



University at Buffalo

Asian Studies

College of Arts and Sciences



Asian Studies Program

2018-2019 Annual Newsletter

Spring 2019

Major in Asian Studies

Asian economies have a preeminent presence and impact worldwide, and political and social dynamics in Asia intersect profoundly with US political, social, and cultural landscapes. Studying Asian civilizations and contemporary societies and economies is fascinating, meaningful, and practical.

- 1 Take Asian Studies Program courses and Asia-focused courses offered in many other UB departments.
- 2 Double or Joint major to partner professional training with Asian language and culture skills.
- 3 Learn to live and work in a global arena in which Asia plays an increasingly prominent role.
- 4 Find job opportunities in international business, government service, NGOs, and the arts.
- 5 Go on to professional schools in management, finance, diplomacy, or law, or pursue a graduate degree and start Asia-related academic career.

Total credit hours in the AS BA: 49

Required Core Courses: 7 credit hours

AS 101: *Introduction to Asian Studies* (1 credit hour)

AS 181 or AS 182: *Asian Civilization I or II*

AS 221: *Survey of Asian Literature* or AS 229: *Contemporary Asian Societies*

Language Proficiency: 18 credit hours

Students are required to take four semesters of an Asian language other than their native language or demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency equivalent to two years of classroom language study at UB. Students who are able to demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in an Asian language other than their native language may petition the Asian Studies Program Director of Undergraduate Studies to replace the required language study with upper-level electives, with the general principle that each year of language study will be replaced by two 3-hour courses in the upper-level elective category. At most two semesters of language study can be replaced by content courses.

Upper Level Electives: 21 credit hours

Approved, 300/400-level courses, of which 9 credit hours must relate to the culture or region of the language selected. Courses must include a more or less equal number of social sciences and humanities courses. Two courses can be shared with another major or minor, and these courses may be 300/400-level language courses unless they are used for a language minor.

Capstone Course: 3 credit hours

AS 498: *Senior Research*

A minimum grade of 1.67 (C-) must be achieved in each course for the Major. Overall GPA in the major must be 2.0 (C) to graduate in the major.

Director's Letter



It is difficult to believe that we have already come to the end of the 2018-2019 academic year—my first as director. I am fortunate to follow in the footsteps of past directors Tom Burkman, Kristin Stapleton, and, most recently, EunHee Lee. I hope to build on their

legacies of leadership, energy, and vision by promoting our program's dual missions to support undergraduate education and faculty and graduate student research.

The state of the program is strong. Our majors are up 50% in the last five years, our classes are extremely popular (93% of total seats were filled in fall 2018!), and we were able to recruit an outstanding scholar of East Asian culture, Dr. Amanda Kennell. I can take no credit for these successes: all were achieved through the hard work of and some very canny decisions made by Professor Lee. I am also grateful to Dr. Nona Carter for developing a wildly successful course on Japanese anime. Dr. Kennell is expanding the program's offerings with several new and revamped courses on Japanese culture. I hope you will extend her a warm welcome.

How did we achieve this? We have stretched every dollar and demonstrated ourselves to be nimble in responding to changes in the UB curriculum. Our students have an unparalleled track record of winning major awards and presenting or publishing their research. I was thrilled to see UB represented last fall by a dozen faculty and students the New York Conference on Asian Studies—including two undergraduate presenters! Four of the seven UB students awarded Fulbrights this year will be conducting research or teaching in Asia. Two (Jenny Simon

and Hanna Santanam) are Asian Studies (AS) minors and another, Haleigh Morgan, is a veteran of several AS courses. AS major Russell Guilbault will be pursuing a master's degree in philosophy at Northern Illinois University, and AS minor Kayleigh Hamernik will spend the coming year studying advanced Hindi with an American Institute of Indian Studies language fellowship. Our students are energized, enthusiastic, and believe in our curriculum. We have supported dozens of graduate students and faculty conducting research in and about Asia. In Dr. Caroline Funk, we have far and away the most outstanding administrator at UB serving as the assistant to the director.

The AS Program office in Clemens Hall has been hub of activity. The program was awarded International Student Inclusion and Engagement Project Funding from International Student Services. Our student event coordinator, Brian Kwong, organized Japanese, Korean, and Chinese language lunches, a scavenger hunt, and sponsored a popular Bollywood dance event.

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Director's Letter, continued

Our work study students David, Enhao, and Julie hid origami cranes across campus. Students who returned them to the ASP office were able pick up Asian snacks and learn about our courses and events. We received a record number of applications for funding this year for the four different awards administered by the program: the Asian Studies Research, Study Abroad, Rustgi Summer Language, and Nila T. Gnamn Junior Faculty Research Fund awards (page 12). The outstanding projects and opportunities we have been able to support are a testament not just to our outstanding applicants but also the diligence and care exercised by our selection committees.

We wish to welcome new members of the Asian Studies Advisory Council (ASAC), including Diana Aga (Chemistry), John Atkinson (Civil, Structural, and Environmental Engineering), Sameer Honwad (Graduate School of Education), Hyein Amber Kim (Linguistics), Jeehyun Lim (English), Sean MacDonald (Linguistics), Trevor Poag (International Education), and Molly Poremski (UB Libraries). The council made valuable contributions to the comprehensive program review organized in November 2018 carried out by eminent scholars Yomi Braester (University of Washington) and Morgan Pitelka (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). The UB Council on International Studies and Programs recently recognized two members of the Advisory Council, Kristin Stapleton (History) and Filomena Critelli (Social Work), with the 2019 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education at UB. We are grateful to Professor Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen (Geography) for her service as ASAC chair. Rebecca French (Law) and Mark Nathan (History) will share responsibilities as the new co-chairs. We were also saddened by some departures: scholar of Asian American Studies Cindy Wu took a position at Indiana University, and we lost a dear friend and colleague, Jeannette Ludwig, to illness in September 2018.

With funds generously provided by the family of

Vinod Rustgi, we have been able to establish an annual undergraduate research conference on South Asian Studies. In 2018, our first year, our student committee invited undergraduates from Berkeley, Vanderbilt, Northwestern, the Ohio State, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Marymount Manhattan to present their research alongside our own students. Sujatha Gidla, author of an acclaimed book that is part history and memoir entitled *Ants among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India*, was the student-selected keynote speaker. The Rustgi South Asian Language Award supports students attending summer American Institute of Indian Studies language programs. Asian Studies major Nina Czach studied Urdu in Lucknow in 2018 and Business major Yue Zhang will study Punjabi in Chandigarh in 2019. We hope to send two students to India in 2020!

I would like to wrap up by asking that you also consider contributing to the Asian Studies study abroad fund, which supports students attending for-credit programs in Asia that include a language component. We prioritize students studying abroad for the first time or in country or region to which they have never before traveled. Our first effort at a fundraising campaign in the fall was a promising first step: four new donors (including faculty, alumni, and members of the community) generously contributed. Their contributions will support Asian Studies major Kendra Harbison during her fall 2019 semester abroad at Korea University. But there are other students whom we were not able to support. Many of us, I am sure, would trace our passion for the study of Asia to similar study abroad experiences. If you are able, please visit <https://asianstudies.buffalo.edu/support/> to donate.

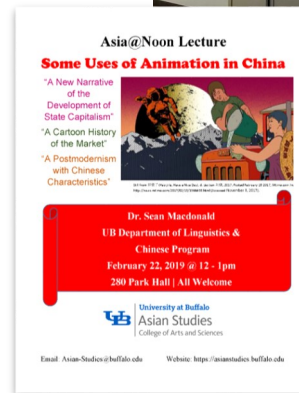
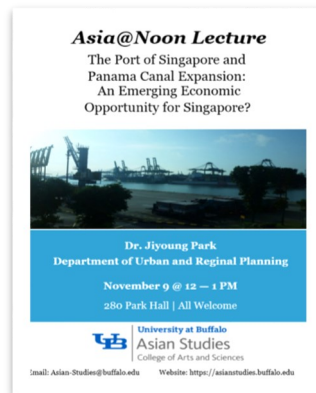
With best wishes for the summer and hoping to see you in the fall,

Walt Hakala

Asia at Noon Lectures 2018-2019



Dr. Jiyoung Park (UB School of Architecture, Dept. Urban and Regional Planning) presented research about implications for international trade flows with the expanded Panama Canal.



Dr. Sean Macdonald (UB Dept. Linguistics, Chinese Program) provided an overview of ways the medium of animation is used in China.

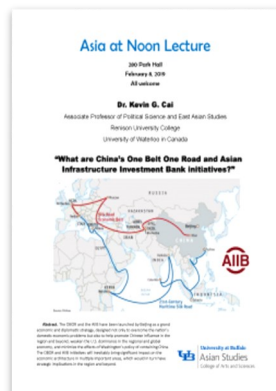


Dr. Jinting Wu (UB Graduate School of Education, Dept. Educational Leadership and Policy) presented the lived experience of mothers in the context of raising and educating children with disabilities in contemporary China.

Dr. Sharon Delmendo (Dept. English, St. John Fisher College) presented her research about Manilaners, European Jews who made the decision that they must leave their homelands for the Philippines or be destroyed by the Nazi juggernaut.

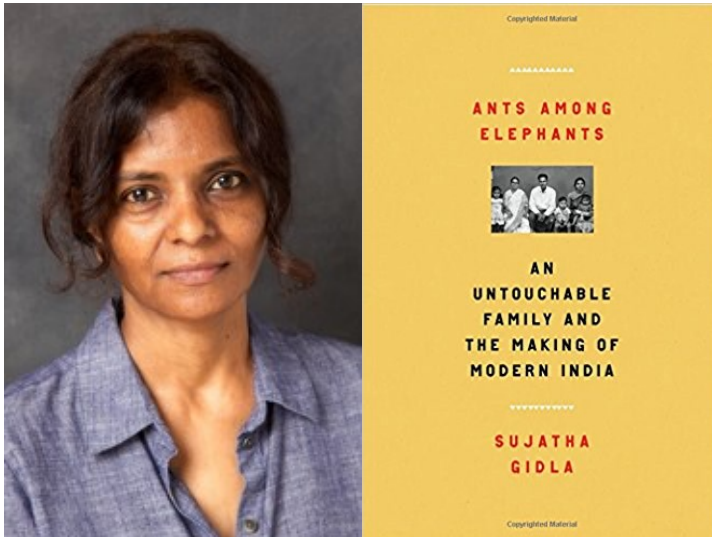


Dr. Kevin Cai (Renison University College of University of Waterloo) presented new research about the OBOR and the AIIB, launched by Beijing as a grand economic and diplomatic strategy.



Yukako Otsuki (UB Dept. Linguistics) presented dissertation research about "English allergy", and reflective teaching practices for Japanese teachers of English language.

2018 Rustgi Undergraduate Conference on South Asia



Origins of the Contemporary

November 3, 2018

Our inaugural undergraduate Asian Studies Conference began with a dinner for all of our presenters from across the United States. This gave us an opportunity to connect and share our experiences in South Asia with each other in an informal setting.

The morning of the conference featured phenomenal presentations from undergraduate scholars with diverse research interests. We had deep conversations about topics from ethics

and media control to gender and cinema and even to modern music and art history. All of these allowed us to grow as young academics by engaging with cutting-edge research from our discipline in areas in which we are not ourselves experts. The all-day presence of faculty from UB and from other neighboring institutions produced critical questions and lively interaction after each presentation.

Sujatha Gidla's keynote focused on caste, identity, and politics in India and abroad. She spoke of her experiences growing up in India and as a subway-car operator in New York City. Her position as a recent author from a non-academic background highlighted her status as a unique keynote speaker. We ended the conference with a large dinner at Kabab and Curry (photo below), where faculty, students, and even our keynote speaker continued the conversations over excellent food.

It is uncommon to have an undergraduate conference in Asian Studies and even more rare to boast presentations from across the country and across the discipline. Our conference was notable for its success and for all it was able to accomplish in its first year.

- Hanna Santanam



Panel 1 Social and Political Currents

- Chair: Dr. Shaanta Murshid (University at Buffalo, SUNY)
- Abhishek Shah (Northwestern University), "Approaches to News Production on and from Kashmir"
- Fatima Afzal (Lahore University of Management Sciences), "Prime Time 'Akhlaq': Selling Ethics in the Subcontinent"

Panel 2 Literature and Media: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives

- Chair: Dr. Natalie Sarrazin (SUNY Brockport)
- Brigitte Meskell (SUNY Brockport), "Escaping the Fire: The Construction of Female Same-Sex Desire and Identity in Hindi Cinema"
- James Batten (University of Colorado Boulder), "National Pride, Nukes, and the Meaning of the Mahābhārata"

Panel 3 Health, Medicine, and Policy

- Chair: Dr. Claude Welch (University at Buffalo, SUNY)
- Sailakshmi Senthil Kumar (University of California Berkeley), "Lingual Choices"
- Madison Weisend (Marymount Manhattan College), "Exploring Water Scarcity Through the Dynamics of Social Power: The Case of the Thar Desert"

Panel 4 Religions, Theory, and Practice

- Chair: Dr. Mark Nathan (University at Buffalo, SUNY)
- Sharmain Siddiqui (Northwestern University), "Unani Tibb as Resistance: Bodily Practice at the Intersection of Colonial and Postcolonial Systems of Power"
- Ethan Seeley (University at Buffalo, SUNY), "The Strange Case of Bhagat Singh Thind: Citizenship and Spirituality"

Panel 5 Art and Diaspora

- Chair: Dr. Christopher Lee (Canisius College)
- Sarah Robinson (Vanderbilt University), "Anarcho-Sufism in America: A Musical Analysis of Omar Waqar"
- Courtney Johnson (The Ohio State University), "The Bifurcated Bride: Gender, Nationalism, and Identity in Amrita Sher-Gil's *The Bride's Toilet*"

Keynote: Sujatha Gidla



UB's Hidden Cranes

The end of the Fall 2018 semester brought 100 cranes to UB North Campus. Each crane was redeemable for a Korean, Japanese, or Chinese snack—the Pocky went first, followed by the Choco Pies! The Asian Studies Program undergraduate students sponsored this stress-busting and moral-boosting event, which brought more than 70 students to the Asian Studies office for snacks. Thanks to our office crew, David, Julie, and Enhao for folding and hiding our little cranes.



Asian Studies Leadership

Director | Walter Hakala

Director of Undergraduate Studies | Mitsuaki Shimojo

Asian Studies Advisory Council Chair | Sharmistha Bagchi-Sen (Fall 2018);
Mark Nathan and Rebecca French Co-chairs (2019)

Asian Studies Executive Committee 2018-2019

Shaanta Murshid | Kristin Stapleton | Mitsuaki Shimojo *ex officio*

4th Annual Faculty Symposium: Water in Asia



Asian Studies Spring Faculty Symposium

Water in Asia

Wednesday
March 6, 2019
8:30am - 2:30pm

8:30 - 8:45—Breakfast

8:45 - 9:00—Opening Remarks

9:00 - 11:00—Revitalizing Traditional Hydraulic Structures in India

Pushkar Sohoni (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Education, and Research – Pune): “Fire and Water: Implications of Gunpowder and Water Management Technologies for Early Modern Settlements”

V. Govindankutty (Department of Geography, Government College, Chittur): “Treatise on the Qanat Water Systems of India.”

11:00 - 12:00—Lunch

12:00 - 2:30—Important Challenges of the 21st century in Water Quantity and Quality

Chris Renschler (Department of Geography, University at Buffalo): “Managing Soil and Water in a Changing World: The Case for Integrated Extreme Events Management”

Diana Aga (Department of Chemistry, University at Buffalo): “Antibiotics in the Aquatic Environment and their Role in Promoting Superbugs in the World”

Xuefeng Ren (Departments of Epidemiology and Environmental Health & Pharmacology and Toxicology, University at Buffalo): “Naturally Occurring Arsenic Contamination in Drinking Water in Asia: The Health Impact and Modes of Action”

107 Capen Hall

Lunch included

Open to the Public - Registration required: <http://bit.ly/waterasia2019>



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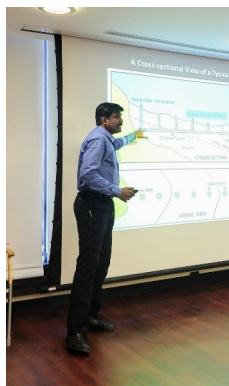
For more information:
Email: Asian-Studies@buffalo.edu
Web: asianstudies.buffalo.edu

The fourth annual Asian Studies Symposium on “Water in Asia” was held in the UB Honors College on March 6, 2019. The event included five presentations representing a variety of disciplinary approaches to issues surrounding the availability and quality of water in Asian societies. Dr. Pushkar Sohoni, visiting from the Indian Institutes of Science, Education and Research in Pune, India, began the symposium’s first session with his examination of both the technologies and foundation myths associated with the establishment of several South Asian cities. Mr. V. Govindankutty, from Government College, Chittur (India), built on his extensive fieldwork in southern India and provided an introduction to *qanats* (traditional underground water conduits), the history of their development, their types, distribution, utility, and current conservation initiatives.

The second session’s consisted of three papers by UB’s Dr. Diana Aga, Dr. Xuefeng Ren, and Dr. Chris Renschler. Dr. Renschler outlined a set of procedures for examining and improving soil and water quality at sites that have been compromised by flooding, nuclear contamination, drought, and other extreme events. Diana Aga spoke about the alarming prevalence of antibiotics in water sources across Asia and the world. Dr. Ren’s presentation

offered insights into the causes and effects on public health of arsenic in water.

The next annual Asian Studies Symposium—our fifth!—will be held in early September. The topic will be “Popular Culture in Asia.” The event will feature faculty representing a similarly diverse range of disciplinary approaches and regional specifications. Stay tuned for more information! - WH



Researching Asia: Faculty Activity Highlights

Anya Bernstein (Associate Professor, UB School of Law) has two Asia-related articles coming out this year: "Porous Bureaucracy: Legitimizing Administrative Culture in Taiwan," *Law & Social Inquiry* (2019) and "Interpenetration of Powers: Channels and Obstacles for Populist Impulses," *Washington International Law Journal* (2019). Both are based on interviews with government administrators in Taiwan, done during several research trips over the course of 2015-2018. "Interpenetration of Powers" comes out of a paper for an invitation-only conference, "Executive Power in an Age of Populism," held in Taiwan, at Academia Sinica's Institutum Iurisprudentiae, in June 2018.

Walter Hakala (Associate Professor, Department of English) carried out research on Urdu epigraphy in Maharashtra and Gujarat, India, in July 2018. This work, which took Hakala to twenty towns and cities, was supported by a Baldy Center Research Grant. He visited UB partner institution MS University of Baroda and presented a paper entitled "Etched in Stone: Early Urdu Epigraphy in Gujarat and the Deccan" at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar. He organized a symposium on "Urdu Keywords" at the Annual Conference on South Asia at University of Wisconsin-Madison on October 11, 2018 and presented a paper on "Imla" (orthography). He serves as the faculty coordinator for the Annual Rustgi Undergraduate Conference on South Asia (see page 6). Hakala organized in January 2019 a study tour of hydraulic structures of medieval Deccan. With funding from the UB Experiential Learning Network, Community for Global Health Equity, and Rustgi donor funds, he traveled with five students and one faculty member to sites located in Maharashtra and Karnataka (see page 22). He was awarded UB OVPRED/HI Research Funding in the Arts & Humanities to support his ongoing research on South Asian epigraphy in 2019 and 2020.

Amanda Kennell (Clinical Assistant Professor, Asian Studies Program) presented a paper, "Physicality and Digital Humanity," at the What is Technology? conference at the University of Oregon in April. She presented "Artificial Media for Real Research" at a workshop hosted by the University of Southern California's Mellon Digital Humanities Program in the same month. In September of 2018, she presented "Yayoi in Wonderland" at the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS).

Yan Liu (Assistant Professor, Department of History) presented four chapters of his upcoming book at various institutions while on research leave in the academic year of 2018-19: (1) an invited talk on the comparative study of poisons between Chinese and Greek pharmacy at the University of Rochester (Oct. 2018); (2) a public talk on poison, witchcraft, and politics in medieval China in the Scholars@Hallwalls series of the Humanities Institute at UB (Feb. 2019); (3) an invited talk on the production and circulation of medical knowledge in medieval China at Johns Hopkins University (Mar. 12, 2019); (4) a panel presentation on the making of experience-based knowledge in medieval China at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference in Denver (Mar. 2019). In addition, in early March 2019, he attended an ACLS-sponsored reading workshop titled "The Intersection of Religion, Medicine, and Technology in Medieval

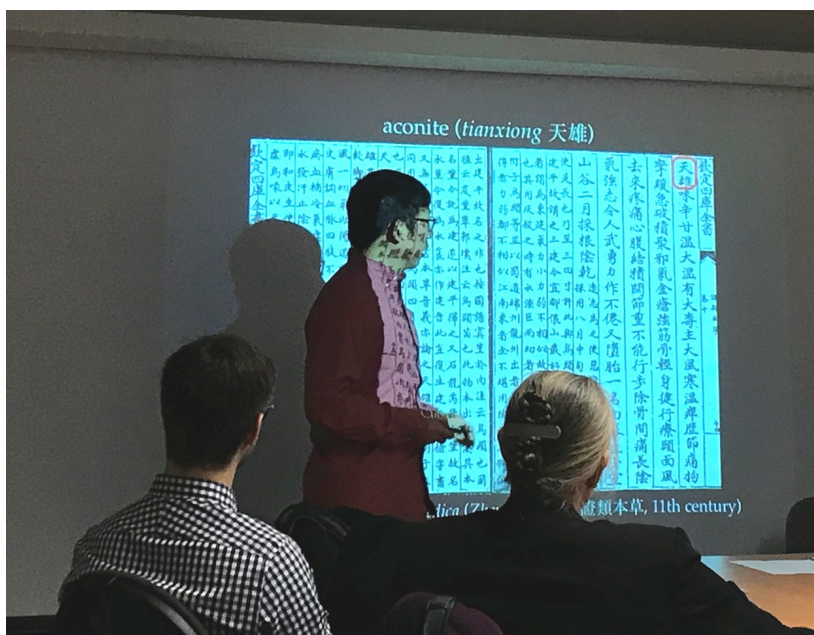


The final two pages of Kusumoto Kimie's 2013 translation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, as illustrated by Kusama Yayoi.

Chinese Alchemy,” and presented his passage of translation. Finally, his article “Words, Demons, and Vermin: Incantatory Healing in Medieval China” has been accepted by *Asian Medicine*, and will be in print later this year.

Arabella Lyon (Professor, Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies) attended and spoke at the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) in September. Her talk was entitled: “Shù 恕 and zhōng 忠: A Response to the Golden Rule.”

Her article, “Teaching Deliberation: Abandoning Aristotelian Persuasion and Embracing Confucian Remonstrance” in *Confucianism Reconsidered: Insights for American and Chinese Education in the 21st Century* (SUNY University Press 2018) was translated and published in the special issue a Chinese journal, *Rhetoric and Pedagogy in Contemporary Rhetoric* 5 (Fudan University 2018). Lyon also published a book review on Arabic rhetoric: “Shades of Sulh: The Rhetorics of Arab-Islamic Reconciliation by Rasha Diab,” *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*.21.4 (2018): 737-39.



Dr. Yan Liu presenting at Johns Hopkins University.

JiYoung Park (Associate Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning) was among a group of leading scholars who led a critical discussion on climate change research at the Association Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) conference in Buffalo last October. Following presentations from four leaders in the field of planning for climate disruptions, the presenters and audience members discussed the Model Of Integrated Impact and Vulnerability Evaluation of climate change (MOTIVE) project. MOTIVE has its origins as an effort to minimize the safety concerns and damage to property as a result of climate change in South Korea. More information is available on the School of Architecture and Planning website: <http://ap.buffalo.edu/news/2019/motive-project-acsp.html>)

Kristin Stapleton contributed an article on the aftermath of the 1949 Communist victory in China to the *Routledge Handbook of the Chinese Revolution* as part of her new research project on Chinese cities in the 1950s. In fall 2018, she presented a paper on the spread of urban reform ideas and techniques of municipal administration at a conference on twentieth-century Chinese governance at a conference in Paris, France, and gave a lecture on provincial China at the Ohio State University. A Chinese edition of her book *Fact in Fiction: 1920s China and Ba Jin's Family* (Stanford 2016), will appear soon, published by the Sichuan Literature and Arts Press. In spring 2019 she wrapped up her five-year term as chief editor of the journal *Twentieth-Century China* with a special issue commemorating the hundredth anniversary of China's May Fourth political demonstrations, a pivotal event in modern Chinese history. In summer 2019 she has plans to travel to China for research and to England for a meeting of the Global Urban History Project, an international scholarly organization founded in Buffalo.

Asian Studies Program Research Award

2019 Award Recipients

The Asia Studies Program Advisory Council Award Committee supports faculty and graduate student research related to the study of Asia.

Devon Asmus. Department of Anthropology, PhD Student. Research Support, Southeast Asia. Award provided in collaboration with the Nila T. Gnammm Research Fund.

“Beauty, Decay, and HIV/AIDS Care in Thailand”: Compares how bodily aesthetics shape practices and perceptions of medicine at two different HIV/AIDS clinics in central Thailand.

Michael Flatt. Department of English, Poetics. PhD Student. Research Support, Japan.

“Contemporary Software Poetics”: Study of the work of Kitasono Katue, an often-overlooked progenitor of concrete poetry and a founder of the Vou group of Japanese visual poets.

Brittany Kenyon. Department of Anthropology, PhD Student. Research Support, Japan

“Small skeletal variation in macaque

species”: Aims to decipher the extent to which small skeletal variations aid in distinguishing among macaque species.

Carolyn Marcille, PhD. Asian Studies Program. Research Faculty and Adjunct. Curricular Development Support, India.

“Hindi Cinema Curricular Development”: Development of innovative curricular materials that improve pedagogical approaches to Hindi cinema.

Asri Saraswati. Department of Transnational Studies, PhD Candidate. Research Support, Southeast Asia. Award provided in collaboration with the Nila T. Gnammm Research Fund.

“Migrant Literature and Cold War Indonesia: The Cultural Politics of Indonesian Sojourn Intellectuals and Writers in the U.S. in 1960s -1980s”: Examines the lived experience and literature of Indonesian intellectuals who migrated or sojourned to the U.S. during the height of the Cold War in Southeast Asia.

The Nila T. Gnammm Research Fund

2019 Award Recipients

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Study Center at UB, in conjunction with the Department of Geography and the Asian Studies Program in the College of Arts & Sciences, supported three 2019 Nila T. Gnammm Research Fund Awardees for research focusing on SE Asia.

Mary Grace Guardian. Department of Chemistry

Occurrence and Levels of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Surface Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in the Philippines and in Thailand.

Prof. Lance S. Rintamaki. Department of Communication

Patient Preferences for Discussing Sexual Health with Physicians: A Two-Nation Comparison.

Zena Toh. Department of Communication

An Evolutionary Perspective: Understanding Attractiveness through Selfie Behavior.

What's next for our Asian Studies Students?

A few of our graduating Asian Studies students reported their coming plans...

Russell Guilbault. In the fall I will be attending Northern Illinois University, where I am pursuing an MA in philosophy. I have received funding to participate in an International Classical Chinese Workshop this summer at the Academy for Korean Studies in South Korea.

Hanna Santanam. Next year I will be completing a Fulbright-Nehru English Teaching Assistantship in Chennai, India. When I return, I plan to pursue the JD at a US institution with a strong program on comparative international law. I am currently writing my senior thesis on the cultural anthropology behind Section 377, India's infamous antisodomy clause.



Hanna Santanam



Jenny Simon at Changbai Mountain (or Changbaishan) in Jilin, China.

Jenny Simon received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to teach English at Otgontenger University in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for the 2019-2020 academic year. Last summer, she received a Critical Language Scholarship to study Mandarin in Changchun, China. She is interested in contemporary Chinese literature and culture, and hopes to broaden her knowledge of Asia through her experience in Mongolia.

2018-2019
Asian Studies
in Numbers

# <u>STUDENTS</u> in AS courses	361
# <u>COURSES</u> in AS	23
# <u>DISCIPLINES</u> represented in AS courses	8
# <u>MAJORS</u> in AS	21
# <u>MINORS</u> in AS	4

AS Study Abroad Awards

We strive to make study abroad possible for as many UB students of Asian Studies as possible. Our program offers two distinct study abroad awards.

Generous contributions from our alumni, faculty, and broad community of people interested in the study of Asia help to support study abroad in Asia. We would be so pleased if you would apply for one of our awards if you are a student, or support UB students by contributing to the award fund.

The Asian Studies Program Study Abroad award ranges from \$500 to \$1000 and is strictly for undergraduate students who plan to study in Asia.

Congratulations our five Study Abroad awardees, who are planning their study abroad and language study experiences in Japan, India, and Korea! We wish them well in their studies and are proud to support their endeavors!

Samuel Coniglio

Kendra Harbison

Daniel Li

Cindy Ng

Logan Walters

Stories from Study Abroad in Asia



Russell Guilbault—Japan. “Thanks to the AS Study Abroad Award, I was able to study Japanese in Tokyo this summer. Between living with a wonderful host family, going everywhere I could in my spare time, and making some great Japanese friends, my language skills got a major boost. This has been especially helpful in that it has enabled me to better handle primary sources in my research, which deals with Buddhist philosophy in East Asia.”

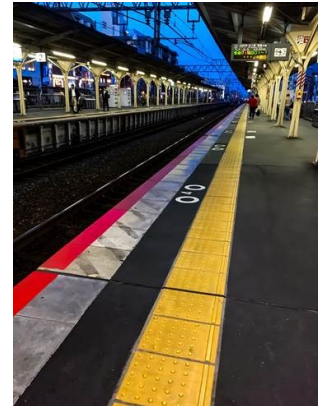




Carmilla Stafford—Japan. “One of my favorite things about Japan is the trains. They’re clean, they’re safe, they’re inexpensive, they’re on time, everyone is mindful and they go everywhere. I’ve never had so much freedom before in my life.

In Japan both traditional and subcultures are very much alive and very easily accessible as well. In the span of one week I saw a pro wrestling tournament, a

traditional Noh play and went to a Jinja, all near the same station. Going out and exploring is very doable and well worthwhile for anyone studying at Konan, and while the language barrier is certainly present, so long as you make an effort to observe what’s going on around you everyone is extremely kind and helpful.”



Kayleigh Hamernik—India. ‘I loved living in Jaipur, but my favorite part of my study abroad in India was by far the weekends where my friends and I would catch a 12-hour bus after school on Friday and wake up in a different part of the country on Saturday morning. The UB Asian Studies Study Abroad Award made it possible for me to see Diwali fireworks at the Golden Temple, go to the Wagah Border Ceremony, see the Himalayas in Shimla, descend into Happy Valley in Mussoorie, and hike up to Sinhagad Fort in Pune. It took me a few weeks into my program to gain the courage to travel, but once I did I was on a roll!’



AS Study Abroad Awards, continued

The [Rustgi South Asian Language Award](#) supports the full cost of tuition and airfare for summer study in the American Institute of Indian Studies language programs. Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply.

Three highly qualified applicants were awarded the Rustgi South Asian Language Award to study in the American Institute of Indian Studies language program in India this coming summer. As it turns out, our remarkable UB students qualify for many prestigious postings and awards and just one student will be funded by our Rustgi Award. Here are their stories:

- **Yue Zhang:** accepted the award and will study at AIIS summer 2019. Read more about Yue below!
- Kayleigh Hamernik: was awarded alternative funding to study in India next academic year and we wish her well in her continuing studies.
- Jonathan Bessette: accepted an alternative opportunity for the summer instead of study abroad and we wish him well.

[Yue Zhang's Story](#)

Yue Zhang '20 is a third-year international student at UB. We spoke to Yue to learn a little bit about how this experience fits into her academic, career, and life goals.

UB Major: Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and Data Analytics

Why India? Yue has traveled throughout Asia, visiting Malaysia, Indonesia, northern China and some cities in southern China, but even though India is not far from her home she has never visited.

Why so much traveling? Yue's list of places visited doesn't end with Asian countries – her study abroad experiences have taken her to Costa Rica and several regions of the United States. Yue likes to see different cultures and learn about food, people, and places. Her [YouTube travelogue](#) shares her experiences with the online world. She thinks that places are not portrayed on the news and in media as they really are and that you have to go see places for yourself to understand them. For instance, Yue really likes Bollywood films, but she's pretty certain they are not a good portrayal of the whole country or everyday life.

How is study abroad in India related to a business degree? Travel was Yue's hobby until now, but as she considers her options in international business, she believes that this experience will situate her to participate in culturally nuanced negotiations between India and China – and Europe since Yue also speaks French.

Who should apply for the Rustgi award next year? Yue thinks she isn't the typical student to apply for the award, she learned about it when she met Dr. Walter Hakala, the Asian Studies Program Director, at a UB Experiential Learning Network faculty mentor meet and greet. Yue thinks Asian Studies students definitely should apply, but anyone eager to learn and curious about India should too.



Senior Capstone Projects

Each year our graduating major seniors perform independent research, which draws their program of study into a focused project. We celebrate their achievement during the Capstone Presentations—an open event where our seniors present their research and take comments from faculty, other students and the public. Congratulations to the 2018-2019 capstoners!



Shu Luo: “A Brief Analysis of the Factors of Japanese Anime’s International Success”

Niles Murillo: “Discrimination in the Recruitment of English Teachers in Korea”

Courtney Panfil: “Meiji Literature – Then and Now”

Hanluo Wang: “Japan’s Social Issues of Loneliness”

Jingsen Xu: “‘Cherries’ as Dazai Osamu’s Final Story”

Russell Guilbault: “Emptiness and Metaethics in Dōgen”



Alumni!

What are you up to?

Want to meet up? We are happy to include you in our Asian Studies Program events. UB is busy with Asia-related events of all kinds. Join the email list to receive the weekly eNews to learn about them: <https://asianstudies.buffalo.edu/news/>

Need staff? Our current majors and minors and recent graduates are on fire to use their

language and culture skills.

Have things to report? We are happy to profile your accomplishments on our website and future newsletters.

We miss you and wonder what you are up to! Email our office and let us know!

Asian-Studies@buffalo.edu

International Student Inclusion at UB

Did you feel homesick after moving off to college? Not really sure how to make friends with people who seemed so different from you, and who didn't quite understand you well? These struggles are only amplified for UB's 4,683 international students, who travel from all parts of the world to come study in Buffalo.

Aided by an award from the Office of International Education (OIE), the Asian Studies Program tackled the issue of how better to include international students into the UB community. The International Student Inclusion Series, organized by Dr. Walter Hakala (Director), Dr. Caroline Funk (Assistant to the Director), and first-year undergraduate Brian Kwong (Events Coordinator), created a series of events that aimed to provide fun and engaging activities for international students, and provide a platform in which they can meet and engage with U.S. students. The events included a series of "language lunches," a scavenger hunt, and a Bollywood dance night.

The three language lunches focused on connecting native and non-native Korean, Japanese, and Chinese speakers and specifically included U.S. and international students. Up to 8 students and three faculty UB members attended each lunch, which provided relaxing environments where international students could meet other students, professors who teach and research their language and culture, and each other. Professors who attended these language lunches included Dr. Mark Nathan (History), Dr. Mitsuaki Shimojo (Linguistics), Dr. Amanda Kennell (Asian Studies Program), Dr. Yan Liu (History), and Dr. Sean Macdonald (Linguistics). Faculty members facilitated conversation and contributed nuanced discussion. The best part? The free food, of course.

The Asian Studies Program Presents
International Student Inclusion Series

Japanese Language Lunch

CALLING ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS! Do you speak Japanese? Want to practice and meet up with other learning and native speakers? Then come on down to Clemens 412 for some FREE food and a great time!



Dr. Amanda Kennell
East Asian Culture
University at Buffalo
Asian Studies Program



Dr. Mitsuaki Shimojo
Japanese Linguistics
University at Buffalo
Linguistics & Asian Studies

Tuesday, April 2
12 PM to 1 PM
Sign up here!
International Students: bit.ly/japan-lunch-int
US Students: bit.ly/japan-lunch-us



University at Buffalo
Asian Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

Funded by the Asian Studies Program | International Student Inclusion Series
asianstudies@buffalo.edu | asian-studies@buffalo.edu
Contact briankwong@buffalo.edu for any questions or inquiries

The Asian Studies Program Presents
International Student Inclusion Series

Chinese Language Lunch

DO YOU SPEAK CHINESE? Want to practice and meet up with other learning and native speakers? Then come on down to Clemens 412 for some FREE food and a great time!



Dr. Yan Liu
Chinese History
University at Buffalo
Department of History



Dr. Sean Macdonald
Chinese Literature & Culture
University at Buffalo
Chinese Program

Thursday, May 2
12 PM to 1 PM
Sign up here!
<http://bit.ly/as-chinese-lunch>



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The Asian Studies Program Presents
International Student Inclusion Series

Korean Konnections

Do you speak Korean? Want to practice and meet up with other learning and native speakers? Then come on down for some FREE food and a great time! Come and make some Korean Konnections!



Dr. Mark Nathan
Professor of Korean History
University at Buffalo
Asian Studies Program

Thursday, March 14
12:00 PM | 412 Clemens Hall
Sign up here!
International Students: bit.ly/2UfILM9
US Students: <https://bit.ly/2ND3DDu>



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The scavenger hunt was a unique take on a traditional scavenger hunt, where instead of finding objects, teams of up to 4 had to find different landmarks and art attractions throughout UB and the City of Buffalo. Each team took selfies at each location and raced against other teams to find all of the places.

Perhaps the most successful event resulted from a collaboration between the Asian Studies Program and the Bollywood Dance and Drama Club's (BDDC) Bollywood Dance Night - a night of dancing, food, and entertainment. Asian Studies sponsored tickets for 40 people to attend the event—65% of whom were international students.

- Brian Kwong

The Asian Studies Program Presents
International Student Inclusion Series

JOIN THE HUNT!

Buffalo Scavenger Hunt

PRIZES!
(really good prizes)!

1st \$50 value: SNACK BASKET from HANA MART
2nd \$30 value: TONY'S CHOCOLONELY pack
EVERYBODY picks one: KEYCHAIN or PENCIL CASE

Sign up:
bit.ly/buffalo-scavenger-hunt
by April 18! Teams of 4:
Each team should include some US and some international students!
(That's the whole point - international student engagement!) 7 teams MAX!

Saturday, April 20 at 1 PM to 4pm
Meet at the SU Field!
NFTA PASSES FOR ALL TEAMS!




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Contact briankwo@buffalo.edu for any questions or inquiries

UB'S BOLLYWOOD DANCE AND DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS

BOLLYWOOD DANCE NIGHT

Come shake a leg to amazing bollywood beats and music by PRO DJs and enjoy delicious Indian food
Games and prizes worth \$50 up for grabs!

April 17, SU Lobby, 8pm onwards

Undergraduate : 7\$
General admission : 8\$

UB's Bollywood Dance and Drama Club is hosting
BOLLYWOOD DANCE NIGHT!
Photo booth | Dance competition with prizes? And a red carpet!
There will be music provided by PRO DJs and great food!


And thanks to our International Student Inclusion Award, **a bunch of you can go for FREE!** (40 students max!) Are you an international student? Sign up! Are you a US student? Invite an international student friend!

Sign up for free student admission by 4pm April 17 (must be a UB student)! We'll pay your way! Questions? Email Asian-Studies@buffalo.edu

bit.ly/bollywood-free

University at Buffalo
Asian Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

Asian Studies Cosponsored Events




University at Buffalo
Department of History
College of Arts and Sciences

Disciplinary Nomadism:

Observations on Researching Messy History, Law, and Society in 20th Century China

Neil Diamant



Scholars interested in the intersection of history, law, and society confront a vexing challenge: how do we deal with the demands of the historical profession—research in archives, attention to detail, extreme cautiousness about generalization and comparison—with the search for patterns, order and larger scale generalizations valued by the social science disciplines? In China-based research, this challenge is particularly acute because materials are often inaccessible and state-centric, and “law” as a concept and a set of practices and institutions not always easy to find. In this talk, Neil Diamant will discuss these challenges and offer methodological and stylistic strategies that can help bridge this divide.

Professor Diamant is a Professor of Asian Law and Society at Dickinson College

Thursday, November 8, 4 – 5:30 pm Baldy Center conference room
509 O’Brian

@UB_History
UBHistory

This event is co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program.



UB Confucius Institute Distinguished Architecture Lecture

Cosponsored by the Asian Studies Program

Zhu Pei

Dean, School of Architecture, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing
Founder, Studio Zhu Pei

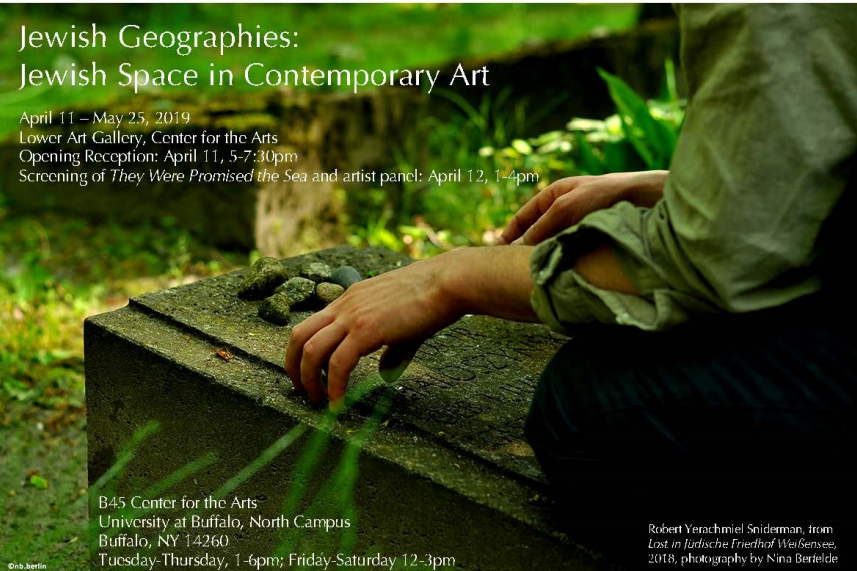
Root + Contemporaneity

February 13, 6:00 pm

The Asian Studies Program cosponsors academic, cultural, and artistic events focused on Asia across UB’s campuses. This year we were pleased to support lectures and gallery installations, as well as a two-hour roundtable on North and South Korean relations.

Jewish Geographies: Jewish Space in Contemporary Art

April 11 – May 25, 2019
Lower Art Gallery, Center for the Arts
Opening Reception: April 11, 5-7:30pm
Screening of *They Were Promised the Sea* and artist panel: April 12, 1-4pm



B45 Center for the Arts
University at Buffalo, North Campus
Buffalo, NY 14260
Tuesday-Thursday, 1-6pm; Friday-Saturday 12-3pm

Robert Yezachmiel Sniderman, from *Lost in Jüdische Friedhof Weissensee*, 2018, photography by Nina Bielefeld

Roundtable Discussion: The Past and Future of North and South Korean Relations

This roundtable discussion brought scholars from across UB together with more than 80 faculty and students to discuss perspectives on the prospects for peace on the Korean peninsula. The roundtable took place on the centennial of the historic 1919 March First independence movement from Japanese colonial rule and examined recent developments in the peninsula and possible future outcomes within the context of past experiences in Korea.

Faculty presentations opened discussion on topics ranging from development to society:

- Bumjoon Kang | Department of Urban & Regional Planning | “How urban planners and developers view the possible reunification of the two Koreas as *daebak* (a bonanza)”
- Hyein Amber Kim | Department of Linguistics, Korean Language Program | “Integrating North Koreans into South Korean society: Education, identities, and equality issues at a refugee school in Seoul”
- Yunju Nam | School of Social Work | “Programs and policies for the North Korean defectors/escapees who have resettled in South Korea”
- Mark Nathan | Department of History | “Religion and Reunification: The role of religious organizations in the past, present, and future of inter-Korean relations”
- Jin Young Song | Department of Architecture | “Public Space Between Enemies: The limitations of the Sunshine Policy and the role of art and architecture in testing the new citizenship of a united Korea through the practice of the shared public space”

Presented by the Asian Studies Program, AS395/HIS385, and the Korean Culture Fund.



Roundtable Discussion: The Past and Future of North and South Korean Relations

Friday, March 1, 2019 | 12pm to 2pm | 120 Clemens Hall
All welcome | Light Lunch Provided

UB Faculty Participants

Bumjoon Kang | Urban & Regional Planning | Reunification as *daebak* (a bonanza)
Hyein Amber Kim | Linguistics | Integrating North Koreans into South Korean society
Yunju Nam | Social Work | North Korean defectors/escapees resettled in South Korea
Mark Nathan | History | Religion and Reunification
Jin Young Song | Architecture | The role of art and architecture in testing the new citizenship of a united Korea



Scholars from across UB **invite discussion** on the **prospects for peace** on the Korean peninsula. The recent detente between the U.S. and North Korea has created an opening for **warming ties and friendly gestures** between North and South Korea. Given the rapidly changing circumstances and fast moving events, what are the two Koreas doing to promote peace and reconciliation? **What are the chances of success?** This roundtable, which takes place on the centennial of the historic 1919 March First independence movement from Japanese colonial rule, will examine **recent developments** in the peninsula and **possible future outcomes** within the context of past experiences in Korea.

 University at Buffalo
Asian Studies
College of Arts and Sciences

AS 395 / HIS 385
The Korean War

Korean Culture
Fund

Email: Asian-Studies@buffalo.edu Website: asianstudies.buffalo.edu

The 2019 India Study Tour



Professor Walt Hakala (ENG/AS) led a study tour of Islamic structures of the Deccan region of India in January of 2019. Undergraduates David Tallents, Jon Bessette, Kayleigh Hamernik, Xander Covert, and Eric Niblock accompanied him, along with research faculty member Dr. Carolyn Marcille (AS).

The trip began in Mumbai and continued to the city of Pune, where the group stayed at the Pune campus of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research. In the company of Pushkar Sohoni – the leading scholar of art history in the Deccan – they traveled to ancient city of Aurangabad, where they explored the world-renowned Ellora Caves (a UNESCO world heritage site). They also scaled the famous hill of the Daulatabad Fort, known for its labyrinthine tunnels and beautiful views, and visited the Bibi

Ka Maqbara, a Mughal tomb resembling the iconic Taj Mahal.

The group travelled to Bidar, a small city in the Indian state of Karnataka. There they met with Valliyil Govindankutty, the leading scholar on the *karez* system of Bidar. Professor Govindankutty guided the group in exploration of the ancient and complex system of *karez* – underground aqueducts – that run beneath the city, and they learned about the efforts to restore the extensive but decaying system. The group took water samples from various wells and other sources, and tested the water quality of the *karez* system at several different points. These data were later compiled and organized by Jon Bessette and Eric Niblock, to be presented at the Sixth Annual Pittsburgh Asia Consortium Undergraduate Research Conference at the University of Pittsburgh in February 2019.

The group passed through Gulbarga after leaving Bidar, on their way to the city of Bijapur. There they met with Ameenuddin Hullur, whose work in restoring many of the forgotten ancient structures of Bijapur has earned him praise in the region. After touring the city's ancient structures and taking water samples, most of the group returned to Mumbai, while Bessette and Hamernik departed to explore the coastal region of southern India. Pictures were taken and compiled by Xander Covert.

- David Tallents



Total credit hours in the AS Minor: 30**Core Courses**, 1 required (3 credit hours)

AS 181: *Asian Civilization I* or AS 182: *Asian Civilization II* or
 AS 221: *Survey of Asian Literature* or AS 229: *Contemporary Asian Societies*

Language Proficiency 4 courses (18 credit hours)

Students are required to take four semesters of an Asian language other than their native language or demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency equivalent to two years of classroom language study at UB. 100 and 200 level language courses may be shared with another degree program. Students who are able to demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in an Asian language other than their native language may petition the Asian Studies Program Director of Undergraduate Studies to replace the required language study with upper-level electives, with the general principle that each year of language study will be replaced by two 3-hour courses in the upper-level elective category. At most two semesters of language study can be replaced by content courses.

Advanced Courses: 3 courses (9 credit hours)

Three approved Asian Studies courses at the 300/400-level. Two must be outside the student's major department (for example, History majors must take two upper-level Asia-related electives offered outside the History Department to complete the Asian Studies minor). One course may be shared with another major or minor, which may be a 300/400-level language course unless it is used for a language minor.

A minimum grade of 1.67 (C-) must be achieved in each course in the minor. Overall GPA in the minor must be 2.0 (C) to graduate with the minor.

Minor in Asian Studies

Asian economies have a preeminent presence and impact worldwide, and political and social dynamics in Asia intersect profoundly with US political, social, and cultural landscapes. Studying Asian civilizations and contemporary societies and economies is fascinating, meaningful, and practical.

- 1 The interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies is a valuable credential for graduate study and an international career.
- 2 Complements your major in another academic or professional field.
- 3 Broadens and enriches your academic experience.
- 4 Provides you with the skills and concepts needed for appreciating the rich civilizations and vibrant societies of Asia.
- 5 You'll learn to relate professionally with people in and from Asian countries.



ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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asianstudies.buffalo.edu



[@UBAsianStudiesProgramSUNY](https://www.facebook.com/UBAsianStudiesProgramSUNY)