

Asian Studies Certificate

Asian Studies at UWM

The Asian Studies Certificate allows students to combine the study of Asian languages, culture, politics, and history with their major. It is available to all UWM students, regardless of major, but it is particularly well-suited to majors from business, global studies, international studies, journalism and advertising, the visual and performing arts, communication, economics, the natural sciences, political science, or any career path that may involve interactions with the Asian world.

The courses in the certificate program focus on increasing students' ability to analyze culture and history and think globally, with cultural awareness and understanding. Students can choose to obtain the certificate generally, which does not have a language requirement, or to add a language focus, which requires additional credits in an Asian language.

Graduates with an Asian Studies Certificate have gone on to jobs in business, government, sales, media, and teaching positions both domestically and abroad in Asia. Many students work in the private sector with businesses that trade with Asia or with multi-national corporations.

Why Choose Asian Studies?

Asia holds more than half of the world's population, its countries have some of the fastest-growing economies in the world, and rapid technological developments are coming from Asia. This makes the region relevant for almost any industry in which a student may work.

Graduates with an ability to communicate effectively and accurately understand the context of working with Asian companies and peoples can have an advantage over other job candidates without this specialized knowledge.



Certificate Requirements

Students enrolling in the certificate program are required to earn a minimum of 18 credits, at least nine of which must be completed at UWM. A grade point average of 2.7 or above is required in all courses counting toward the certificate.

Students should contact the Program Director if they are interested in the certificate. The first step is to schedule an advising appointment to complete a Declaration of Certificate Program form. Students then will meet with an advisor to discuss their goals and the electives that will help them achieve their objectives.

The Asian Studies Certificate is available in two forms: the general certificate or the language-focus certificate. In either form, students must take Geography 213 Geography of Asia for three credits. For the general certificate, students then choose 15 credits from a list of approved electives. For the language-focus certificate, students must take 12 credits in a single Asian language and 15 credits of approved electives.

Certificate programs are similar to minors. They are comprised of 15 to 26 credits in a specialized subject matter, and include coursework from different departments. Certificates can be combined with a degree program, or they are available as stand-alone options for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or university. Many certificates also will enroll individuals with a strong interest in the topic area but who do not have a degree.

Electives

The entire list of approved electives can be found at <http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/certificates/asian/>. A sampling of the available courses includes:

- Anthro 323 – Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia (3 credits)
- Anthro 326 – Peoples and Cultures of South Asia (3 credits)
- ArtHist 105 – Asian Art and Architecture (3 credits)
- ArtHist 480 – Chinese Painting (3 credits)
- Chinese 320 – Contemporary Chinese Societies through Film (3 credits)
- CompLit 230 – Literature & Society: Chinese Literature Before the 20th Century (3 credits)
- CompLit 362 – Transnational Asian Cinemas: (all subtitles) (3 credits)
- Econ 351 – Introduction to International Economic Relations (3 credits)
- Econ 353 – Economic Development (3 credits)
- English 316 – World Cinema: Hong Kong Cinema (3 credits)
- Geog 443 – Cities of the World: Comparative Urban Geography (3 credits)
- Hist 175 – East Asian Civilization to 1600 (3 credits)
- Hist 286 – The Korean War (3 credits)
- Hist 287 – The Vietnam War (3 credits)
- Hist 377 – Modern China (3 credits)
- Hist 397 – Postwar Japan (3 credits)
- Philos 204 – Introduction to Asian Religions (3 credits)
- Pol Sci 343 – Asian International Relations (3 credits)
- Sociol 325 – Social Change (3 credits)

Students opting for the language-focus certificate can choose from language courses in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, and Hmong.

Clubs, Organizations and Events

There are a number of student clubs and organizations on campus for anyone interested in Asian culture and language. The Chinese Club organizes various activities to enhance members' understanding of Chinese culture and to improve their language proficiency. The Korean language program hosts a very active Facebook page and plans activities for its students. The Translation and Interpreting program is broader than just the Asian languages, but its programs also may be of interest to students in Asian Studies.

Study Abroad

Asian Studies students may wish to explore the study abroad options available through the UWM Center for International Education. An overseas experience often is the highlight of a student's academic career and adds another level of hands-on experience with a different culture and language to a student's resume.

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