Tibetan I - DILS**

Provides a thorough introduction to the colloquial Tibetan language, emphasizing speaking and listening in the Lhasa dialect. Trains students in basic conversations and the idiomatic and syntactical features of Tibetan through drills and dialogues.

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**TBTN 1120 (3) Beginning Tibetan II - DILS**

Continuation of TBTN 1110; provides a thorough introduction to the colloquial and literary Tibetan language, emphasizing speaking and listening in the Lhasa dialect. Trains students in basic conversations and the idiomatic and syntactical features of Tibetan through drills and dialogues.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 1110 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**TBTN 1210 (2) Modern Literary Tibetan I - DILS**

Provides a thorough introduction to the modern literary Tibetan, emphasizing reading and writing. Trains students in the Tibetan script, elementary grammar, and reading authentic materials, including Tibetan maxims, pop song lyrics, and children's stories.

**TBTN 1220 (2) Modern Literary Tibetan II - DILS**

Continuation of TBTN 1210; provides a thorough introduction to the modern literary Tibetan, emphasizing reading and writing. Trains students in the Tibetan script, elementary grammar, and reading authentic materials, including Tibetan maxims, pop song lyrics, and children's stories.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 1210 (minimum grade C).

**TBTN 2010 (4) Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan 1**

Aims at increasing students' proficiency in colloquial forms of Tibetan. Expands knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of spoken Tibetan and engages in more advanced conversation topics while also continuing to develop reading knowledge of modern Tibetan.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite courses of TBTN 1010 and 1020 (all minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan

**TBTN 2020 (4) Intermediate Colloquial Tibetan 2**

Aims at increasing students' proficiency in colloquial forms of Tibetan. Expands knowledge of the vocabulary and grammar of colloquial Tibetan and also continues to develop knowledge of reading and writing modern Tibetan.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 2010 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan

**TBTN 2110 (3) Intermediate Tibetan I - DILS**

This DILS (Directed Independent Language Study) course on Intermediate Tibetan will introduce students to intermediate grammar, sentence construction, conversation topics, and readings in modern Tibetan. This will include introduction to Tibetan grammatical markers and particles, morphology, syntax, and vocabularies using a range of authentic materials.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 1120 (minimum grade C-).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**TBTN 2220 (3) Intermediate Tibetan II DILS**

This DILS (Directed Independent Language Study) course on Intermediate Tibetan will introduce students to intermediate grammar, sentence construction, conversation topics, and readings in modern Tibetan. This will include introduction to Tibetan grammatical markers and particles, morphology, syntax, and vocabularies using a range of authentic materials.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 2120 (minimum grade C-).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities

**TBTN 3210 (4) Beginning Literary Tibetan 1**

Provides a thorough introduction to literary and colloquial forms of Tibetan. Focuses on the grammatical foundation of the language, the acquisition of basic vocabulary, and training in the skills of pronunciation, conversation, handwriting and spelling.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 2020 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan

**TBTN 3220 (4) Beginning Literary Tibetan 2**

Continuation of TBTN 3210. Provides a thorough introduction to literary and colloquial forms of Tibetan. Continues the grammar and vocabulary work begun in Tibetan 1 by studying actual Tibetan text and moving to more advanced conversation topics. Students develop oral, aural and written skills to produce an overall knowledge of the language.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite course of TBTN 3210 (minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan

**TBTN 4210 (4) Intermediate Literary Tibetan 1**

Aims at increasing students' proficiency in literary and colloquial forms of Tibetan. Expands knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of literary Tibetan through translating texts in a variety of genres and also continues to develop knowledge of spoken modern Tibetan.

**Requisites:** Requires prerequisite courses of TBTN 3210 and 3220 (all minimum grade C).

**Additional Information:** Arts Sci Gen Ed: Distribution-Arts Humanities  
Departmental Category: Tibetan