Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Arab Cultures Concentration

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The Department of Asian Studies offers five major concentrations, nine minors, and instruction in Asian and Middle Eastern languages. Students pursuing the B.A. degree in Asian Studies can complete the interdisciplinary major in Asian Studies, or concentrate in Arab Cultures, Chinese, Japanese, or South Asian Studies.

Department Programs

Majors

• Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Interdisciplinary Concentration (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-general-concentration)
• Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Arab Cultures Concentration (p. 1)
• Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Chinese Concentration (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-chinese-concentration)
• Asian Studies Major, B.A.–South Asian Studies Concentration (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-south-asian-studies-concentration)

Minors

• Arabic Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/arabic-minor)
• Asian Studies Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-minor)
• Chinese Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/chinese-minor)
• Modern Hebrew Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/modern-hebrew-minor)
• Hindi-Urdu Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/hindi-urdu-minor)
• Japanese Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/japanese-minor)
• Korean Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/korean-minor)
• Middle Eastern Languages Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/middle-eastern-languages-minor)
• Persian Minor (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/persian-minor)

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of the Asian studies program, students should be able to:

• Identify significant aspects of the target culture, history, and society in interpreting and analyzing literary and other texts and media
• Identify and analyze cultural and historical trends across regional and national boundaries within Asia and the Asian diaspora
• Actively use listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language for interpersonal communication and personal and academic enrichment within and beyond the university setting
• Demonstrate awareness of global citizenship and affirm cultural diversity through academic and experiential learning

Requirements
In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must

• attain a final cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
• complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
• take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
• earn a minimum of 18 hours of C or better in the major core requirements (some majors require 21 hours).

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext).

Core Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARAB 300</td>
<td>Arabic Grammar and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two additional Arabic language courses beyond ARAB 204</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One of the following introductory-level classes:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 150</td>
<td>Introduction to Arab Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 151</td>
<td>Arabic Literature through the Ages</td>
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<td>ASIA 64</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Arab World Photography</td>
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<td>ASIA 66</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: The 2011 Revolution through Egyptian Eyes</td>
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<td>ASIA 70</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Narrating the Self: Autobiographies of Arab Intellectuals</td>
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Additional Requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<td>ARAB 151</td>
<td>Arabic Literature through the Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four Arabic literature and culture courses (list below)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
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Total Hours 28
Students whose initial language placement is above ARAB 305 should consult the department.

It is recommended that students take this course either prior to or concurrent with upper-level Arabic literature and culture classes.

The first three levels of Arabic (ARAB) can count toward the General Education Foundations requirement and have not been included as additional hours for the major.

**Arabic Literature and Culture Courses**

At least three must be chosen from:

- **ARAB 321** Visions of Emancipation in Modernist Arab Thought
- **ARAB 337** Borders and Walls in the Arab World
- **ARAB 338** Borders and Walls in the Arab World - Experiential
- **ARAB 350** Women and Leadership in the Arab World
- **ARAB 407** Readings in Arabic I (taught in Arabic)
- **ARAB 408** Readings in Arabic II (taught in Arabic)
- **ARAB 409** War and Peace in Arabic Literature (taught in Arabic)
- **ARAB 410** Music, History, and Power (taught in Arabic)
- **ARAB 434** Modern Arabic Literature in Translation
- **ARAB 443** Dissident Voices in Arab Cultures
- **ARAB 452** Imagining Palestine
- **ARAB 453** Film, Nation, and Identity in the Arab World
- **ARAB 462** Global Perspectives on Arab Cultures and Societies
- **ARAB 468** Modernity and Its Discontents in Arabic Literature and Culture
- **ASIA 692H** Senior Honors Thesis II
- **ASIA/CMPL 359** Literary Diasporas of the Middle East
- **ASIA/CMPL 442** Postcolonial Literature of the Middle East
- **ASIA/JWST 357/ PWAD 362** The Arab-Jews: Culture, Community, and Coexistence
- **ASIA/JWST 425** Beyond Hostilities: Israeli-Palestinian Exchanges and Partnerships in Film, Literature, and Music
- **ASIA/WGST 329** Middle East Women Writers
- **ASIA/WGST 471** Gender and Sexuality in Middle Eastern Literature

At most one course may be chosen from:

- **ARAB/ASIA/ RELI 681** Readings in Islamicate Literatures
- **ARTH 351** Crusader Art
- **ARTH/ASIA 154** Introduction to Art and Architecture of Islamic Lands (Eighth-16th Centuries CE)<sup>H</sup>
- **ARTH/ASIA 251** Art in the Age of the Caliph’s
- **ARTH/ASIA 458** Islamic Architecture and the Environment
- **ARTH/ASIA 561** Arts of the Islamic Mediterranean
- **ASIA/GEOG 447** Gender, Space, and Place in the Middle East
- **ASIA/HIST 138** History of Muslim Societies to 1500
- **ASIA/HIST 139** History of Muslim Societies since 1500
- **ASIA/HIST 275** History of Iraq
- **ASIA/HIST 276** The Modern Middle East
- **ASIA/HIST 277** The Conflict over Israel/Palestine
- **ASIA/HIST 536** Revolution in the Modern Middle East
- **ASIA/HIST 537** Women in the Middle East
- **ASIA/HIST 538** The Middle East and the West
- **ASIA/PWAD 425** The Cinemas of the Middle East and North Africa 435
- **ASIA/RELI 180** Introduction to Islamic Civilization
- **ASIA/RELI 181** Modern Muslim Societies
- **ASIA/RELI 581** Sufism
- **ASIA/RELI 582** Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia
- **ASIA/RELI 584** The Qur’an as Literature
- **FREN 617** Framing Identities: Franco-Arab Transvisual Transcultural Contexts
- **GEOG 448** Transnational Geographies of Muslim Societies
- **RELI 185** Women/Gender/Islam<sup>H</sup>
- **RELI 480** Modern Muslim Literatures
- **SOCI 419** Sociology of the Islamic World

or approved courses taken in UNC-Chapel Hill-sponsored study abroad programs

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Students majoring in Arab cultures are strongly encouraged to take additional Arabic literature or culture courses as electives or to fulfill General Education requirements.

Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet core requirements for the concentration.

With the approval of the associate chair of Asian studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (ASIA 496 or ARAB 496) in the concentration in Arabic cultures. To register for ASIA 496 or ARAB 496, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.

Of the eight courses in the concentration in Arabic cultures, at least six must be passed with a grade of C (not C-) or better. No course in the concentration may be declared Pass/Fail.

**Special Opportunities in Asian Studies**

**Honors in Asian Studies**

A candidate for honors in Asian studies will write a substantial paper under the guidance of a faculty member. While researching and writing the honors paper, the student will enroll in ASIA 691H and ASIA 692H. ASIA 692H may count as one of the interdisciplinary courses for the major; ASIA 691H will count for elective credit only. In the case of the concentrations in Arabic cultures, Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian studies, ASIA 692H may count toward the major in the concentration.

A committee composed of at least two faculty members will examine the candidate. To be accepted as an honors candidate, a student must meet the University’s requirement of a minimum overall grade point average of 3.3, secure the consent of a faculty member in the Asian studies field
to act as advisor for the project, and submit a proposal to the associate chair of Asian studies for approval.

**Departmental Involvement**
The department sponsors a variety of cultural events — lectures, film series, performances, and more — as well as social and informational events where students can get to know each other and faculty members in an informal setting. Faculty members in the department serve as advisors to some of the many Asia-related student organizations on campus, such as the Japan Club, Chinese Conversation Club, Hebrew Table, and more.

**Languages across the Curriculum**
The department participates in the Languages across the Curriculum (LAC) program, offering a one-credit-hour discussion section that is conducted in Arabic but associated with a variety of courses offered in English, both in Asian studies and in such other departments as history or religious studies. This LAC recitation section offers students the opportunity to use their Arabic language skills in a broader intellectual context.

Additional LAC offerings are being developed in Chinese and Hindi-Urdu.

**Libraries**
The University has rich collections of books and periodicals on Asia in the relevant Asian languages, as well as in English and other Western languages. Experts in the collection development department for Davis Library are available to help students locate the materials they need. The University also has an outstanding collection of Asian films and other audiovisual materials, housed in the Media Resource Center at House Library.

**Speaker Series**
The department sponsors an annual speaker series. These events include lectures by prominent artists, scholars, and writers and are often cosponsored by other units on campus.

**Study Abroad**
UNC–Chapel Hill sponsors several study programs (summer, semester, and yearlong) in China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam. Asian studies majors are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to live and study in an Asian setting; UNC-approved study abroad programs also satisfy the experiential education requirement. For further information on these programs and other study abroad opportunities in Asia, contact the UNC Study Abroad Office.

**Undergraduate Research**
The department actively encourages undergraduate student research. Through classes, advising, and office hours, faculty members guide students toward defining areas of interest, conceptualizing research questions, identifying sources, and writing academic papers. Students may pursue research through independent studies, the senior honors thesis, and study abroad research opportunities such as the Burch Fellowship. Asian studies students have received a variety of competitive research support and travel awards, won regional contests for undergraduate papers, published papers in academic journals, and presented their work at such events as the Senior Colloquium in Asian Studies and the campuswide Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research in the spring.