

# ASIAN STUDIES

**Department Website:** <https://www.smu.ca/asian-studies/>

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Since 1975, the Asian Studies degree program has helped students understand Canada's relationship with Asia and the impacts Asia has upon Canada. The program consists of the study of language, culture, geography, history and society, and facilitates student travel to experience parts of Asia first hand. Students are encouraged to add Asian Studies as a minor or a second major, or a more focused minor in either Chinese or Japanese Studies. Saint Mary's University is the only institution in the Atlantic Provinces offering a comprehensive degree-granting program in Asian Studies.

An academic background in Asian Studies will help to prepare students for careers in a variety of fields, including diplomatic service, international trade and industry and secondary and university education.

Facility in an Asian language is central to the program and students are encouraged to consider participating in one or more of our cultural exchange programs overseas.

## Programs

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) is a well-established, foundational degree and requires the requirements listed below alongside general graduation requirements (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/faculties/faculty-arts/bachelor-arts/>).

## Major in Asian Studies

Students must complete forty-two (42) credit hours within the following constraints:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Select 12 consecutive Asian language credit hours (Introductory and Intermediate)		12
Select six credits of the following:		6
ASNT 1105	Introduction to Chinese Culture	
ASNT 1106	Introduction to Japanese Culture	
ASNT 1107	Introduction to Korean Culture	
ASNT 2210	Indigenous Voices in Modern Asia	
HIST 1222	Introduction to East Asian History	
ASNT 3300	Multidisciplinary Study Asia	3
ASNT 4400	Seminar in Asian Studies	3
Select 18 additional credit hours from at least two different disciplines other than languages from the list of core courses below. Eighteen (18) of the forty-two (42) credit hour total must be at the 3000 or 4000 level.		18
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>42</b>

## BA Breadth Requirements

Students may find it useful to note that the following introductory courses available for credit towards degrees in Asian Studies also fulfill Basic Arts requirements:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Requirement 3b</b>		
JPNS 1100	Introductory Japanese	6
CHNS 1101	Introductory Modern Chinese I	3
CHNS 1102	Introductory Modern Chinese II	3
<b>Requirement 3c</b>		
ASNT 1105	Introduction to Chinese Culture	3
ASNT 1106	Introduction to Japanese Culture	3
ASNT 1107	Introduction to Korean Culture	3
HIST 1222	Introduction to East Asian History	3
<b>Requirement 3d</b>		
ANTH 1202	Introducing Socio-Cultural Anthropology	3

## Concentrations

To obtain concentrations in Asian Studies, Chinese Studies, or Japanese Studies in partial fulfillment of the B.A. General Degree (Double Arts Concentrations) (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/faculties/faculty-arts/bachelor-arts-general-double-arts-concentrations/>), a minimum of twenty-four (24) credit hours in one of these three subject areas is required, with twelve (12) credit hours at the 3000 or 4000 level, and a minimum grade point average of 2.00. Further details are available from the Coordinator.

## Honours in Asian Studies

- Admission to and continuance in the honours program in Asian Studies follows the general regulations of the Faculty of Arts.
- To obtain an honours or double honours program in Asian Studies, students must complete at least sixty (60) credit hours and satisfy the following requirements;
  - all of the requirements of the major listed above.
  - six (6) additional Asian language credit hours;
  - six (6) additional credit hours at the 2000 level or above in: Anthropology, Asian Studies, History or Religious Studies in courses listed as Asian Studies core courses or recognized by the Coordinator as relevant for Asian Studies;
  - an honours thesis (Honours Thesis (ASNT 4500)), prepared during the final year of study in the program. The topic must be approved by the Asian Studies Committee and the thesis will be supervised and graded by three faculty members chosen by the Asian Studies Committee; and
  - annual approval of their program of study by the Coordinator of the Asian Studies Committee.

## Minor in Asian Studies

Students majoring in another academic discipline may obtain a minor in Asian Studies by completing the equivalent of twenty-four (24) credit hours approved for the program:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Select six credits of the following:		6
CHNS 1101	Introductory Modern Chinese I	
CHNS 1102	Introductory Modern Chinese II	
JPNS 1100	Introductory Japanese	
ASNT 3300	Multidisciplinary Study Asia	3

ASNT 4400	Seminar in Asian Studies	3
Select 12 credit hours from the Asian Studies Core Courses (below) (at least six from the 2000 level or above)		12
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>24</b>

## Minor in Chinese Studies

Students in the undergraduate Arts program who are not Asian Studies majors can complete a minor in Chinese Studies by completing the following courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
CHNS 1101 & CHNS 1102	Introductory Modern Chinese I and Introductory Modern Chinese II	6
ASNT 3300 & ASNT 4400	Multidisciplinary Study Asia and Seminar in Asian Studies	6
Select 12 other credit hours on China in at least two different disciplines of the following:		12
ANTH 2326	Contemporary East Asia	
ASNT 1105	Introduction to Chinese Culture	
ASNT 2305	Contemporary China: Institutions and Culture	
ASNT 3310	Chinese Film and Literature	
CHNS 2200	Intermediate Modern Chinese	
CHNS 3300	Advanced Oral and Written Chinese I	
CHNS 3301	Advanced Oral and Written Chinese II	
HIST 1222	Introduction to East Asian History	
HIST 3371	The Chinese Cultural Revolution in History and Memory	
HIST 3372	Food in Chinese History	
HIST 3381	China before 1800 (formerly HIST 2381)	
HIST 3382	China in Revolution:1800-1949 (formerly HIST 2382)	
HIST 3383	China since 1949 (formerly HIST 2383)	
HIST 3416	Love and Family in China	
HIST 3422	The Asia-Pacific War, 1937-45 (formerly HIST 2422)	
HIST 4572	Memories of WW II in East Asia	
HIST 4576	Environmental History of China	
HIST 4577	Gender in Modern East Asia	
RELS 2327	Introduction to Buddhism	
RELS 3359	Buddhist Diversity	
RELS 3360	Engaged Buddhism	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>24</b>

Transfer credits from other academic institutions may be recognized.

## Minor in Japanese Studies

Students in the undergraduate Arts program who are not Asian Studies majors can complete a minor in Japanese Studies by completing the following courses:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
JPNS 1100	Introductory Japanese	6
ASNT 3300	Multidisciplinary Study Asia	3
ASNT 4400	Seminar in Asian Studies	3

Select 12 other credits on Japan in at least two different disciplines  
taken of the following:

ANTH 2326	Contemporary East Asia	
ANTH 2327	Japanese Society	
ASNT 1106	Introduction to Japanese Culture	
ASNT 2303	Contemporary Japan: Institutions and Culture	
ASNT 3302	Japanese Film and Literature	
HIST 1222	Introduction to East Asian History	
HIST 3384	Japan before 1800 (formerly HIST 2354)	
HIST 3385	Late Tokugawa and Imperial Japan: 1800-1945 (formerly HIST 2355)	
HIST 3386	Japan since 1945 (formerly HIST 2356)	
HIST 3422	The Asia-Pacific War, 1937-45 (formerly HIST 2422)	
HIST 4573	The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire	
JPNS 2200	Intermediate Japanese	
JPNS 3300	Advanced Oral and Written Japanese I	
JPNS 3301	Advanced Oral and Written Japanese II	
RELS 2327	Introduction to Buddhism	

**Total Credit Hours** **24**

Transfer credits from other academic institutions may be recognized.

## Certificate Programs

Information concerning the requirements for the Certificate of Chinese Studies Program and the Certificate of Japanese Studies Program are found in this *Calendar* under Chinese (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/programs/chinese/>) and Japanese (<https://smu-ca-public.courseleaf.com/undergraduate/programs/japanese/>). These certificate programs are run through the Department of Languages and Cultures, not Asian Studies.

## Dual Degree Program

Since it is possible to obtain two undergraduate degrees from Saint Mary's University, for Commerce students it may be attractive to combine a degree in their field with a major in Asian Studies, especially in light of the interest which the Canadian federal and provincial governments and private industries have in developing trade with the Pacific Rim countries. It is relatively easy to combine Commerce and Asian Studies if Commerce students select their non-commerce and free electives carefully. The second degree can be obtained in a year or less in addition to the normal time requirement for a Commerce degree. For more information please contact the BA Advising Centre (<https://www.smu.ca/arts/arts-ba-advising-centre.html>).

## Asian Studies Core Courses

**Note:** With the Coordinator's permission, relevant courses not listed below may be acceptable for credit towards the Major or Minor in Asian, Chinese, or Japanese Studies. Students are encouraged to contact the departments listed below regarding the timing of specific course offerings in order to plan their degrees – some courses below are offered irregularly.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
<b>Anthropology</b>		
ANTH 1202	Introducing Socio-Cultural Anthropology	3
ANTH 2326	Contemporary East Asia	3

ANTH 2327	Japanese Society	3	CHNS 1102	Introductory Modern Chinese II	3
<b>Asian Studies</b>			CHNS 2200	Intermediate Modern Chinese	6
ASNT 1105	Introduction to Chinese Culture	3	CHNS 3300	Advanced Oral and Written Chinese I	3
ASNT 1106	Introduction to Japanese Culture	3	CHNS 3301	Advanced Oral and Written Chinese II	3
ASNT 1107	Introduction to Korean Culture	3	<b>Japanese</b>		
ASNT 2210	Indigenous Voices in Modern Asia	3	JPNS 1100	Introductory Japanese	6
ASNT 2220	Introduction to Asian Film	3	JPNS 2200	Intermediate Japanese	6
ASNT 2303	Contemporary Japan: Institutions and Culture	3	JPNS 3300	Advanced Oral and Written Japanese I	3
ASNT 2305	Contemporary China: Institutions and Culture	3	JPNS 3301	Advanced Oral and Written Japanese II	3
ASNT 3300	Multidisciplinary Study Asia	3	<b>Religious Studies</b>		
ASNT 3302	Japanese Film and Literature	3	RELS 1221	Judaism, Christianity and Islam	3
ASNT 3310	Chinese Film and Literature	3	RELS 1222	Religions of Asia (formerly RELS 1220)	3
ASNT 3826 - ASNT 3849	Selected Topics in Asian Studies		RELS 1252	Religious Diversity in Canada	3
ASNT 4400	Seminar in Asian Studies	3	RELS 2323	Introduction to Islam	3
ASNT 4500	Honours Thesis	6	RELS 2324	World Christianity	3
ASNT 4826 - ASNT 4849	Selected Topics in Asian Studies		RELS 2326	Introduction to Hinduism	3
ASNT 4876 - ASNT 4899	Directed Study		RELS 2327	Introduction to Buddhism	3
<b>Geography</b>			RELS 2370	Introduction to the Qur'an	3
GEOG 1100	Global Perspectives on Land and Life (Group D)	3	RELS 2401	Religions of China and Japan	3
GEOG 1200	People, Place and Environment (Group D)	3	RELS 3010	Vietnamese Religious Traditions	3
GEOG 4150	Geographical Perspectives on Asia-Pacific Development (Group D)	3	RELS 3359	Buddhist Diversity	3
<b>Global Development Studies</b>			RELS 3360	Engaged Buddhism	3
GDST 4461	South East Asia: Contemporary Development Issues	3	RELS 3373	Islam in South Asia	3
<b>History</b>			RELS 3374	Islam in North America	3
HIST 1222	Introduction to East Asian History	3			
HIST 3371	The Chinese Cultural Revolution in History and Memory	3			
HIST 3372	Food in Chinese History	3			
HIST 3381	China before 1800 (formerly HIST 2381)	3			
HIST 3382	China in Revolution:1800-1949 (formerly HIST 2382)	3			
HIST 3383	China since 1949 (formerly HIST 2383)	3			
HIST 3384	Japan before 1800 (formerly HIST 2354)	3			
HIST 3385	Late Tokugawa and Imperial Japan: 1800-1945 (formerly HIST 2355)	3			
HIST 3386	Japan since 1945 (formerly HIST 2356)	3			
HIST 3393	History of Vietnam (formerly HIST 2393)	3			
HIST 3394	History of Korea (formerly HIST 2394)	3			
HIST 3416	Love and Family in China	3			
HIST 3422	The Asia-Pacific War, 1937-45 (formerly HIST 2422)	3			
HIST 4572	Memories of WW II in East Asia	3			
HIST 4573	The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire	3			
HIST 4576	Environmental History of China	3			
HIST 4577	Gender in Modern East Asia	3			
<b>Arabic</b>					
ARBC 1100	Introduction to Arabic: Language and Cultures	6			
<b>Chinese</b>					
CHNS 1101	Introductory Modern Chinese I	3			