Asian Studies Minor

Program Introduction

The Asian Studies minor is an interdisciplinary program designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a basic facility in Korean or Japanese language and an understanding of the histories, cultures, religions, politics, and economies of East Asia. An Asian Studies minor can serve as a foundation for travel, study, or work in East Asia as well as for employment with companies in the United States that do business in East Asia or for further study at the graduate level. Other opportunities for graduates with an Asian Studies minor include work in the fields of government, health care, journalism, social work, and law.

Program Objectives

Students completing the Asian Studies minor are to achieve three objectives. First, students will develop basic conversational ability and a familiarity with the writing systems of either Korean or Japanese. This is to be achieved through a minimum of one year (six hours) of Korean or Japanese language study at LaGrange College. Second, students will demonstrate a grounding in and familiarity with the general dynamics of East Asian histories and cultures. Students will have the opportunity to develop these understandings through the required HIST 2380 Introduction to the History of East Asia and RLGN 1110 Dialogue with Eastern Religious Traditions. Third, students will develop further expertise in areas of individual interest through at least six hours of elective courses in Art and Design, History, Japanese language, Korean language, Political Science, or Religion. Elective requirements may also be satisfied by study abroad in Asia. Successful attainment of these objectives shall be understood to be a minimum grade of C in all courses counting toward the satisfaction of minor requirements.

Program Requirements

Students in Asian Studies must complete a total of 18 credit hours. All minors must complete HIST 2380 and RLGN 1110. Students must choose either a Korea concentration or a Japan concentration. Those with a Korea concentration must complete a minimum of one year (six hours) of Korean language study. Those with a Japan concentration must complete a minimum of one year (six hours) of Japanese language study. While not required, students are encouraged to continue their language study beyond the first year either at LaGrange College or abroad to enhance their conversational skills. To complete the minor, students must take a minimum of six hours of electives either at LaGrange College or while studying abroad. All classes must be completed with a minimum grade of C to count toward the successful completion of the minor.
Students may count study abroad in Asia at accredited institutions toward elective credit. LaGrange College currently has an exchange agreement with Seigakuin University in Japan and will be developing similar agreements with institutions in South Korea. Students are strongly encouraged to plan their study abroad experience in consultation with the Asian Studies director. The director will determine the eligibility of courses and/or programs and then recommend appropriate credit to the Provost.