

ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A. – SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Contact Information

Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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South Asia refers to a geographic region comprising the nations of Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. With strong cultural ties to the region, Iran, Myanmar, and Tibet are also sometimes considered part of South Asia. Some 5,000 years ago, the highly developed Indus Valley Civilization developed along the Indus River system in present-day Pakistan and northwest India. Over the course of its history, South Asia has been divided into various polities, but in the premodern period experienced significant political consolidation under the Mauryas, the Guptas, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughals, and the Marathas.

Across South Asia there is vast cultural diversity, with its many regional languages and scripts, distinctive and beautiful styles of vernacular literature/poetry, arts, architecture, performance/theatre, music, and dance. South Asia is the birthplace of several world religions, namely Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Islam is another world religion found in South Asia, and Sufism, in particular, has flourished there. Pakistan, Indian, and Bangladesh together are home to about 30 percent of the world's Muslim population.

Courses in this concentration span various time periods and cultural forms, although many are situated in the modern period and emphasize literature, film, and/or performance. A degree in Asian Studies with a South Asian Studies concentration will provide students with cultural and language competencies that will serve them well in a globalizing world. Many students usefully combine the degree with another major and/or minor, making them more attractive on the job market, and positioning them well for further study in professional or graduate school.

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

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>).

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
Two Hindi-Urdu courses beyond HNUR 204. ¹		6
One of the following introductory courses: ²		3
ASIA 59	First-Year Seminar. Media Masala: Popular Music, TV, and the Internet in Modern India and Pakistan	
ASIA 61	First-Year Seminar. India through the Lens of Master Filmmakers	
ASIA 152	Survey of South Asian Cultural History	
ASIA/GEOG 267	South Asia	
ASIA/HIST 135	History of the Indian Subcontinent to 1750	
ASIA/HIST 136	History of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh: South Asia since 1750	
HIST 74	First-Year Seminar. Emperors, Courts, and Consumption: The Mughals of India	
Five courses, including at least three numbered 200 or above, from either the list of introductory courses above or the course list below		15
Additional Requirements		
HNUR through level 4 ³		4
HNUR 220	Introduction to the Hindi Script (Devanagari) (not required if the student has taken HNUR 101)	1
HNUR 221	Introduction to the Urdu Script (Nastaliq)	1
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.

Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ANTH 361	Community in India and South Asia	3
ARTH/ASIA 153	Introduction to South Asian Art	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	Beauty and Power in 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	Modern South Asia	3
ASIA/HIST 440	Gender in Indian History	3
ASIA 441/HIST 442	Religion, Co-existence, and Conflict in Pre-Colonial India	3
ASIA/HIST 557	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 ^H	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 ^H	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 482	Sex, Gender, and Religion in South Asia	3
ASIA/WGST 127	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

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

Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet core requirements for the concentration. However, the additional requirements may be met by placement.

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

With the approval of the associate chair of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (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.

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 Hindi-Urdu 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 Hindi-Urdu language courses are only offered in fall or spring, but not both.

HNUR 220 (Hindi) and HNUR 221 (Urdu) are one-credit courses that just teach the respective writing systems; a student with knowledge of spoken Hindi-Urdu only may be advised to take one of the script courses first and then be able to join the main language sequence at a level appropriate to their speaking proficiency.

Sample Plan One

This plan is for a student who either is a beginner in Hindi-Urdu, or has some background but has placed into HNUR 101.

First Year	Hours
HNUR 101 Elementary Hindi-Urdu I (fall only)	4
HNUR 102 Elementary Hindi-Urdu II (spring only)	4
Major culture course, from the introductory courses list	3
Hours	11
Sophomore Year	
HNUR 203 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu I (fall only)	4
HNUR 221 Introduction to the Urdu Script (Nastaliq) (fall only; could also be taken any subsequent fall)	1
HNUR 204 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu II (spring only)	4
Major culture course	3
Hours	12
Junior Year	
HNUR 305 Advanced Hindi-Urdu I (fall only, but 305 and 306 can be taken in either order)	3
HNUR 306 Advanced Hindi-Urdu II (spring only)	3
Major culture course	3

Major culture course numbered 200 or above	3
Hours	12
Senior Year	
Major culture course numbered 200 or above	3
Either of:	3
HNUR 4XX (4th year language class, if available)	
Major culture course numbered 200 or above	
Hours	6
Total Hours	41

Sample Plan Two

This plan is for a student who has placed into HNUR 203 (and placed out of HNUR 220 because they know the Hindi script already).

First Year	Hours
HNUR 203 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu I (fall only)	4
HNUR 204 Intermediate Hindi-Urdu II (spring only)	4
Major culture course, from the introductory courses list	3
Hours	11
Sophomore Year	
HNUR 305 Advanced Hindi-Urdu I (fall only, but 305 and 306 can be taken in either order)	3
HNUR 221 Introduction to the Urdu Script (Nastaliq) (fall only; could also be taken any subsequent fall)	1
HNUR 306 Advanced Hindi-Urdu II (spring only)	3
Major culture course	3
Hours	10
Junior Year	
Major culture course	3
Either of:	3
HNUR 4XX (4th year language class, if available)	
Major culture course numbered 200 or above	
Hours	6
Senior Year	
Major culture course numbered 200 or above	3
Either of:	3
HNUR 4XX (4th year language class, if available)	
Major culture course numbered 200 or above	
Hours	6
Total Hours	33

Sample Plan Three

This plan is for a student who has placed into a script course (HNUR 220 or HNUR 221) followed by third-year Hindi-Urdu.

First Year	Hours
Either of the script courses (both fall only):	1
HNUR 220 Introduction to the Hindi Script (Devanagari)	
HNUR 221 Introduction to the Urdu Script (Nastaliq)	
HNUR 306 Advanced Hindi-Urdu II (spring only; HNUR 305 and 306 can be taken in either order)	3
Major culture course, from the introductory courses list	3
Hours	7

Sophomore Year

HNUR 305	Advanced Hindi-Urdu I	3
Whichever script course was not taken previously; could also be taken any subsequent fall		1
HNUR 220 Introduction to the Hindi Script (Devanagari)		
HNUR 221 Introduction to the Urdu Script (Nastaliq)		
Major culture course		3
Hours		7
Junior Year		
Major culture course		3
Either of:		3
HNUR 4XX (4th year language class, if available)		
Major culture course numbered 200 or above		
Hours		6
Senior Year		
Major culture course numbered 200 or above		3
Either of:		3
HNUR 4XX (4th year language class, if available)		
Major culture course numbered 200 or above		
Hours		6
Total Hours		26

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.