

Mission Statement

The Program in Asian Studies has several missions. The first is to promote an understanding of the history, cultures, and societies of the people of East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, West Asia, and all the segments of the Asian Diaspora in the United States through a wide selection of course offerings in the humanities and social sciences.

The second is, in conjunction with the Department of Foreign Languages, to promote and provide context for a full range of language instruction, since language competencies constitute the long-term foundation upon which any serious intellectual or practical engagement with Asian societies and cultures must rest.

Thirdly, the Program offers an interdisciplinary B.A. in Asian Studies, which provides an intellectual challenge as well as sound training that forms a useful and necessary foundation for students who intend to go on to graduate school in the social sciences or humanities and focus their research on Asia. The major also provides an essential background for students who are contemplating professions (such as business, law, or journalism) with the intent of doing extensive work in Asia. The Program also promotes study programs for our students in Asia, particularly in China, Taiwan, and Japan, but also in other diverse areas of Asia.

In addition, the Program endeavors to promote the highest quality of research by all the Asian Studies faculty in their various disciplines, to enhance pedagogical techniques and information technology in Asian Studies courses, to bring Asia-related speakers and programs to the college, to celebrate our history of connections to Asia, to present public programs on Asian topics to campus and community audiences, and to support improved K-12 education in New York City. The Program celebrates yearly events in this spirit of a larger community involved in Asia, such as the college's annual Cherry Blossom festival that also celebrates CCNY founder Townsend Harris's historic sojourn as a diplomat in Japan, and participation in CCNY alumni Chinese banquets at the lunar New Year.

Learning Outcomes

As an interdisciplinary major without its own faculty, Asian studies is above all focused on teaching analytic and critical reasoning, writing, and understanding across the disciplines. Asian Studies majors have a foundation in understanding Asian cultures and global interactions through

language study and study of historical traditions in diverse Asian cultures. Additionally students gain analytic insights into Asian and other cultures through interdisciplinary course offerings based in our program and in a range of departments that may embrace study of literature, anthropology, politics, film, theater, cross-cultural connections, and diverse issues of Asian American communities in New York City and the United States.

Student with a B.A. in Asian Studies will:

1. The ability to demonstrate knowledge of the discipline of Asian Studies.
2. The ability to demonstrate awareness of the wide range of Asian cultures.
3. The ability to analyze more than one Asian culture from an historical perspective.
4. Proficiency in an Asian language at the levels determined and evaluated by the Department of Foreign Languages: a minimum level of four semesters of study or the equivalent.
5. The ability to describe and analyze pre-eminent literary texts or artistic artifacts of an Asian culture.
6. The ability to write analytically and lucidly.
7. The ability to understand the relationships between the United States and Asia in an increasingly globalized world community.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 7 as listed below
Last Updated, Fall 2006)

	Courses	Learning Outcomes									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
Asian Studies	Asian Religions		X	X		X	X	X			
	Asian Theater Tradition		X				X	X			
	Asian in American Law & Politics						X	X			
	China - U.S. Relations					X	X	X			
	Contemporary Asia	X	X	X			X	X			
	Introduction to Asia & the Middle East	X	X	X		X	X				
	Japanese Film					X	X				
	Modern Chinese Literature					X	X				
Foreign Languages	Elementary Chinese 1				X						
	Elementary Chinese 2				X						
	Intensive Intermediate Chinese				X						
	Elementary Hindi 1				X						
	Elementary Hindi 2				X						
	Intensive Intermediate Hindi				X						
	Elementary Japanese 1				X						
	Elementary Japanese 2				X						
History	Intensive Intermediate Japanese				X						
	East Asian Science & Technology		X	X			X	X			
	Japanese Society since WW II			X		X	X	X			
	Japanese Empire	X	X	X			X	X			
	Modern China	X					X	X			
	Modern India	X					X	X			
	Modern Japan	X					X	X			
	Nuclear Weapons Programs in Asia		X	X			X	X			
	The Pacific War			X			X	X			
	Traditional China	X				X	X				
Traditional India	X				X	X					
Traditional India	X				X	X					