Asia: the other side of the world is closer than you think.

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.

Program Overview

• Minor

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.

Career Significance

The Asian studies program develops students’ appreciations for other cultures and critical thinking skills to prepare them for a wide variety of careers involving Asia. Potential career paths include (but are not limited to):

• Education
• Business
• Non-profit work
• Government

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Faculty
The Asian studies faculty has a diverse variety of professors who teach different subjects including Asian studies, history, religious studies and sociology.

Christopher Bell, Ph.D., University of Virginia
Rachel Core, Ph.D., The Johns Hopkins University
Jennifer Foo, Ph.D., Northeastern University
Leander Seah, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania
Rajni Shankar-Brown, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Charlotte