

East Asia Courses Spring 2008 Half-Term

Asian Languages

ASIANLAN 432 Japanese Pedagogy for Beginners
Section 101

Credits: 3
Primary Instructor: Oka, Mayumi
Meeting Times: TuTh 10:00 AM 2:00 PM
Pre-requisite: 4th year proficiency in Japanese language

Students gain a foundation in Japanese pedagogy by learning the basics of teaching pronunciation, grammatical structure, and the three components of the Japanese writing system. They learn how to give lectures and conduct drill sessions, and make lesson plans, teaching materials and tests. Emphasis is placed on techniques of ensuring students master the four key areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

ASIANLAN 499 Independent Language Study

Credits: 1-5
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor required.

This course allows students to do additional academic work towards mastering an Asian language.

Asian Studies

ASIAN 250 Undergraduate Seminar in Buddhism: Miracles and Superhuman Powers in
Buddhist Literature
Section 101

Credits: 3
Primary Instructor: Fiordalis, David Vincent
Meeting Times: TuTh 11:00 AM 2:00 PM

This course will explore the significance of miracles and superhuman powers in Buddhist doctrine and narrative traditions, while serving as an introduction to the study of Buddhism and its many literary genres in India, China, and Japan. No prior knowledge of Buddhism required. All readings will be in English translation.

ASIAN 499 Independent Study: Directed Reading

Credits: 1-4
Prerequisite: With permission of instructor.

Directed readings or research in consultation with a member of the Asian Studies faculty.

ASIAN 799 Master's Essay in Japanese Studies

Credits: 1-6
Prerequisite: Master's student in Asian Studies. Graduate standing and permission of instructor.

Students electing the thesis track must complete the Master's Essay. The Master's Essay is a substantial research paper reflecting interdisciplinary training and the ability to use Western language literature and Japanese language sources. The thesis is usually undertaken in the last term of the degree program, under the supervision of two Center faculty. Students in the joint degree programs should refer to the appropriate sections in the CJS handbook for additional requirements specific to their program.

ASIAN 995 Doctoral Dissertation

Credits: 4 credits

Prerequisite: Department consent required. Ph.D. candidates.

Graduate School authorization for admission as a doctoral Candidate. N.B. The defense of the dissertation (the final oral examination) must be held under a full term Candidacy enrollment period.

Japanese

JAPANESE 601 Master's Essay

Credits: 1-3 credits

Prerequisite: With permission of instructor.

The M.A. degree in Japanese Literature requires the completion of a Master's Essay based upon original sources. Topic for the Master's Essay are chosen with the approval of the graduate advisor. The student must complete this paper no later than the end of the fourth semester of graduate study.

Chinese Studies

CCS 700 Master's Thesis in Chinese Studies

Credits: 1-3 credits

Prerequisite: With permission of instructor.

The Master's thesis is a substantial research paper reflecting interdisciplinary training and the ability to use Western language literature and Chinese language sources. Thesis research is undertaken under the supervision of a faculty or research associate of the Center of Chinese Studies, usually in the last term of the degree program.

Master's Essay

All M.A. students are expected to complete a substantial research paper reflecting interdisciplinary training and the ability to use the Western language literature and Chinese language sources. The essay must be read and approved by two Center for Chinese Studies faculty members from different disciplines, normally including the advisor, both of whom will grade the thesis. It is the student's responsibility to identify the two faculty members who will agree to serve as readers of the student's thesis. Students who complete the thesis while enrolled are encouraged to register for the thesis writing class in the department of their thesis advisor. Under exceptional circumstances, students may petition to submit two shorter research papers to substitute for the Master's thesis. The papers can be based on those originally written for a graduate class, and should be of "A" quality. The student's faculty advisor should help the student evaluate what revisions to course papers are necessary to make them of appropriate length and quality. A student intending to file such a petition should consult with the Associate Director of CCS ahead of time to determine whether his or her circumstances merit such a petition. The petition itself should include a formal letter of request and be accompanied by complete copies of both papers. The papers will be reviewed by two faculty readers appointed by the CCS Associate Director.

History

HISTORY 392 Topics in Asian History

Section 101 *Samurai in Films*

Credits: 3

Meet Together Classes [HISTORY 592 - Asian Topics, Section 101](#)

Primary Instructor: [Tonomura, Hitomi](#)

How do modern films portray the samurai? How can we "read" these films to deepen our understanding of a millennium of samurai history? In this course we develop knowledge and perspectives needed for analyzing and better appreciating six great samurai films. By reading books, articles, and primary sources, we answer questions such as: Who were the samurai? How did they transform over nearly a millennium of their history? How did they fight and play, rule and obey, and love and betray? What roles did samurai's women play?

Our final goal is to critically examine the ways in which films, created by various directors in different political and cultural climates, represent and convey to the viewer the changing reality and ideals of the historical samurai through constructed narrative, visual techniques and other elements of artistry. While identifying and appreciating the films' artistic intentions, we interpret them from the perspective of a conscious historian and consider how this popular genre has contributed to the creation of a particular and often stereotyped vision of Japan's historical past.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class attendance/participation and weekly tests (together, 60%), and a paper (40%). Attendance at films is required. No prerequisites.

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Section 101 ***Samurai in Films***
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Meet Together Classes [HISTORY 392 - Asian Topics, Section 101](#)
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Political Science

POLISCI 140 **Introduction to Comparative Politics**
Section 101
Credits: 4 credits
Primary Instructor: Potter, Laura N.
Meeting Times: MTuWTh 12:00PM -2:00PM

The intention of this course is to introduce you to the study of Comparative Politics. The course will introduce to you some of the central questions scholars ask in this field, the answers we have developed thus

far, and also the method of cross-national comparison. We will explore the nature of the state and how states develop, as well as democratic political systems. We will ask: what makes a polity a democratic one, why we should care about the distinction between democracies and non-democracies, and perhaps most importantly, how do states become democratic? Finally, we turn to varieties of democratic systems. Here, we will ask such questions as: "Why do some countries have more parties than others?" and "What is the difference between a presidentialism and parliamentarism?" We explore how the answers to these questions affect policy. Toward the end of the course, we delve into the question of how all these institutions matter not only in terms of policy, but in terms of socioeconomic outcomes.