ASIAN STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

The Asian studies (transregional) minor allows students to study the
diversity of Asia in a comparative framework. Complementing course
work at Mount Holyoke are extracurricular activities and study abroad
programs that broaden and deepen students’ understanding of Asia.

On campus, our students experience regional culture at many levels,
including language tables and clubs, guest lectures, performing and
visual arts, film, festivals, and regional cuisine. These activities are often
initiated by and benefit greatly from the diverse student population of
Mount Holyoke and particularly the large numbers of students from Asian
countries or with an Asian background.

Most of our students spend a semester or a summer in study abroad
programs. Mount Holyoke College has affiliated programs or exchanges
in China at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, in Beijing
in cooperation with the China Studies Institute of Peking University
(summer), and University of Hong Kong, China; in Japan at the
Associated Kyoto Program (year) and the Japan Women’s University;
and in South Korea at the Ewha Womans University and the Sookmyung
Women’s University. Students may also participate in one of the many
Mount Holyoke College-approved Middle Eastern or South Asian Study
abroad programs.

Asian studies minors graduate to pursue careers in fields as varied as
education, business, NGOs, journalism, the arts, government service, and
graduate study.

See Also

• Arabic (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/arabic/)
• Chinese (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/chinese/)
• East Asian Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/east-asian-studies/)
• Japanese (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/japanese/)
• Middle Eastern Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/middle-eastern-studies/)
• South Asian Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/south-asian-studies/)
• Asian/Pacific/American Studies (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/asian-pacific-american-studies/)

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 16 credits

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>12 credits of approved Asian studies courses at the 200 level or higher, only 8 of which can be in language</td>
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<tr>
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<td>At least 4 credits in approved Asian studies courses at the 300 level</td>
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Total Credits 16

1 A full list of the approved courses (p. 2) for the major appears at the end of the Asian Studies Courses section.

Additional Specifications

• Courses should be selected from at least two disciplines.
• No more than one Asian American studies course may be counted toward the Asian studies minor.
• There is no language requirement for the Asian Studies minor.
• See also: minors in Arabic (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/arabic/), Chinese (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/chinese/), and Japanese (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/japanese/).

Contact Information

Calvin Chen, Chair
Denise Falk, Academic Department Coordinator

112 Ciruti Center
413-538-2885
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/asian-studies

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Asian Studies Committee:

Calvin Chen, Professor of Politics

Satyananda Gabriel, Professor of Economics

Sohail Hashmi, Professor of International Relations on the Alumnae Foundation and Professor of Politics, Teaching Fall Only

Kavita Khory, Ruth Lawson Professor of Politics; Carol Hoffmann Collins Director of the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives

Susanne Mrozik, Professor of Religion

Naoko Nemoto, Professor of Asian Studies, On Leave 2022-2023

Joshua Roth, Professor of Anthropology

Ajay Sinha, Julie ’73 and Helene ’49 Herzig Professor of Art History

Ying Wang, Felicia Gressitt Bock Professor of Asian Studies

Elif Babul, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Amina Steinfels, Associate Professor of Religion

Lan Wu, Assistant Professor of History

Lisha Xu, Senior Lecturer in Asian Studies

Jinhwa Chang, Lecturer in Japanese

Kyae-Sung Park, Five College Lecturer in Korean

Ahmad Alswaid, Visiting Lecturer in Arabic

Qianxue Jin, Visiting Instructor in Asian Studies

Alice Kao, Teaching Associate in Chinese
Course Offerings

Asian Culture

**ASIAN-214 Philosophical Foundations of Chinese Thought: the Ancient Period**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

An introduction to Chinese thought during the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (roughly 770-256 BCE), a time of remarkable philosophical growth and controversy. We read the works of this era’s most influential philosophers, including: Kongzi (Confucius), Mozi, Laozi, Mengzi (Mencius), Zhuangzi, Xunzi, and Han Feizi. Topics discussed include: What makes for a just ruler? What kind of life should we live? What is our relationship to nature? We work to understand each philosopher’s responses to these questions, but we also learn to develop our own answers. We take care to place these figures and their works in their historical and cultural context.

Crosslisted as: PHIL-212

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive

J. Harold

**ASIAN-215 Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women’s Theater**

*Fall. Credits: 4*

Yue Opera, an all-female art that flourished in Shanghai in 1923, resulted from China’s social changes and the women’s movement. Combining traditional with modern forms and Chinese with Western cultures, Yue Opera today attracts loyal and enthusiastic audiences despite pop arts crazes. We will focus on how audiences, particularly women, are fascinated by gender renegotiations as well as by the all-female cast. The class will read and watch classics of this theater, including *Romance of the Western Bower*, *Peony Pavilion*, and *Butterfly Lovers*. Students will also learn the basics of traditional Chinese opera.

Crosslisted as: GNDST-204CW, FMT-230CW

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Y. Wang

Notes: Taught in English

**ASIAN-247 Chinese Women Writers in the 20th and 21st Centuries**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

In the last hundred years, China witnessed the emergence of many talented Chinese women writers. Not only did they take part in every stage of important socio-political changes in modern and contemporary China, they were and still are the avant-garde of literary reform and innovation. Many of their works, in particular, take gender and gender ideology/politics at issue, while deviating from the traditional discourse that marginalized or trivialized women, exploring creative and effective ways of literary dialogue and imagination. This course will cover women writers from both modern (1911-1949) and contemporary (1949-present) times. Some of the representative women writers include: Ding Ling, Xiao Hong, Zhang Ailing, Zong Pu, Yang Jiang, Wang Anyi, Tie Ning, etc.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Y. Wang

Notes: Taught in English. This class may be especially suitable for students who do not identify as native speakers of English.

**ASIAN-340 Love, Gender-Crossing, and Women's Supremacy: A Reading of The Story of the Stone**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

A seminar on the eighteenth-century Chinese masterpiece *The Story of the Stone* and selected literary criticism in response to this work. Discussions will focus on love, gender-crossing, and women's supremacy and the paradoxical treatments of these themes in the novel. We will explore multiple aspects of these themes, including the sociological, philosophical, and literary milieus of eighteenth-century China. We will also examine this novel in its relation to Chinese literary tradition in general and the generic conventions of pre-modern Chinese vernacular fiction in particular.

Crosslisted as: GNDST-333HH

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive

Y. Wang

Prereq: 8 credits in Asian Studies or Gender Studies.

Advisory: Intended for East Asian Studies majors and Asian Studies minors.

Notes: Taught in English.

Asian Languages

**ASIAN-110 First Year Chinese I**

*Fall. Credits: 6*

ASIAN-110 is the first semester of the first-year Chinese course. This is an intensive course emphasizing the rapid development of listening and speaking ability and intended for students with no or very little prior knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. Points of focus include pronunciation and tones, basic syntax, high-frequency vocabulary words, conversational flow, and an introduction to reading and writing Chinese characters. Relevant cultural knowledge and activities will be incorporated into the curriculum. The class will initially be conducted in both English and Chinese, with the proportion of Chinese steadily increasing over the first two months, after which the great majority of instruction will be in Chinese. Learning is supplemented by online learning resources, out-of-class language partner sessions, Language Resource Center Question and Answer sessions and the Chinese Language Table.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

A. Kao, L. Xu

Coreq: ASIAN-110L.

Advisory: Students with previous or equivalent language study should contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.

**ASIAN-111 First Year Chinese II**

*Spring. Credits: 6*

This course continues Asian Studies 110, First Year Chinese I, with an introduction to Mandarin Chinese and the development of oral proficiency as well as gradual acquisition of reading and writing skills. Learning is supplemented by online learning resources, out-of-class language partner sessions, Language Resource Center Question and Answer sessions and the Chinese Language Table.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

A. Kao, L. Xu

Prereq: ASIAN-110 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-111L.

Advisory: Students with previous or equivalent language study should contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.
ASIAN-120 First Year Japanese I
Fall. Credits: 6
This course introduces listening, speaking, reading, and writing modern Japanese; hiragana, katakana, and approximately 150 Kanji. Supplements class work with audio and video.
Appplies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
J. Chang
Restrictions: This course is limited to first-years, sophomores, and juniors
Coreq: ASIAN-120L.
Advisory: Only first-year, sophomores, and juniors may pre-register; if space is available, seniors may be able to register during Add/Drop; students with previous training in Japanese should contact Jinhwa Chang (jinhwachang@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-121 First Year Japanese II
Spring. Credits: 6
This course continues Asian Studies 120, First Year Japanese I. Introduces listening, speaking, reading, and writing modern Japanese; hiragana, katakana, and approximately 150 Kanji. Supplements class work with audio and video.
Appplies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
J. Chang, Q. Jin
Prereq: ASIAN-120 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-121L.
Advisory: Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should contact Jinhwa Chang (jinhwachang@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-130 First Year Arabic I
Fall. Credits: 4
This course introduces the basics of Modern Standard Arabic and one dialect. It begins with a study of the Arabic script and sounds using the Alif Baa textbook, and then students will use Al-Kitaab I, 3rd edition (chapters 1-5). Students will acquire vocabulary and usage for everyday interactions in Arabic. In addition to the traditional textbook exercises, students will write short paragraphs, and participate in role plays and conversations.
Appplies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
A. Alswaid
Advisory: Students with previous language study should contact Heba Arafah (harafah@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-131 First Year Arabic II
Spring. Credits: 4
This second half of the year-long course continues to introduce the basics of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA). It covers vocabulary for everyday use and essential communicative skills with regard to real-life and task-oriented situations. Students will concentrate on speaking and listening skills, as well as on learning the various forms of verbs, roots/patterns, and sentence structures. Students are expected to participate in various curricular tasks (e.g., role-plays, discussions) and extracurricular activities (e.g., cooking nights, movie nights, language tables) to dig into some cultural aspects. Students will also engage in conversations which introduce them to dialects to be able to authentically use the language.
Appplies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
M. George
Prereq: ASIAN-130 or equivalent.

ASIAN-160 First Year Korean I
Fall. Credits: 4
First Year Korean I is the first half of elementary Korean. It is designed to provide students who have little or no knowledge of Korean with basic proficiency in Korean speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture. The course will cover the foundations of Korean vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation and how these can be used in context.
Appplies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
K. Park
Restrictions: This course is limited to first-years, sophomores, and juniors
Advisory: Students with previous training in Korean should contact Kyae-Sung Park (kspark@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.
Notes: Only first-years, sophomores, and juniors may pre-register; if there are any remaining seats, seniors will be able to register during Add/Drop.

ASIAN-161 First Year Korean II
Spring. Credits: 4
First Year Korean II is the second half of elementary Korean. It is designed to consolidate and solidify the language skills acquired in First Year Korean I and to continue developing students’ proficiency in Korean speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture. The course will continue to cover the foundations of Korean vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation and how these can be used in context. Students will also develop their ability to communicate about topics related to everyday events and situations.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
K. Park
Prereq: ASIAN-160 or equivalent.
Advisory: Contact Kyae-Sung Park (kspark@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-212 Second Year Chinese I
Fall. Credits: 6
This course continues Asian Studies 212, Second Year Chinese I. A continuing emphasis on the facility in daily life interactions will be supplemented and expanded by increasing discussion of broader issues in society. Students will develop a deeper and broader understanding of relevant aspects of Chinese culture. This course is conducted mostly in Chinese. Learning is supplemented by online learning resources, out-of-class language partner sessions, Language Resource Center Question and Answer sessions and the Chinese Language Table.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
L. Xu, Y. Wang
Prereq: ASIAN-211 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-212L.
Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, l xu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.

ASIAN-213 Second Year Chinese II
Spring. Credits: 6
This course continues Asian Studies 212, Second Year Chinese I. A continuing emphasis on the facility in daily life interactions will be supplemented and expanded by increasing discussion of broader issues in society, including education, employment, etc.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Y. Wang, L. Xu
Prereq: ASIAN-212 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-213L.
Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, l xu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.
ASIAN-222 Second Year Japanese I  
**Fall. Credits: 6**  
This course emphasizes speaking, listening, reading, and writing modern Japanese. Includes approximately 250 kanji. Supplements class work with audio and video.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 J. Chang  
 Prereq: ASIAN-121 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-222L.  
 Advisory: Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should consult Jinhwa Chang (jinhwachang@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-223 Second Year Japanese II  
**Spring. Credits: 6**  
This course continues Asian Studies 222, Second Year Japanese I. Emphasizes speaking, listening, reading, and writing modern Japanese. Includes approximately 350 kanji. Supplements class work with audio and video.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 J. Chang, Q. Jin  
 Prereq: ASIAN-222 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-223L.  
 Advisory: Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should consult Jinhwa Chang (jinhwachang@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-262 Second Year Korean I  
**Fall. Credits: 4**  
Second Year Korean I is the first half of intermediate Korean. It is designed to provide students with intermediate proficiency in Korean speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture. The course will strengthen students' communicative skills on familiar topics related to everyday events and situations. Students will also develop discourse/pragmatic competence in various social contexts of communication.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 K. Park  
 Prereq: ASIAN-161 or equivalent.  
 Advisory: Contact Kyae-Sung Park for placement.

ASIAN-263 Second Year Korean II  
**Spring. Credits: 4**  
This course is the second half of intermediate Korean. It is designed to consolidate and solidify the language skills acquired in ASIAN-262, Second Year Korean I, and to continue developing proficiency in Korean speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 K. Park  
 Prereq: ASIAN-262 or equivalent.  
 Advisory: Contact Kyae-Sung Park (kspark@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-310 Third Year Chinese I  
**Fall. Credits: 4**  
This course helps students to build linguistic and communicative competence in Mandarin Chinese through reading, discussing, and writing about authentic texts. Newspapers, essays, and short stories will be the teaching materials for the course. An interactive approach will be incorporated into the curriculum to improve students' conversational skills. The class will be conducted mostly in Chinese, and class hours will be supplemented by individual work in the Language Resource Center.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 A. Kao  
 Prereq: ASIAN-213 or equivalent.  
 Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.

ASIAN-311 Third Year Chinese II  
**Spring. Credits: 4**  
This course continues Asian Studies 310, Third Year Chinese I, in helping students build linguistic and communicative competence in Mandarin Chinese through reading, discussing, and writing about authentic texts. Newspapers, essays, and short stories will be the teaching materials for the course. An interactive approach will be incorporated into the curriculum to improve students' conversational skills. The class will be conducted mostly in Chinese, and class hours will be supplemented by individual work in the Language Resource Center.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 A. Kao  
 Prereq: ASIAN-310 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-311L.  
 Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.

ASIAN-312 Newspaper Reading and Journalistic Practice in China  
**Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4**  
This course advances students' Chinese reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills by studying journalistic reports on the most pressing issues in China and the U.S. It also introduces the formal expressions, writing styles, and terminology commonly used in Chinese media. In addition, the course intends to help familiarize students with various media channels and agencies, understand the challenges of journalistic practice in the internet age, and enhance students' critical thinking and analytical skills by broadening their perspective and comparing Chinese and English media sources. Conducted mainly in Chinese with the addition of relevant English materials.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
 Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive  
 L. Xu  
 Prereq: ASIAN-311 or equivalent.  
 Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.

ASIAN-313 Advanced Chinese Reading  
ASIAN-313SH Advanced Chinese Reading: 'Reading Chinese Classics: 17th Century Short Stories'  
**Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 2**  
In 17th-century China, an effort arose that challenged Neo-Confucian moral values and legitimized human desire. This trend is best reflected in the fictional writings of Feng Menglong, Ling Mengchu, and Li Yu. Daring and earthy, their stories deal with many aspects of mundane life in urbanized communities, portraying social customs with local colors. Under these writers' pen, individual struggles for survival, love, and sexual desire coexist with social vicissitudes caused by war, famine, and politics. This course intends to help students better understand the urban life and human relations of 17th-century China and gain knowledge about the huaben genre and its influence on later pre-modern fictional writings. Course works include readings and writings in Chinese, and translation from Chinese to English.  
 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement  
 L. Xu  
 Prereq: ASIAN-312, ASIAN-314, or ASIAN-315. Native Chinese speakers who have taken a 100- or 200-level course on China, contact instructor for permission.  
 Notes: Taught in Chinese
ASIAN-314 Learning Chinese Through Film
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will improve students’ four communication skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) by studying contemporary Chinese films, including several prize winners/nominees by internationally acclaimed directors such as Zhang Yimou, Li An, and Chen Kaige. The class will watch the films and then use the synopses and selected dialogues from the scripts as reading materials to facilitate both linguistic and cultural learning. Social and cultural issues reflected in the films will be discussed. The class will be conducted mainly in Chinese.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Xu
Prereq: ASIAN-311 or equivalent.
Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lhx@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.

ASIAN-315 Business Culture and Communication in China
Spring. Credits: 4
An advanced speaking- and writing-intensive Chinese course focusing on Chinese business communication and culture. Will further improve students’ Chinese proficiency and oral communication by using Chinese as a tool to investigate topics in business and business culture in China. As well as the textbook, the course will make use of a variety of supplementary materials, including some in English. Through lectures and other activities, students will gain experience and comfort in reading and discussing business news, producing analytic and technical forms of business writing, translating business-related documents, and other skills for future work in China.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Xu
Prereq: ASIAN-311 or equivalent.
Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lhx@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.
Notes: Taught entirely in Chinese.

ASIAN-324 Third Year Japanese I
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course helps students attain a higher level of proficiency in modern Japanese through the extended use of the language in practical contexts. The class will be conducted mostly in Japanese.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
N. Nemoto
Prereq: ASIAN-223 or equivalent.
Advisory: Asian Studies 223 or equivalent. Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should consult Naoko Nemoto (nnemoto@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-325 Business Culture and Communication in China
Spring. Credits: 4
An advanced speaking- and writing-intensive Chinese course focusing on Chinese business communication and culture. Will further improve students’ Chinese proficiency and oral communication by using Chinese as a tool to investigate topics in business and business culture in China. As well as the textbook, the course will make use of a variety of supplementary materials, including some in English. Through lectures and other activities, students will gain experience and comfort in reading and discussing business news, producing analytic and technical forms of business writing, translating business-related documents, and other skills for future work in China.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive
L. Xu
Prereq: ASIAN-311 or equivalent.
Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lhx@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.
Notes: Taught entirely in Chinese.

ASIAN-326 Third Year Japanese II
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course continues Asian Studies 324, Third Year Japanese I. Emphasizes attaining a higher level of proficiency in modern Japanese through the extended use of the language in practical contexts. The class will be conducted mostly in Japanese.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
N. Nemoto
Prereq: ASIAN-324 or equivalent.
Advisory: Asian Studies 324 or equivalent. Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should consult Naoko Nemoto (nnemoto@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

Independent Study
ASIAN-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required

ASIAN-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.

Related Courses Approved for the Asian Studies Minor
Most Asian studies courses offered by other departments at Mount Holyoke are listed below, but students should also consult the catalog entries or websites of other departments, including Art History, History, International Relations, Politics, and Religion. Asian Studies minors may also plan to use the rich resources of the Five College Consortium in selecting their courses (listings are available through the Five College Class Schedule (https://www.fivecolleges.edu/academics/courses/) or individual college websites).

Please consult the chair of the Asian Studies Committee for guidelines regarding Asian languages not taught in the Five Colleges.

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<td>ANTHR-316ME</td>
<td>Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Political Anthropology of the Middle East'</td>
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<td>Philosophical Foundations of Chinese Thought: the Ancient Period</td>
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<td>ASIAN-215</td>
<td>Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women's Theater</td>
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<td>Advanced Chinese Reading: 'Reading Chinese Classics: 17th Century Short Stories'</td>
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<td>Learning Chinese Through Film</td>
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<td>ASIAN-315</td>
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