

Asian Studies

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Master of Arts in Asian Studies

The M.A. degree in Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program that draws on faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences and professional schools at FIU. The courses are coordinated by the Institute for Asian Studies, which also sponsors workshops, lectures, cultural events, and study abroad programs.

The master's program provides students with a rich learning experience about a fascinating and increasingly important region of the world, and is intended to enhance the student's competitiveness upon graduation. The program provides a multidisciplinary approach covering the philosophy, religion, art history, language and literature of Asia as well as issues in history, politics, geography, sociology/anthropology, and international relations.

The M.A. has two concentrations: **International Political Economy of Asia**, which emphasizes social scientific studies involving economics, international relations, politics, and sociology; and **Asian Cultural Studies**, which emphasizes the humanities and arts disciplinary approaches.

For further information please contact the Institute for Asian Studies, located at DM 300 B, at asian@fiu.edu or at (305) 348-1914. Also, visit our website at: <http://asian.fiu.edu>.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet one of the following minimum requirements for admissions to the MAAS program:

1. 3.5 undergraduate GPA;
2. 550 score on the verbal portion of the GRE, or M.A. in the humanities or social sciences from an accredited institution,
3. 3.0 or above in 9 hours of graduate courses as a special student in the program. (These nine hours may not be in Independent Study courses.) A limited number of applicants may be admitted after passing a writing exam, if they also present either a 475 score on the verbal section of the GRE or a 3.0 undergraduate GPA.

International graduate student applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit a score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the iBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.

The above admission requirements are minimums and not all students meeting them are assured admission. Students with either a grade-point average or GRE score below the above minimums may still apply and request a waiver of those scores.

Degree Requirements (both concentrations)

The MAAS program requires 30 graduate credits.

MAAS offers two graduation exit options:

1. Completion of thesis project
2. Completion of a master's essay and one additional 3 credit course

Language Requirements

Students choosing the Master's Thesis option will be asked to demonstrate competence in an Asian language relevant to their thesis project when appropriate (e.g. for pre-modern studies or fieldwork research). Proficiency requirements will be determined by the thesis committee. Credits earned in meeting the language requirement will not count towards the 30 credit hours required for the degree.

Core Courses (6 credits)

1. ASN 5315 Survey of Modern Asia
2. A research methods course in a discipline related to the student's primary area of study such as HIS 6059 (Historical Methods), INR 5615 (Research Design in International Relations), POS 5706 (Research Methodology), REL 6013 (Modern Analysis of Religion), REL 6935 (Seminar in Sacred Texts), SYA 6305 (Research Methods I), or equivalent.

Other Coursework (18 credits)

A minimum of 12 credits are required in the main concentration. Students may receive credit through independent study, study abroad, or internship approved by the program advisor.

Master's Thesis Option (6 credits)

ASN 6972 Thesis

Students pursuing careers in the public or private sectors requiring strong research and analytic skills, or students planning to continue with Ph.D. studies, are encouraged to select the MAAS thesis exit option. The thesis is publicly defended and approved by a committee of three graduate faculty members. The committee chair and at least one other member must be from FIU departments offering courses in the MAAS concentrations. The committee as a whole must be drawn from at least two different departments. During the thesis period, the student registers for thesis credits (six credits minimum required) with his/her thesis committee chair. Thesis projects are conducted in accordance with the FIU Regulations for Thesis / Dissertation Preparation Manual.

Non-Thesis Option: Master's Essay (3 credits) and one additional course (3 credits)

As a substitute for the thesis option, students who are not likely to pursue a more advanced degree may choose the non-thesis option and must complete a substantial research project (Master's Essay) and one additional course (3 credits) in either concentration to satisfy the required 30 semester credit hours.

International Political Economy of Asia Concentration Electives:

ECO 5709	World Economy
ECO 5735	Multinational Corporations
ECP 5707	International Economic Problems and Policies
EVR 5350	International Organizations and Environmental Politics
INR 5544	The New Asian Century
INR 5086	Islam in International Relations
INR 5315	Foreign Policy Analysis
INR 6205	World Politics

INR 6706	Political Economy of International Relations
SYD 6655	Seminar on Social Change in Asia
Asian Cultural Studies Concentration Electives:	
ASH 5905	Readings in Asian History
ASH 5446	Pre-modern Japan
HIS 5289	Comparative History
IDS 6938	Great Ideas Seminar: Human Nature
MUH 5057	Music of the World
MUH 5575	Survey of Asian Music
REL 5331	Religions of India
REL 5346	Seminar on Buddhism
REL 5352	Religions of East Asia
REL 6395	Seminar in Asian Religions

For more information, contact the Institute for Asian Studies, DM300B. Email: asian@fiu.edu; phone: (305) 348-1914; website: <http://asian.fiu.edu>.

Course Descriptions

Definition of Prefixes

ASN-Asian Studies

ASN 5120 Religion and Society in Japan (3). Examines the relation between religion and the state, the growth of new religious movements, the role of religion during times of war and conflict, issues of religious freedom and legality, the impact of religious institutions on gender and ethnicity.

ASN 5130 Zen and the Arts (3). Examines the history, theory, and practice of Chado (Way of Tea), a Zen-inspired art that has had, and still exerts, a long-lasting influence on Japanese society.

ASN 5131 Zen and the Arts II (3). Theory, practice, aesthetics and cultural history of Chado the Tea Ceremony of Zen Buddhism.

ASN 5171 International Relations of Contemporary China (3). Survey of the dynamic interaction between external and internal factors on China's international relations.

ASN 5306 Applying Asian Cultural Values in Business (3). Critical survey of traditional Asian values. Topics to include the way they have been applied to the world of entrepreneurship, cultural constructions of the Asian business community and philosophical approaches to the formation of entrepreneurial strategies.

ASN 5315 Survey of Modern Asia (3). Focus on modernization, or the transition from pre-modern (classical and medieval) to elements of the modern, including westernization, industrialization, and the roles of capitalism, communism, imperialism, and colonialism, as well as the impact of post-colonialism and post-modern society in Asia.

ASN 5605 Silk Road: Then and Now (3). Examination of the historical and contemporary significance of the Silk Road as an avenue for commercial and cultural exchange between East and West.

ASN 5815 Studies of Classical East Asian Texts (3). Advanced studies of classical East Asian readings from literature and religion, including interpretation and analysis from traditional and contemporary perspectives.

Proficiency in Japanese and/or Chinese required. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

ASN 5910 Independent Research in Asian Studies (1-6). Topics will be selected to meet academic needs for students doing research in some specialized area of Asian studies. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

ASN 5932 Special Topics in Asian Studies (3). An examination of specific topics in Asian Studies. The content to be determined by instructor.

ASN 6930 Seminar in Asian Studies (3). Content to be determined by the instructor. May be repeated for credit when content changes.

ASN 6940 Internship in Asian Studies (1-3). Students intern in local, national and international organizations with ties to Asia. The nature of the work to be determined in conjunction with the advisor. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

ASN 6972 Master's Thesis (1-6). Writing and completion of thesis. Students must have completed all other requirements for Master of Arts degree in Asian Studies. Prerequisite: Permission of the Thesis director.