

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN ASIAN STUDIES

From discussions in the classroom with expert faculty to ambassador visits to unique study abroad opportunities, students majoring in Asian Studies at GW's Elliott School don't just study it—they experience it. They understand and engage with this pivotal region, building knowledge of civilizations with a long and rich history. Along with the disciplinary foundations of international affairs, students in the program proceed to take courses in history, political science, economics, and anthropology. They also develop language skills, deepening their knowledge and understanding of the region. Asian Studies graduates can go on to serve as senior policymakers or diplomats, international business executives, or global nonprofit leaders.

Visit the program website (<https://elliott.gwu.edu/asian-studies-major/>) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
The George Washington University
800 21st St NW Suite 100
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Elliott School bachelor's degrees engage students with global issues through multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Students begin their studies in the first year with foundational courses in political science, economics, history, and anthropology or geography. They supplement these courses with others in the traditional liberal arts categories of writing, oral communication, natural or physical science, mathematics or statistics, and the humanities/creative arts, plus two writing in the disciplines courses. Language study also is emphasized early to enable students to satisfy the third-year language proficiency requirement of the bachelor's degree in a timely manner.

Elliott School bachelor's degrees require a minimum of 120 credits. The following three sets of requirements must be fulfilled:

1. University General Education Requirements
2. Elliott School Introductory Requirements
3. Major Requirements

1. University General Education Requirements

Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
 - Students in the BS in international affairs program are required to take a calculus-based course to fulfill the University General Education requirement in quantitative reasoning. Options include MATH 1220 and MATH 1221; MATH 1231; MATH 1232; or MATH 1252. Students must complete all required prerequisites for their intended analytic core courses. Students are encouraged to consult their advisor with any questions.
- One course in scientific reasoning, with lab (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

2. Elliott School Introductory Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory requirements (22 credits)		
Required		
IAFF 1001 is not required for internal or external transfer students.		
IAFF 1001	First-Year Experience (fall of first year)	
IAFF 1005	Introduction to International Affairs (required in the first year)	
ECON 1011	Principles of Economics I	
ECON 1012	Principles of Economics II	
HIST 1011	World History from 1500 to Present	
PSC 1001	Introduction to Comparative Politics	
One of the following introductory anthropology or geography courses:		

ANTH 1002	Sociocultural Anthropology
ANTH 1004	Language in Culture and Society
GEOG 1001	Introduction to Human Geography
GEOG 1003	Society and Environment *

*GEOG 1003 does not meet the prerequisite requirement for all upper-level geography courses.

One additional course from the University General Education "Critical Thinking in the Humanities" course list or from the GPAC "Creative or Critical Thinking in the Arts" course list.

3. Major Requirements

In addition to the University General Education Requirements and Elliott School Introductory Requirements, Elliott School students must complete the Major Requirements for their individual major:

- BA in International Affairs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-international-affairs/#majorrequirements>)
- BS in International Affairs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/bs-international-affairs/#majorrequirements>)
- BA in Asian Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-asian-studies/#majorrequirements>)
- BA in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-latin-american-hemispheric-studies/#majorrequirements>)
- BA in Middle East Studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/undergraduate-programs/ba-middle-east-studies/#majorrequirements>)

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

If you are an Elliott School student who started at GW before Fall 2024, you are following a different version of the curriculum. Please find your degree requirements in the archived Bulletin (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/archives/>) for your matriculation year.

Students pursuing the BA in Asian Studies as a second major must complete all of the major requirements listed below, including any prerequisites for these courses. These requirements are taken in addition to the requirements for the student's primary major, which typically includes completion of the University General Education requirement and other requirements specific to the primary major. Students are encouraged to talk with their home school's academic advisor for more information about their primary major requirements.

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Elliott School of International Affairs, Undergraduate Degree Requirements (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/#regulationstext>).

A minimum grade of C- must be earned in all major requirement courses, to include the last course used to prove third-year proficiency in a modern regional language.

Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation (3 credits)		
IAFF 2091	East Asia-Past and Present	
Language (credits vary)		
Students must demonstrate third-year proficiency in a modern language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean) by examination or coursework. If taking coursework, students can satisfy the language requirement by taking a course that is equivalent to third-year proficiency, or by taking a course beyond the third year which has a listed prerequisite of the second semester of the third year. Please note that the language placement exam determines the level at which students begin their language study. Additional information regarding the Elliott School language examinations is available from the academic advisor.		
Chinese		
One of the following options for beginning Chinese:		
Option one:		
CHIN 1001 & CHIN 1002	Beginning Chinese I and Beginning Chinese II	
Option two:		
CHIN 1011	Intensive Beginning Chinese	
And the following courses:		
CHIN 2003	Intermediate Chinese I	
CHIN 2004	Intermediate Chinese II	
CHIN 3105	Intermediate Chinese III	
CHIN 3106	Intermediate Chinese IV	
Japanese		
One of the following options for beginning Japanese:		
Option one:		
JAPN 1001 & JAPN 1002	Beginning Japanese I and Beginning Japanese II	
Option two:		

JAPN 1005	Intensive Beginning Japanese
And the following courses:	
JAPN 2003	Intermediate Japanese I
JAPN 2004	Intermediate Japanese II
JAPN 3105	Intermediate Japanese III
JAPN 3106	Intermediate Japanese IV
Korean	
KOR 1001	Beginning Korean I
KOR 1002	Beginning Korean II
KOR 2003	Intermediate Korean I
KOR 2004	Intermediate Korean II
KOR 3105	Intermediate Korean III
KOR 3106	Intermediate Korean IV

Regional foundations (3 credits)

One course from the following in any region other than Asia. IAFF, ANTH, ECON, GEOG, HIST, and PSC courses pertaining to a region of the world with a focus on the contemporary, post-World War II era. Includes courses focused on single and multiple countries in a region.

Code	Title	Credits
Africa		
ANTH 3708	Anthropology of Africa	
GEOG 3164	The Geography of Africa	
HIST 3530	Women in Africa	
IAFF 2093	Africa: Problems and Prospects	
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (North Africa and the World) *	
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Africa Declassified)	
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Africa and Globalization: Culture and Context)	
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (African Literature and Politics)	
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Africa in the Global Economy)	

IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Ethnic and Religious Conflict in Africa)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (International Affairs in Africa)
IAFF 3189	Special Topics in African Studies (Women and Leadership in Africa)
PSC 2381	Comparative Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa
PSC 2482	African International Politics
*IAFF 2190W (North Africa and the World) is not approved as a regional foundations course for students in the Middle East Studies program due to the degree of overlap between issues in North Africa and the Middle East.	

Asia
(Students in the BA in Asian studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than Asia.)

ANTH 3704	Cultures of Southeast Asia
ECON 2169	Introduction to the Economy of China
GEOG 3165	Geography of South Asia
HIST 3615	History of Chinese Communism
HIST 3621	History of Modern Japan
HIST 3631	History of Modern Korea
HIST 3640	History of Southeast Asia
IAFF 2091	East Asia-Past and Present
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Asian Order and Community Building)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Central Asia Security)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Comparative Politics in Southeast Asia)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Development of East Asia)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Lessons from East Asia)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Indo-Pacific Security Challenges)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (South Asian Politics Via Literature and Film)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Women in Asia)

IAFF 3752W	Equitable Development in Southeast Asia
IAFF 3753	International Relations of South Asia
IAFF 3756	Christianity and Islam in East Asia
PSC 2368	Politics in the Two Koreas
PSC 2371	Politics and Foreign Policy of China
PSC 2374	Politics and Foreign Policy of Japan
PSC 2373	Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia
Europe and Eurasia	
GEOG 3197	Special Topics in Regional Geography (Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors)
HIST 1121	The War of Ideas in European and International History, 1750-Present
HIST 2125	Twentieth-Century Europe
HIST 3101	Topics: Europe (All sections of HIST 3101 are approved for this requirement.)
HIST 3168	Divided and United Germany Since 1945
IAFF 2092	Russia and Eastern Europe: An Introduction
IAFF 2094	Europe in Transition
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Nationalism in Eurasia)
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (The West and Russia)
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Ukraine and Georgia between Russia and the West)
IAFF 3185	Special Topics in European and Eurasian Studies (Ukrainian Security)
IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs (European Economies and Crisis of Integration)
PSC 2330	Comparative Politics of Western Europe
PSC 2331	Comparative Politics of Central and Eastern Europe
PSC 2332	European Integration
PSC 2366	Russian Politics
PSC 2994	Special Topics in International Relations (International Politics of Central and Eastern Europe)

PSC 3192W	Proseminar: Political Science (British Politics)
Latin America	
(Students in the BA in Latin American and hemispheric studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than Latin America.)	
ANTH 3702	Anthropology of Latin America
ANTH 3791	Topics in Regional Anthropology (Anthropology of the Caribbean)
GEOG 3161	Geography of Latin America
HIST 3701	Topics in Latin American History (Democracy in Latin America)
HIST 3701	Topics in Latin American History (Violence, Drugs, and Democracy in Latin America)
HIST 3710	History of Latin America I
HIST 3711	History of Latin America II
IAFF 2090	Latin America: Problems and Promise
IAFF 3177	Political Economy of Latin America
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Cuba in the Global Arena)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy in Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Democracy Under Siege in Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Economic and Social Development of Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Feminist Movements in Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Geography of Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin America Geopolitics and Geoeconomy)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Latin American Migration)

IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Racial and Ethnic Politics of Latin America)
IAFF 3187	Special Topics in Latin American and Hemispheric Studies (Security in the Americas)
IAFF 3191W	Populism and Regime Change in Latin America
IAFF 3855	Argentina in Global Context
PSC 2383	Comparative Politics of Latin America
PSC 2993	Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Democratic Experiments in Latin America)
SPAN 3200	Bilingualism in the Spanish-Speaking World
Middle East	
(Students in the BA in Middle East studies program must fulfill the regional foundations requirement using a course focused in a world region other than the Middle East.)	
ANTH 3707	Anthropology of the Middle East
GEOG 3154	Geography of the Middle East and North Africa
HIST 3801	Topics in Middle Eastern History (The Middle East Since WWII)
HIST 3810	History of the Middle East to 1800
HIST 3825	Land and Power in Israel/Palestine
IAFF 2095	The Middle East in International Affairs
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (Arab Politics)
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (North Africa and the World)
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (Politics and Culture in the Middle East)
IAFF 2190W	Special Topics (Turkey and Its Neighbors)
IAFF 3188	Special Topics in Middle East Studies (Iran in the Middle East)
IAFF 3188	Special Topics in Middle East Studies (National Security Lab Middle East)
IAFF 3188	Special Topics in Middle East Studies (The Middle East Since WWII)
IAFF 3352	Israeli and Palestinian Peacebuilding
PSC 2377	Comparative Politics of the Middle East

PSC 2476	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
or PSC 2476W	The Arab-Israeli Conflict
PSC 2478	International Relations of the Middle East
PSC 2993	Special Topics in Comparative Politics (Political Violence in the Middle East)

Research Methods (3 credits)

One course pertaining to qualitative or quantitative social science research methods, computer programming, or other analytical competencies, from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH 3531	Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology	
APSC 3115	Engineering Analysis III	
CSCI 1012	Introduction to Programming with Python	
DATS 1001	Data Science for All	
DNCS 1001	Business Analytics I: Statistics for Descriptive and Predictive Analytics *	
DNCS 2001	Business Analytics II: Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics **	
ECON 2123	Introduction to Econometrics	
or STAT 2123	Introduction to Econometrics	
GEOG 2104	Introduction to Cartography and GIS	
IAFF 2101	Qualitative Methods in International Affairs	
IAFF 2102	Quantitative Methods in International Affairs	
IAFF 2190	Special Topics (Political Risk Analysis)	
IAFF 2190	Special Topics (Program Design in International Affairs)	
IAFF 3180W	Special Topics in Security Policy (Security Policy and Qualitative Analysis)	
IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs (International Conflict and Politics Research Seminar)	
IAFF 3502	Strategic Management and Qualitative Methods in International Affairs	
IAFF 4191W	Research Seminar (International Conflict and Politics Research Seminar)	
IAFF 4191W	Research Seminar (Security Policy and Qualitative Analysis)	

ISTM 3119	Introduction to Programming
PSC 2101	Scope and Methods of Political Science
PSYC 2101	Research Methods in Psychology
PUBH 2142	Introduction to Biostatistics for Public Health
PUBH 3131	Epidemiology
PUBH 3199	Topics in Public Health (Research Methods Foundations)
PUBH 4201	Practical Computing
SMPA 2151	Research Methods
SOC 2101	Social Research Methods
SOC 2102	Techniques of Data Analysis
STAT 1051	Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics *
STAT 1053	Introduction to Statistics in Social Science *
STAT 1111	Business and Economic Statistics I *
STAT 1127	Statistics for the Biological Sciences *
STAT 1129	Introduction to Computing
STAT 2112	Business and Economic Statistics II **
STAT 2118	Regression Analysis
STAT 2123	Introduction to Econometrics
or ECON 2123	Introduction to Econometrics
STAT 2183W	Intermediate Statistical Laboratory: Statistical Computing Packages
STAT 4157	Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I

*Credit for only one of the following courses can be counted toward an Elliott School undergraduate degree: DNSC 1001, STAT 1051, STAT 1053, STAT 1111, or STAT 1127.

**Credit for only one of the following courses can be counted toward an Elliott School undergraduate degree: DNSC 2001 or STAT 2112.

Code Title Credits

In the categories below, additional Asia-related courses may be approved by the Program Director.

Asian literature (3 credits)

One course from the following:

CHIN 3111	Chinese Literature in Translation I
CHIN 3112	Chinese Literature in Translation II
JAPN 3111	Japanese Literature in Translation I
JAPN 3112	Japanese Literature in Translation II
KOR 3111	Korean Literature in Translation I
KOR 3112	Korean Literature in Translation II

Multi-disciplinary core (18 credits)

The following lists are not exhaustive, and new courses may be added at any time.

History and Culture—Three courses (9 credits) from the following:

ANTH 3703	Cultures of the Pacific
ANTH 3704	Cultures of Southeast Asia
ANTH 3705	Anthropology of East Asia
ANTH 3709	Japanese Culture Through Film
or JAPN 3162	Japanese Culture Through Film
CAH 2190	East Asian Art
CAH 2191	South Asian Art
CAH 2192	Art of Southeast Asia
CHIN 3136W	Chinese Women in Myth, Literature, and Film (same as WGSS 3136 and WGSS 3136W)
CHIN 3162	Chinese Culture Through Film
EALL 1075	East Asian Calligraphy
EALL 2802	Introduction to Chinese Religions
or REL 2802	Introduction to Chinese Religions
EALL 3811	Confucian Literature in East Asia
or REL 2811	Confucian Literature in East Asia
EALL 3831	Introduction to Daoism
or EALL 3831W	Introduction to Daoism
or REL 2831	Introduction to Daoism
EALL 3881	Women, Gender, and Religion in China
or REL 3881	Women, Gender, and Religion in China
or WGSS 3881	Women, Gender, and Religion in China
ENGL 3965	Topics in Asian American Cultural Studies

HIST 2305W	Majors' Introductory Seminar: United States (The Cold War in Asia)	REL 2601	Buddhism
HIST 2630	History of Korea	REL 2802	Introduction to Chinese Religions
HIST 3001	Special Topics (Modern Southeast Asian History)	or EALL 2802	Introduction to Chinese Religions
HIST 3001	Special Topics (The Cold War in Asia)	REL 2811	Confucian Literature in East Asia
HIST 3001	Special Topics (The Korean War)	or EALL 3811	Confucian Literature in East Asia
HIST 3001	Special Topics (Vietnam: Colonialism, War, Revolution)	REL 2814	Religion and Philosophy in East Asia
HIST 3001	Special Topics (World War II in Asia)	or EALL 3814	Religion and Philosophy in East Asia
HIST 3001	Special Topics (WWII in Asia: History and Legacy)	REL 3405	Shi'ite Islam
HIST 3001	Special Topics (WWII in East Asia and the Pacific)	REL 3481	Women in Islam
HIST 3035	The United States and the Wars in Indochina, 1945–1975	REL 3614	Buddhist Philosophy
HIST 3610	Imperial China (Song–Qing)	REL 3831W	Introduction to Daoism
HIST 3611	History of Modern China	or EALL 3831W	Introduction to Daoism
HIST 3614W	Writing Modern Chinese History	REL 3832	Myth, Ritual, and Popular Religion in China
HIST 3615	History of Chinese Communism	or EALL 3832	Myth, Ritual, and Popular Religion in China
HIST 3621	History of Modern Japan	REL 3989	The Goddess in India and Beyond
HIST 3640	History of Southeast Asia	REL 3990	Selected Topics in Religion (Mahabharata and Pali Buddhism)
HIST 3650	Modern South Asia, 1750–Present	REL 3990	Selected Topics in Religion (Shamanism in Theory)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Memory and Reconciliation in Asia)	WGSS 3136	Chinese Women in Myth, Literature, and Film (same as CHIN 3136W)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (North Korean Society and Culture. Same as KOR 4190: North Korean Society and Culture)	or WGSS 3136W	Chinese Women in Myth, Literature, and Film
JAPN 3162	Japanese Culture Through Film	Political Science and Geography—Two courses (6 credits) from the following:	
or ANTH 3709	Japanese Culture Through Film	GEOG 3165	Geography of South Asia
KOR 3162	Korean Culture through Film	IAFF 2202W	Critical Issues in U.S.-Asia Relations
KOR 4190	North Korean Society and Culture (same as IAFF 3186: North Korean Society and Culture)	IAFF 3201W	China's Rise and Its Implications
REL 2401	Islam	IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Indo-Pacific Security Challenges)
REL 2501	Hinduism	IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Politics and Conflict South Asia)
REL 2562	Mythologies of India	IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Taiwan: Current Challenges and Future Directions)
		IAFF 3190	Special Topics in International Affairs (China and Africa)
		IAFF 3753	International Relations of South Asia

IAFF 3754	U.S.-China Relations
PSC 2368	Politics in the Two Koreas
PSC 2369	Comparative Politics of South Asia
PSC 2370	Comparative Politics of China and Northeast Asia
PSC 2371	Politics and Foreign Policy of China
PSC 2373	Comparative Politics of Southeast Asia
PSC 2374	Politics and Foreign Policy of Japan
PSC 2475	International Relations of East Asia
PSC 3192W	Proseminar: Political Science (Chinese Foreign Policy)
PSC 3192W	Proseminar: Political Science (Post-Conflict Vietnam)

Economics and Development—One course (3 credits) from the following:

ECON 2151	Economic Development
or ECON 2151W	Economic Development
ECON 2169	Introduction to the Economy of China
ECON 2198	Special Topics in Economics - Regional (East Asian Economies)
IAFF 3186	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Economic Development of East Asia)
IAFF 3186W	Special Topics in Asian Studies (Development Issues in Southeast Asia)
IAFF 3752W	Equitable Development in Southeast Asia

Related coursework (9 credits)

Three courses related to Asia from any discipline, including International Affairs (IAFF), selected with the approval of the program director.

Study abroad

Students are encouraged to study in Asia through one of GW's formal partnerships with a regional university or an approved self-designed study abroad program.