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/)

Contact Information

Naoko Nemoto, 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, Carol Hoffmann Collins ’63 Professor of International Studies and Professor of Politics, Teaching Fall Only
Satyananda Gabriel, Professor of Economics

Sohail Hashmi, Professor of International Relations on the Alumnae Foundation and Professor of Politics
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
Joshua Roth, Professor of Asian Studies
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, Teaching Spring Only
Lan Wu, Associate Professor of History, Teaching Fall Only
Lisha Xu, Senior Lecturer in Asian Studies, Teaching Fall Only
Jinhwa Chang, Lecturer in Japanese
Kyae-Sung Park, Five College Lecturer in Korean
May George, Five College Lecturer in Middle East Studies

Alice Kao, Teaching Associate in Chinese

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 16 credits

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</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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<td>At least 4 credits in approved Asian studies courses at the 300 level</td>
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<td>Total Credits</td>
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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/).
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
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
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 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

Spring. 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, Y. Wang
Coreq: ASIAN-110L.
Advisory: Students with previous or equivalent language study should contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mitholyoke.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, Y. Wang
Prereq: ASIAN-110 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-111L.
Advisory: Students with previous or equivalent language study should contact Lisha Xu, lxu@mitholyoke.edu, for placement.
ASIAN-120 First Year Japanese I  
**Fall. Credits: 6**
Introduces listening, speaking, reading, and writing modern Japanese; hiragana, katakana, and approximately 150 Kanji. Supplements class work with audio and video.
* Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
* J. Chang, N. Nemoto  
* 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 Naoko Nemoto (nnemoto@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-121 First Year Japanese II  
**Spring. Credits: 6**
This 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.
* Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
* J. Chang, N. Nemoto  
* Prereq: ASIAN-120 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-121L.  
* Advisory: Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should contact Naoko Nemoto (nnemoto@mtholyoke.edu)

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.
* Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
* M. George  
* Advisory: Students with previous language study should contact May George (mgeorge@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.
* Applies 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.
* Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language  
* K. Park  
* Restrictions: This course is limited to first-years and sophomores.  
* 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**
Asian 212 is the first semester of the second-year Chinese course. This is an intensive course to consolidate and expand students’ competencies in the four fundamental areas of language learning—speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will improve their oral fluency, study more complex grammatical structures, and enlarge their vocabulary. Emphasis on facilitating 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  
* Prereq: ASIAN-111 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-212L.  
* Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lxu@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  
* Prereq: ASIAN-212 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-213L.  
* Advisory: Contact Lisha Xu, lxu@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: Asian Studies 121 or equivalent. Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should consult Naoko Nemoto (nnemoto@mtholyoke.edu) for placement.

ASIAN-223 Second Year Japanese II
Spring. Credits: 4
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
Prereq: ASIAN-222 or equivalent. Coreq: ASIAN-223L.
Advisory: Students with previous training in Japanese outside of MHC should consult Naoko Nemoto (nnemoto@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-314 Learning Chinese Through Film
Fall. Credits: 4
This course advances students’ Chinese reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills by studying contemporary Chinese films. The selected movies are mostly lighthearted comedies on youth, love, and aspirations, with discussions on relationships, immigration, elder care, education, and social justice. The class will watch the films and use the synopses and selected dialogues from the scripts as reading materials to facilitate linguistic and cultural learning. Students will also watch several prize winners/nominees by internationally acclaimed Chinese directors such as Yimou Zhang, Zhangke Jia, Kar-wai Wong, Xiaogang Feng, and Kaige Chen in the “Chinese Movie Night” activity. 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, lxu@mtholyoke.edu, for placement.
ASIAN-315 Business Culture and Communication in China

Fall. 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.

Applications to requirement(s): Humanities, Language

N. Nemoto

Prerequisites: 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.

Notes: Taught entirely in Chinese.

ASIAN-324 Third Year Japanese I

Fall. Credits: 4

This course continues Asian Studies 324, Third Year Japanese I. It 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.

Applications to requirement(s): Humanities, Language

N. Nemoto

Prerequisites: 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-326 Third Year Japanese II

Spring. Credits: 4

This course continues Asian Studies 324, Third Year Japanese I. It 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.

Applications to requirement(s): Humanities, Language

N. Nemoto

Prerequisites: 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 - 8

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>Anthropology of Modern Japan</td>
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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>ARTH-105</td>
<td>Arts of Asia</td>
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<td>Arts of Japan</td>
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<td>ARTH-290AM</td>
<td>Issues in Art History: 'Miniature Representations of Architecture in Asia'</td>
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<td>ARTH-290BC</td>
<td>Issues in Art History: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'</td>
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<td>ASIAN-214</td>
<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>ASIAN-340</td>
<td>Love, Gender-Crossing, and Women's Supremacy: A Reading of The Story of the Stone</td>
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<td>ASIAN-362</td>
<td>Political Anthropology of the Middle East</td>
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Critical Social Thought

CST-249LT | Topics in Critical Social Thought: 'Introduction to Asian American Literature' | 4       |

English
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<td>Introduction to Asian American Literature</td>
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<td>ENGL-334BG</td>
<td>Asian American Film and Visual Culture: 'Beyond Geishas and Kung Fu Masters'</td>
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<td>FMT-230BC</td>
<td>Intermediate Courses in History and Theory: 'Bollywood: A Cinema of Interruptions'</td>
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<td>Intermediate Courses in History and Theory: 'Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women's Theater'</td>
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<td>Women and Gender in the Study of Culture: 'Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women's Theater'</td>
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<td>GNDST-206CG</td>
<td>Women and Gender in History: 'Women and Gender in China'</td>
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<td>GNDST-210SL</td>
<td>Women and Gender in Philosophy and Religion: 'Women and Gender in Islam'</td>
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<td>GNDST-333HH</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar: 'Love, Gender-Crossing, and Women's Supremacy: A Reading of <em>The Story of the Stone</em>'</td>
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<td>HIST-124</td>
<td>History of Modern South Asia, 1700 to the Present</td>
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