Asian Studies

Asia has had a long history. It has been home to some of the world’s first civilizations, the source of numerous great inventions, and witness to an archaic form of globalization. Asia has continued to be significant in contemporary times and remains perhaps the most important site of future economic and political development. It is the world’s largest continent: more than 60% of the world’s population resides in Asia. Asia has seen the rise of global economic powerhouses, such as Japan and the Four Asian Tigers (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan), as well as the emergence of the world’s most populous democracy, India. China - the country which may soon become the next global superpower in both economic and military terms - is also located in Asia. As such, Asia remains crucial to American national interests.

A Distinctive Program

The Asian Studies Program offers an Asian Studies minor whose initial core area is East Asia, due to the region’s historical and contemporary significance. Although the program emphasizes China and Japan, students also study linkages between these two countries and other parts of East Asia (the Korean Peninsula, Mongolia and Taiwan), as well as connections between East Asia and other regions, such as Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and Oceania. Through course offerings focused on Asian histories, businesses, politics, economies, religions, cultures, and languages, this program seeks to cultivate an understanding and appreciation of Asia. The program design fosters familiarity with interdisciplinary approaches, cross-cultural interactions, and global events.

Distinguished faculty

- Christopher Bell, Ph.D., University of Virginia; Tibetan deity cults and rituals, Eastern models of
divinity, Asian demonologies

- **Rachel Core**, Ph.D., The John Hopkins University; global health, sociology and societies, medicine and health
- **Jennifer Foo**, Ph.D., Northeastern University; international financial and banking systems, transitional financial development
- **Mario Rodriguez**, Ph.D., Annenberg School of Communication, University of Pennsylvania
- **Leander Seah**, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; maritime China and maritime Southeast Asia, modern China, modern Japan, migration and diasporas, transnational and world history, director of history
- **Rajni Shankar-Brown**, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

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**Courses and Curriculum**

View the Stetson University Course Catalog for more information on the curriculum and courses for this academic program. More elective courses will be added in due course.

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**Further Information**

As this is a new program, for further information, please e-mail the program director, Dr. Leander Seah.