

# ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.–KOREAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION

## Contact Information

### Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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Korea occupies a place of significant geopolitical, economic, and cultural importance in the world. It is a unique country where five thousand years of history and tradition coexist with the most advanced technological and economic development. It is also a place where political and ideological differences divide the country into two Koreas (Republic of Korea, or South Korea, and Democratic Republic of Korea, or North Korea) that maintain one of the world's most fortified military zones.

The Korean peninsula is home to over 72 million ethnic Koreans (North and South combined) and over 1.3 million recent migrants from all over the world. Approximately 7 million ethnic Koreans have migrated to other countries and have established diasporic communities in over 150 countries. The Korean language is spoken by over 75 million people around the world and ranks 13th among the most used languages in the world.

One of the first programs of its kind in the Southeast, the Korean Studies concentration in the Asian Studies degree allows students to combine Korean language study with an interdisciplinary set of courses in Korean culture, history, and society.

## 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/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Japanese Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-japanese-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.–Korean Studies Concentration (p. 1)

- 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/>)

### Graduate Programs

- M.A. in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/asian-studies/>)

## Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify or analyze significant aspects of the target cultures by interpreting texts and media
- Demonstrate proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language
- Demonstrate experience in the use of the target language outside the language classroom

## Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

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

The eight core courses (24 credit hours) consist of two to four language courses and four to six literature and culture courses, as described below.

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
At least two Korean language courses beyond KOR 204. <sup>1</sup>		6-12
KOR 305	Advanced Korean I	
KOR 306	Advanced Korean II	
KOR 407	Modern Korean Literature and Culture	
KOR 408	Changes and Continuities in Korean History	
KOR 409	Korean Through Current Affairs	
KOR 490	Topics in Korean Language and Literature	
At least one introductory-level course chosen from the following list: <sup>2</sup>		3-6
ASIA 72	First-Year Seminar: Transnational Korea: Literature, Film, and Popular Culture	
KOR 150	History, Memory, and Reality in Contemporary Korea	
KOR 151	Education and Social Changes in Contemporary Korea	
At least two Korean literature and culture courses chosen from the following list:		6-15
ASIA 350	The Asian American Experience	
ASIA 427/ CMPL 527/ PWAD 427	Cold War Culture in East Asia: Transnational and Intermedial Connections	
KOR/CMPL 232	Imagining the City in Modern Korea: Text, Image, Space	
KOR/CMPL/ WGST 237	Rebel, Lover, Martyr: Gender and Sexuality in North and South Korean Screen Cultures	
KOR 327	Korean Diasporas	
KOR 346/ CMPL 246	Body Politics in Modern Korean Literature <sup>H</sup>	
KOR 447/ CMPL 547	Documenting Diasporas: Korean Diasporas in Films and Documentaries	
Other major courses		0-9
ASIA/ECON 469	Asian Economic Systems	
ASIA 692H	Senior Honors Thesis II	
<b>Additional Requirements</b>		
Korean through level 4		4
Total Hours		28

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

<sup>1</sup> Students whose initial language placement is above KOR 305 should consult the department.

<sup>2</sup> No more than two introductory courses (6 hours) may count toward the major. It is recommended that students take at least one of these courses either prior to or concurrent with upper-level Korean literature and culture classes.

Approved courses taken in UNC–Chapel Hill-sponsored study abroad programs or taken from another institution may count in the concentration. No more than one first-year seminar may be counted among the eight major courses.

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

With the approval of the associate chair of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (KOR 496) in the concentration in Korean studies. To register, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.

## Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans can be used as a guide to identify the courses required to complete the major and other requirements needed for degree completion within the expected eight semesters. The actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Students should meet with their academic advisor to create a degree plan that is specific and unique to their interests. The sample plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UNC–Chapel Hill in the fall term. Some courses may not be offered every term.

The Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies requires that *all* students with prior knowledge of Korean take a placement test. Their beginning language course at UNC is decided by the placement result (not by test credit or transfer credit).

A student's initial placement is the most important determinant of how long it will take to complete the major. It's also important to be aware that almost all Korean language courses are only offered in fall or spring, but not both.

### Sample Plan One

This plan is for a student who either is a beginner in Korean, or has some background but has placed into KOR 101.

First Year	Hours
KOR 101 Elementary Korean I (fall only)	4
KOR 102 Elementary Korean II (spring only)	4
Major culture course, from the introductory courses list	3
Hours	11
Sophomore Year	
KOR 203 Intermediate Korean I (fall only)	4
KOR 204 Intermediate Korean II (spring only)	4
Major culture course, from Korean literature & culture list	3
Hours	11
Junior Year	
KOR 305 Advanced Korean I (fall only)	3
KOR 306 Advanced Korean II (spring only)	3
Major culture course, from Korean literature & culture list	3
Major culture course	3
Hours	12
Senior Year	
Major culture course	3
Either of:	3
KOR 4-- KOR 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course, if available)	

Major culture course	
Hours	6
Total Hours	40

## Sample Plan Two

This plan is for a student who has placed into KOR 203.

	Hours
<b>First Year</b>	
KOR 203 Intermediate Korean I (fall only)	4
KOR 204 Intermediate Korean II (spring only)	4
Major culture course, from the introductory courses list	3
Hours	11
<b>Sophomore Year</b>	
KOR 305 Advanced Korean I (fall only)	3
KOR 306 Advanced Korean II (spring only)	3
Major culture course, from Korean literature & culture list	3
Hours	9
<b>Junior Year</b>	
Major culture course, from Korean literature & culture list	3
Either of:	3
KOR 4-- KOR 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course, if available)	
Major culture course	
Hours	6
<b>Senior Year</b>	
Major culture course	3
Either of:	3
KOR 4-- KOR 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course, if available)	
Major culture course	
Hours	6
Total Hours	32

## Sample Plan Three

This plan is for a student who has placed into KOR 305.

	Hours
<b>First Year</b>	
KOR 305 Advanced Korean I (fall only)	3
KOR 306 Advanced Korean II (spring only)	3
Major culture course, from the introductory courses list	3
Hours	9
<b>Sophomore Year</b>	
Major culture course, from Korean literature & culture list	3
Either of:	3
KOR 4-- KOR 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course, if available)	
Major culture course	
Hours	6
<b>Junior Year</b>	
Major culture course, from Korean literature & culture list	3
Either of:	3
KOR 4-- KOR 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course, if available)	

Major culture course	
Hours	6
<b>Senior Year</b>	
Either of:	3
KOR 4-- KOR 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course, if available)	
Major culture course	
Hours	3
Total Hours	24

## 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 Arab cultures, Chinese, Japanese, Korean studies, 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, Chinese, or Hindi-Urdu 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, Chinese, or Hindi-Urdu language skills in a broader intellectual context.

## 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.