Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies

This program is designed for students interested in serious intensive research on the languages, history, politics, and cultures of Asia and/or the Asian diasporas. The geographic region of Asia includes countries such as Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam. In consultation with the program advisor, students may focus their coursework on a sub-region of Asia, on one of the Asian diasporas, or design their program to offer a comparative study across different regions and/or cultural groups. The goal of the program is to provide balanced coverage of language, humanistic, and social science offerings on the region and to expose students to some comparative perspectives within the region. The MIT Departments of Global Languages, History, and Political Science offer a substantial number of subjects related to Asia and the Asian diasporas.

As noted in the degree chart (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/humanities-course-21), the program includes a minimum of nine subjects (108 units) beyond the pre-thesis tutorial (21.THT (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21.THT)) and thesis (21.THU (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21.THU)). The nine subjects must include two language subjects in Area I (or equivalent proficiency); the seven remaining subjects must be selected from at least two of the three other disciplinary areas (Areas II–IV).

- Area I: Language
- Area II: Humanities and the Arts
- Area III: Social Sciences
- Area IV: Historical Studies

For the thesis requirement, students choose a topic in consultation with an MIT faculty member whose specialty falls within Asian Studies; the thesis research may include knowledge of an Asian language.

Up to six subjects (72 units) may be used for both the major and the GIRs, but the units from those subjects may not count toward the 180 units required beyond the GIRs. No more than one subject that counts toward the distribution component of the HASS Requirement may also be counted toward the requirements of the Asian and Asian Diaspora Studies program. In addition, at least eight of the subjects required for the program cannot count toward any other major or minor.

The language requirement can be satisfied by taking two intermediate (Levels III and IV) subjects in an Asian language. Students with proficiency at this level in the spoken and written language can either take two more advanced language subjects (highly recommended), or two more courses from Areas II, III and IV. Chinese and Japanese are taught at MIT. Subjects about Asia and the Asian diaspora, as well as subjects in Asian languages, are also available from Harvard University and Wellesley College through cross-registration. Students must receive permission from the advisor prior to registering for a class at another institution.

The list of restricted electives below is not exhaustive. Additional information can be obtained from the advisor for the program, Professor Emma Teng (eteng@mit.edu), 14N-303, 617-253-4536, or from the SHASS Dean's Office, 4-240, 617-253-3450.

**Restricted Electives**

Select two subjects in the same language from Area I and seven subjects from at least two of Areas II, III, or IV.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area I: Language</th>
<th>Area II: Humanities and the Arts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21G.103 Chinese III (Regular)</td>
<td>21G.011 Topics in Indian Popular Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.104 Chinese IV (Regular)</td>
<td>21G.030 Introduction to East Asian Cultures: From Zen to K-Pop</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.105 Chinese V (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies</td>
<td>21G.036 Advertising and Media: Comparative Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.106 Chinese VI (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies</td>
<td>21G.038 China in the News: The Untold Stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.109 Chinese III (Streamlined)</td>
<td>21G.039 Gender and Japanese Popular Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.110 Chinese IV (Streamlined)</td>
<td>21G.040 A Passage to India: Introduction to Modern Indian Culture and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.113 Chinese V (Streamlined)</td>
<td>21G.044 Classics of Chinese Literature in Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21G.120 Business Chinese</td>
<td>21G.046 Modern Chinese Fiction and Cinema</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.503 Japanese III</td>
<td>21G.063 Anime: Transnational Media and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.504 Japanese IV</td>
<td>21G.064 Introduction to Japanese Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.505 Japanese V</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.506 Japanese VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>21G.903 Korean III (Regular)</td>
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<td>21G.904 Korean IV (Regular)</td>
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<td>Two intermediate-level subjects in another Asian language</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Area IV: Historical Studies

21G.067[J] Digital Media in Japan and Korea
21G.094[J] Cinema in Japan and Korea
21G.111 Chinese Calligraphy
21G.199 Chinese Youths and Web Culture
21M.291 Music of India
21M.700 China on Stage
21M.706 Asian American Theater
21W.788[J] South Asian America: Transnational Media, Culture, and History
WGS.226[J] Science, Gender and Social Inequality in the Developing World

Area III: Social Sciences

17.407 Chinese Foreign Policy
17.433 International Relations of East Asia
17.53 The Rise of Asia
17.537 Politics and Policy in Contemporary Japan
21A.141[J] Images of Asian Women: Dragon Ladies and Lotus Blossoms

Area IV: Historical Studies

21G.043[J] Introduction to Asian American Studies: Historical and Contemporary Issues
21G.045[J] Global Chinese Food: A Historical Overview
21H.151 Pre-Modern China
21H.152 Modern China
21H.154 Inventing the Samurai
21H.155 Modern Japan: 1600 to Present
21H.157 Modern South Asia
21H.350 Business in China Since 1800
21H.351[J] Shanghai and China’s Modernization
21H.354 World War II in Asia
21H.357 South Asian Migrations
21H.358 Colonialism in South Asia and Africa: Race, Gender, Resistance

The language requirement can be satisfied by taking two intermediate (Levels III and IV, or Very Fast Track equivalent) subjects in an Asian language. Students with proficiency at this level are encouraged to take two more advanced language subjects, such as 21G.030 (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.030), 21G.036 (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.036), 21G.046 (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.046), 21G.050 (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.050), and 21G.054 (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.054) Japanese V and 21G.060 (http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.060) Japanese VI. Alternatively, they may take two more subjects from Areas II, III, and IV. In cases where the student is specializing in an Asian country where English is one of the official languages, in an English-speaking region of the diaspora, or is a native speaker of an Asian language, the Area I component would be replaced by other subjects in consultation with the program advisor.

Other languages may be taken at Harvard or Wellesley through cross-registration, with the permission of the advisor, or at other institutions during IAP or the summer, with permission from the relevant transfer credit examiner.

Students who are not required to take Area I subjects (see footnote 2) must take all subjects from Areas II, III, and IV with at least one subject from each area.