

HUMANITIES

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 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.¹

Area I: Language²

21G.103	Chinese III (Regular)
21G.104	Chinese IV (Regular)
21G.105	Chinese V (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies
21G.106	Chinese VI (Regular): Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies
21G.109	Chinese III (Streamlined)
21G.110	Chinese IV (Streamlined)
21G.113	Chinese V (Streamlined)
21G.120	Business Chinese
21G.503	Japanese III
21G.504	Japanese IV
21G.505	Japanese V
21G.506	Japanese VI
21G.903	Korean III (Regular)
21G.904	Korean IV (Regular)

Two intermediate-level subjects in another Asian language³

Area II: Humanities and the Arts⁴

21G.011	Topics in Indian Popular Culture
21G.030[J]	Introduction to East Asian Cultures: From Zen to K-Pop
21G.036[J]	Advertising and Media: Comparative Perspectives
21G.038	China in the News: The Untold Stories
21G.039[J]	Gender and Japanese Popular Culture
21G.040	A Passage to India: Introduction to Modern Indian Culture and Society
21G.044[J]	Classics of Chinese Literature in Translation
21G.046	Modern Chinese Fiction and Cinema
21G.063	Anime: Transnational Media and Culture
21G.064	Introduction to Japanese Culture

21G.065[J]	Japanese Media Cultures
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]	Asian American History: 1865 to 1965
21G.045[J]	Global Chinese Food: A Historical Overview
21G.075[J]	The Global Chinese: Chinese Migration, 1567-Present
21H.151	Dynastic 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

¹ 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.

- ² 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.105 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.105>) Chinese V (Regular): *Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies* and 21G.106 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.106>) Chinese VI (Regular): *Discovering Chinese Cultures and Societies* or 21G.505 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.505>) Japanese V and 21G.506 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.506>) 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.
- ³ 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.
- ⁴ 21G.591 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.591>), 21G.592 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.592>), 21G.593 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.593>), 21G.594 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.594>), 21G.596 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.596>), and 21G.597 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.597>) are acceptable alternatives for 21G.039[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.039>), 21G.064 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.064>), 21G.065[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.065>), 21G.094[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.094>), 21G.063 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.063>), and 21G.067[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.067>) respectively. 21G.190 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.190>), 21G.192 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.192>), 21G.193 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.193>), 21G.194 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.194>), and 21G.195 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.195>) are acceptable alternatives for 21G.036[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.036>), 21G.046 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.046>), 21G.030[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.030>), 21G.038 (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.038>), and 21G.044[J] (<http://catalog.mit.edu/search/?P=21G.044>), respectively. These 13-unit alternatives include a research project that is conducted in the language of study.