

ASIAN STUDIES SPECIALISATION

WHY ASIAN STUDIES?

In the present regional and global context we need to be able to understand Asia in overview as well as “up-close.” To ensure that you develop an integrated understanding of the region the Asian Studies specialisation has been designed to provide you with a variety of perspectives. You will have the opportunity to experience broad thematic surveys that cover a range of traditions or societies (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam etc), and you will also complete subjects that invite a more in-depth understanding of particular cultures. The Asian Studies lecturers are all involved in research in the region, and that hands-on experience informs the units we teach, allowing you to get a closer feel for each topic, whether it has to do with a distant land or another time.

Each unit of the Asian Studies specialisation has a firm foundation in a background discipline such as history, gender studies, politics, cultural studies, comparative philosophy, or anthropology. So you will not simply be learning about Asia, but will find that the Asian experience allows you to learn about and reflect on the foundations of each academic discipline. Your encounter with Asian Studies at VU will result in a better understanding of the region and its complexities, and will also allow you to develop an appreciation of the importance of academic inquiry and its contribution to a wider appreciation of humanity.

VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Many corporations or businesses are looking for people who can help guide them through regional cultures and world events, be it in banking or tourism, trade or the creative arts. The current incorporation of Asia into Australian education programs has meant that teachers with Asia literacy are highly sought after, and the specialisation in Asian Studies at VU is recognised by the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Asia literacy is also highly regarded in all government departments, including areas such as immigration or foreign affairs.

STRUCTURE OF THE ASIAN STUDIES SPECIALISATION

This specialisation is taken as part of a three-year sequence of study in a Bachelor of Arts degree. Students are required to complete SIX (6) units from the list below including the core units. Units may also be taken as electives within other degree programs.

Core units

ASI1001 Sources of Asian Traditions
ASI1002 Sources of Asian Modernities

Other specialisation units – students complete FOUR units

AAA2005 Colonialism, Nationalism and Revolution in Southeast Asia
AAA2007 Gender and Sexuality: Asian Perspectives
AAA2008 Business Cultures in Asia
AAA2011 Cultural History of Tibet
AAA2014 Many Vietnams: War, Culture and Memory
AAP2004 Southeast Asian Politics
AAP2012 Culture and Politics in Indonesia
ASI3001 Film, Art and Performance in Asia*
ASS2001 Social Issues in Contemporary Asia
ASS2001 Issues in Contemporary Asia*
ASX3500 International Interdisciplinary Project

*The following units are not available in 2012

Units offered may vary each year. A list of offerings in each academic year is published on the Faculty Student Website: WWW.VU.EDU.AU/AEHD

Detailed unit outlines can be obtained from the Victoria University online handbook: WWW.VU.EDU.AU/COURSES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ASIAN STUDIES, CONTACT THE COORDINATOR:

Dr Richard Chauvel
Email Richard.chauvel@vu.edu.au

Dr Mark Richardson
Email: mark.richardson@vu.edu.au

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