

INTERNATIONAL ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME

In keeping with the University's distinctive educational mission of promoting cultural exchange between East and West, an International Asian Studies Programme (IASP) was launched at the University in 1977 with the support of the Yale-China Association. This Programme is open to students from outside of Hong Kong who wish to take advantage of the University's academic resources and research facilities to develop knowledge in Chinese, Asian and International Studies, further studies in their academic discipline in the context of Hong Kong, Mainland China and the rest of Asia, and learn Chinese.

The International Asian Studies Programme is fully integrated into the regular structure of the University. Participants take regular courses with local students in the Faculties of Arts, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Science and Social Science. The IASP offers selected courses in Asian, Chinese and International Studies taught in English for the benefit of both programme participants and local students. Participants may take special language courses in Cantonese and Putonghua which are taught through the New Asia -- Yale-in-China Chinese Language Center. Many opportunities are provided to participants to experience Chinese culture. They include sharing dormitory with local students, thematic field trips, excursions and movie nights, just to name a few.

There are two categories of participants: 1) associate undergraduate students taking a full load (12-18 units per term) of university courses; and 2) associate postgraduate students taking either a) a full load (12-18 units per term) of university courses or b) conducting a research and taking a minimum course load of 3 units.

Students may participate in IASP for one term, one academic year or during the summer. Previous coursework on Chinese language or Asian studies is not required for admission, but undergraduate applicants must have normally completed at least two terms of university study and graduate applicants must hold a recognized Bachelor's degree.

Participants may come as exchange students or study abroad students. Exchange students are those who are sent by institutions which have formal exchange arrangements with the University. Exchange students are exempted from paying IASP programme fees. They are responsible for tuition of their home institution, and hostel and other exchange related fees at the University. Study abroad students pay a comprehensive IASP programme fee which covers tuition, on-campus shared accommodation and related expenses, and orientation expenses. IASP serves as the home department to both exchange and study abroad students.

All enquires should be directed to:

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Course Description

(Unless otherwise specified, all are 3-unit term courses.)

IAS2423

Society and Development in China

This course adopts a topics approach to explore the social, cultural, political and economic impact of development in China. The goal is to offer students an overview of the forces fueling development in China and the changes this development is stimulating in Chinese life and society. The course is co-taught by several instructors, who each lecture in their specific area of expertise. The specific topics to be addressed will change from year to year, in response to the interests and expertise of the participating lecturers.

IAS2510

Introduction to Chinese Literature

This course is a survey of Chinese literature, including prose, poetry, novels and drama in both the traditional and modern periods. It examines the evolution of these genres, the historical background of specific works, and the place of literature in Chinese culture and society. (Not for Chinese Language and Literature Majors or Minors, or students who have taken UGD203C.)

IAS2520

Introduction to Chinese Musical Culture

This course is designed to provide an overview to the appreciation of the multifarious living musical traditions in China. Lectures are delivered in Putonghua and English. (Not for Music Majors or Minors.)

IAS2530

Appreciation of Chinese Art

This course is a survey of Chinese art, its technique, content, function and style. Areas covered include calligraphy, painting, sculpture, and minor arts like bronzes and ceramics. Artists, schools and masterpieces are introduced chronologically in the context of cultural, philosophical and political development. Tutorials are in the form of discussion, demonstration and museum visits. (Not for Fine Arts Majors or Minors, or students who have taken GEN2262.)

IAS2540

History of Traditional Chinese Thought

This course examines the development of the major schools of thought in traditional China, namely: Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism. (Not for History Majors or Minors, or students who have taken HIS3205 or UGA2270.)

IAS2550

An Introduction to Chinese Culture

This course aims at giving a general account of Chinese culture. It includes the following contents: 1) characteristics of Chinese culture; 2) Chinese religious concepts; 3) Chinese views of life; 4) Chinese politics; 5) the Chinese society; 6) Chinese ways of thinking; 7) the Chinese intelligentsia; and 8) cultural problems that modern China faces. (Not for students who have taken UGA2110.)

IAS2580

Asian Languages: A Cultural Perspective

This course focuses on the intriguing relationships between language and culture. Various cultural factors affecting communication will be identified, with specific reference to Asian languages. Examples from Chinese (including various dialects) will be given to illustrate the importance of cultural frames in interpersonal communication in the Asian setting. (Not for students who have taken UGC2867.)

IAS2590, 2591

Special Topic in International Studies I, II

The instructor lectures on and direct the study of a topic in international studies in which he or she specializes.

IAS3413

Elements of Chinese Culture

This course surveys selected elements of Chinese cultural traditions, including the classical origins of Chinese moral and political philosophy, traditional religion and natural science, art and literature, and social customs. The course emphasizes general themes that permeate Chinese culture from ancient times to the present and relate elements of traditional culture to life in Chinese societies today. Methods of instruction include lectures, class discussion, reading assignments, and field trips to cultural sites such as museums and temples. The course is co-taught by several instructors, who each lecture in their specific area of expertise.

IAS3417

Topical Issues in East Asia

Hong Kong, China and the rest of East Asia have great influence on the rest of the world. This course samples current issues that are shaping the cultural, economic, political and social state of East Asia and how these issues affect other countries. Teaching and learning of this course will be in the form of site visits and presentations of scholars and industry leaders in various fields.

IAS4050

Imperialism, Colonialism and Asian Development

This course is designed to introduce what the Asian Pacific region is, investigate Western and Japanese imperialism and colonization processes, and study their impact on the post-colonial development in the region. The current Asian attitudes towards the outside world and critical issues facing the region will also be examined. (Not for students who have taken UGC2282.)

IAS4070

Hong Kong Survey

This course focuses on the historical background of and contemporary developments in Hong Kong, including analytical studies of social, economic and political problems.

IAS4080

Seminar on Contemporary China Study

This seminar focuses on the major issues of political, social, economic and cultural transformation in contemporary China during both the Maoist and post-Mao eras, including ideological disputes, factional politics and policy conflicts.

IAS4090, 4091

Independent Research on International Studies I, II

Students taking this course will be required to write a research paper on a topic in international studies under the supervision of an academic staff member.

IAS4100

Intellectual History of Modern China

This course examines the major currents of thought in the modern period and analyses theoretical frameworks dealing with China's cultural transformation. (Not for History Majors or Minors, or students who have taken HIS3208 or UGA2170.)

IAS4110

China's Regional Foreign Relations

This course is a survey of China's interaction with bordering countries and regions: Japan, Taiwan, the Hong Kong SAR, Russia, North and South Korea, and selected ASEAN states. It also examines China's policy regarding these neighbours, i.e. policy-making structures and capabilities, as well as her positions and actions regarding selected region-wide issues such as trade and investment, the environment, military and security relations, and human rights.

IAS4150

Asian International Relations

This seminar focuses on selected issues relating to the foreign policies of Asian states, the Asia policies of the Superpowers and the patterns of interaction among them. It emphasizes the linkage between domestic politics and foreign policies. Theories of international relations will be examined against the Asian experience. This course is designed for upper-level undergraduate and postgraduate students. (Not for Government and Public Administration Majors or Minors, or students who have taken GPA5140.)

IAS4160

Gender, Culture and Social Change

This course explores how history and culture have influenced social values and public policies regarding gender in different parts of the world. Through studying issues regarding cultural morality and private agency from Asia, and making comparisons with case studies from Middle East, Africa, Europe and the Americas, we will examine the impact that colonial legacies, nationalist and local movements, and current globalization trends have upon gender and social change.

IAS4170

Shanghai and Hong Kong: A Tale of Two Cities

This course traces the rise and development of two cities, Shanghai and Hong Kong from 1842 to the present. Emphasis will be given to social and economic development of the two cities, inter-city migration, and regionalism vs. globalism. (Not for students who have taken UGC2925.)

IAS4180

Business and Politics

The course is designed to the studies of issues related to politics and business. It seems business by nature is untamable, irregular, unmanageable, unruly, exploitative and offensive. Yet others argue the other way round: business is to achieve well-being for society, to promote creative mind for mankind, to help narrow down gaps among societies, to promote a more equal society, etc. Empirically, two contending views lead to two different attitudes and solutions politically. Throughout the course, all major issues related to business and politics will be discussed. (Not for Government and Public Administration Majors or Minors, or students who have taken GPA1025 or UGC264R.)

IAS4280

International Asian Studies Programme Senior Seminar Course

The main objective of this course is to encourage senior level local and international students of different disciplines to prepare papers and debate topics of interest in small groups in a comparative perspective. (Not for students who have taken GEC0413.)

IAS5090, 5091

Independent Research on International Studies I, II

Students taking this course are required to write an intensive research paper on a topic in international studies under the supervision of an academic staff member.