Asian Studies Major, B.A.–South Asian Studies Concentration

Contact Information

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The Department of Asian Studies offers five major concentrations, seven 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 (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-arab-cultures-concentration)

• Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Chinese Concentration (http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-chinese-concentration)


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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

Two Hindi-Urdu courses beyond HNUR 204.\(^1\) \hspace{1cm} 6

One of the following introductory courses: \(^2\) \hspace{1cm} 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA 59</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: Media Masala: Popular Music, TV, and the Internet in Modern India and Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA 61</td>
<td>First-Year Seminar: India through the Lens of Master Filmmakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA 152</td>
<td>Survey of South Asian Cultural History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA/GEOG 267</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA/HIST 135</td>
<td>History of the Indian Subcontinent to 1750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA/HIST 136</td>
<td>History of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh: South Asia since 1750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Five courses, including at least three numbered 200 or above, from either the list of introductory courses above or the course list below \hspace{1cm} 15

Additional Requirements

HNUR through level 4 \(^3\) \hspace{1cm} 4

HNUR 220 Introduction to the Hindi Script (Devanagari) (not required if the student has taken HNUR 101) \hspace{1cm} 1
Courses

ANTH 361  Community in India and South Asia  3
ARTH/ASIA 266  Arts of Early & Medieval Asia  3
ARTH/ASIA 273  Arts Under the Mughal Dynasty in India  3
ARTH/ASIA 456  Art and Visual Culture of South Asia  3
ASIA 122  Introduction to Iranian culture  3
ASIA 124  Iranian Post-1979 Cinema  3
ASIA 126  Introduction to Persian Literature  3
ASIA 163  Hindi-Urdu Poetry in Performance  3
ASIA 228  Contested Souls: Literature, the Arts, and Religious Identity in Modern India  3
ASIA 231  Bollywood Cinema  3
ASIA 262  Nation, Film, and Novel in Modern India  3
ASIA 332  The Story of Rama in India  3
ASIA 333  The Mahabharata: Remembered and Reimagined  3
ASIA 431  Persian Sufi Literature  3
ASIA 453  Global Shangri-La: Tibet in the Modern World  3
ASIA 522  The Beauty and the Power of the Classical Indian World  3
ASIA 692H  Senior Honors Thesis II  3
ASIA/Cmpl 256  Love in Classical Persian Poetry  3
ASIA/Cmpl 258  Iranian Prison Literature  3
ASIA/Cmpl 261  India through Western Eyes  3
ASIA/COMM/RELI 386  Dance and Embodied Knowledge in the Indian Context  3
ASIA/HIST 272  Contemporary India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh  3
ASIA/HIST 555  Religion, Coexistence, and Conflict in Medieval India  3
ASIA/HIST 556  Gender in Indian History  3
ASIA/HIST 557  Bandits, Rebels and Storytellers: Fiction and History in India  3
ASIA 304/HIST 331  Sex, Religion, and Violence: Revolutionary Thought in Modern South Asia  3
ASIA 331/HIST 335/PWAD 331  Cracking India: Partition and Its Legacy in South Asia  3
ASIA/MUSC 164  Music of South Asia  3
ASIA/PWAD 69  First-Year Seminar: Wars and Veterans: Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan  3
ASIA/RELI 280  Hindu Gods and Goddesses  3
ASIA/RELI 285  The Buddhist Tradition: Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka  3
ASIA/RELI 382  The Story of Rama in Indian Culture–Experiential  3
ASIA/RELI 383  The Mahabharata: Remembered and Reimagined–Experiential  3
ASIA/RELI 581  Sufism  3
ASIA/RELI 582  Islam and Islamic Art in South Asia  3
ASIA/RELI 583  Religion and Culture in Iran, 1500-Present  3
ASIA 300/RELI 283  The Buddhist Tradition: India, Nepal, and Tibet  3
ASIA/RELI/WGST 127  Sex, Gender, and Religion in South Asia  3
ASIA/RELI/WGST 128  Iranian Women Writers  3
HNUR 407  South Asian Society and Culture  3
HNUR 408  South Asian Media and Film  3
HNUR 409  Sex and Social Justice in South Asia  3
HNUR 410  Seminar on the Urdu-Hindi Ghazal  3
HNUR 411  Health and Medicine in South Asia  3
HNUR 490  Topics in Hindi-Urdu Literature and Language  3
HNUR/RELI 592  Religious Conflict and Literature in India  3
RELI 381  Religions of South Asia  3
RELI 481  Religion, Fundamentalism, and Nationalism  3

Total Hours  30

1 Students whose initial language placement is above HNUR 305 should consult the department.
2 It is recommended that students take this course either prior to or concurrent with upper-level South Asian literature and culture classes.
3 The first three levels of Hindi-Urdu (HNUR) can count toward the General Education Foundations requirement and have not been included as additional hours for the major.

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 496 or HNUR 496 in the concentration in South Asian studies. To register for ASIA 496 or HNUR 496, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.

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.