The Asian Studies Program at UVM

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program composed of twenty-four faculty members in fourteen academic disciplines: Anthropology, Art History, Chinese Language, Community Development, Economics, Education, Environmental Studies, Film and Television Studies, History, Linguistics, Japanese Language, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religion. It is one of eight areas of study in UVM’s Global and Regional Studies Program, and its faculty is noted for excellence in both teaching and scholarship.

Major and minor academic concentrations in Asian Studies are available to undergraduate students. Several departments offer graduate programs as well. Students majoring in Asian Studies take courses on Asia in several academic disciplines and are encouraged to pursue language courses and study abroad opportunities. Students focusing on a geographic area in which UVM offers a full array of relevant language courses (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Arabic) all establish at least intermediate proficiency in the pertinent Asian Language.

Asian Studies faculty cooperate with community and student organizations to bring to campus intellectual and cultural events related to Asia, including speakers, films, music and dance performances, art exhibits, and culinary demonstrations.

The Chinese House

The Chinese House was first established in the fall semester of 1998. It provides a living and learning place to students who are interested in various aspects of the Chinese culture as well as to those who are learning the Chinese language.

The Japanese House

This Japanese culture and language residential learning program is designed for students eager to study Japanese culture and/or language in mutual teaching and learning activities. Its major goal is to explore Japanese culture through shared activities.

The Global Village

The Global Village is an additional learning experience for students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world. The community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips.

Faculty Geographic Areas of Specialty:

**East Asia:**
- Thomas Borchert - Religion
- Matthew Carlson - Poli Sci
- Sin-Yee Chan - Philosophy
- Mutsumi Corson - Japanese
- Erik Esselstrom - History
- Kyle Ikeda - Japanese
- Hyon Joo Murphree - Eng/Film
- Stephanie Sequino - Economics
- Jeanne Shea - Anthropology
- Diana Sun - Chinese
- Kazuko S. Carlson - Japanese
- John Jing-hua Yin - Chinese

**South Asia:**
- Saleem Ali - Environ Std.
- Pablo Bose - Geography
- Emily Manetta - Anthropology
- Abigail McGowan - History
- John Seyller - Art
- Kevin Trainor - Religion

**Central Asia:**
- Michele Commercio - Poli Sci
- Jonah Steinberg - Anthropology

**Contact Information:**

Erik Esselstrom, Ph.D., Director
University of Vermont, Department of History
133 So. Prospect St.
Wheeler House, Room 311
Burlington, VT 05405
Phone: (802) 656-3536
E-mail: Erik.Esselstrom@uvm.edu

Mary Lou Shea, Administrative Coordinator
Asian Studies Program/Global & Regional Studies
94 University Place, Old Mill A 506
Burlington, VT 05405
Phone: (802) 656-1096
Fax: (802) 656-1376
E-mail: Marylou.Shea@uvm.edu
Website: http://www.uvm.edu/~asian

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program composed of twenty-four faculty members in fourteen academic disciplines: Anthropology, Art History, Chinese Language, Community Development, Economics, Education, Environmental Studies, Film and Television Studies, History, Linguistics, Japanese Language, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religion. It is one of eight areas of study in UVM’s Global and Regional Studies Program, and its faculty is noted for excellence in both teaching and scholarship.

Major and minor academic concentrations in Asian Studies are available to undergraduate students. Several departments offer graduate programs as well. Students majoring in Asian Studies take courses on Asia in several academic disciplines and are encouraged to pursue language courses and study abroad opportunities. Students focusing on a geographic area in which UVM offers a full array of relevant language courses (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Arabic) all establish at least intermediate proficiency in the pertinent Asian Language.

Asian Studies faculty cooperate with community and student organizations to bring to campus intellectual and cultural events related to Asia, including speakers, films, music and dance performances, art exhibits, and culinary demonstrations.
Language, History and Culture

Courses are drawn from 14 academic disciplines, and topics range from Asian art or film, to contemporary Chinese culture and society, to Asian politics, to history of India or Japan, to interpretations of Eastern religions or philosophies. Majors are encouraged to study an Asian language such as Chinese or Japanese up to the intermediate level and to study abroad for at least one semester.

In our increasingly interconnected world, there is high demand in education, business, and other fields for talented young people knowledgeable about Asian languages, histories, cultures, and societies. With thousands of U.S. institutions and companies engaging in cultural exchanges and investment and trade in Asia, career prospects for students with Asian language skills and cultural knowledge are excellent.

Asian Studies Major and Minor

The Asian Studies major consists of at least 33 credit hours in courses from the Asian Studies listing (see Registrar’s website for current Asian Studies courses) to include the following:

A. Completion of two years (normally 16 credits) study of the language of the geographic subarea of concentration (e.g., Chinese, Japanese, Arabic). No more than 16 hours of language study count toward the major. Students with demonstrated fluency in the language of the subarea of concentration (for instance native speakers) may substitute other Asian Studies courses to fulfill the 33 hour requirement. Students focusing on geographic areas with dominant languages not yet offered at UVM (e.g., Hindi) either substitute other courses on Asia or take relevant foreign language courses through study abroad or other opportunities.

B. The remaining credit hours must include at least nine hours at the 100 level and three hours at the 200 level from at least three academic disciplines. Language courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement. It is vital that students plan ahead for their 200-level courses in terms of timing and prerequisites.

The Asian Studies minor consists of at least 18 credit hours in courses from the Asian Studies listing (see Registrar’s website for current Asian Studies courses) to include:

A. Completion of at least two Asian language courses and at least one course in each of two other academic disciplines. Students who demonstrate fluency in an Asian language relevant to their minor concentration (e.g., native speakers), or focus on a region whose dominant language is not offered at UVM, may substitute Asia-related courses from a third academic discipline for the language requirement. Students may also transfer appropriate foreign language courses from study abroad or other programs.

Note: Courses significantly but not entirely on Asia may be counted toward a student’s major or minor; papers or projects concerning Asia are required (See course listings on Asian Studies website). In exceptional cases, the 200-level requirement may also be satisfied through advanced independent study and/or a research or teaching assistant practicum under the guidance of an Asian Studies faculty member. In either case, the Dean’s Office must receive written approval from the Asian Studies advisor. Students in both Asian Studies and Asian Languages wishing to major in one and minor in the other, or double major in both, may overlap only one course. Check course listings carefully for feasibility.

Career Directions

The dynamic economies, vibrant societies, and rich cultural traditions of Asia make it an exciting area of study with a wide array of career prospects for graduates.

Graduates are working in banks in New York, law offices in San Francisco, trading companies in Japan, construction companies in Hong Kong, and schools throughout Asia and the U.S.