

# Asian Languages & Literature

Over half the world's population lives in Asia, home to many of the oldest and most vibrant cultures in human history. We explore these cultures through literary, linguistic, and textual analysis, illuminating vital connections between East and West from our vantage point on the Pacific Rim.



## Education

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature plays a central role in all areas of Asian studies at the University, with nearly 4,000 students—both majors and non-majors—enrolling in its courses each year.

The Department provides instruction in ten Asian languages: Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Sanskrit, Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese. It awards BA, MA, and PhD degrees with specialization in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and South Asian languages and literatures. While attaining language proficiency, our undergraduate majors explore the cultural, literary, and linguistic aspects of Asia, past and present.

At the graduate level, students acquire and apply their knowledge through advanced seminars and original research. Graduates of our programs go on to successful careers in academia, business, government, journalism, law, and other professions, using their cultural and linguistic expertise to foster understanding between Asia and the rest of the world.

## Faculty

Recent awards and honors received by Department of Asian Languages and Literature faculty include:

- American Academy of Arts and Sciences Membership
- Guggenheim Fellowship
- National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Award
- American Institute of Indian Studies Fellowship
- Japan Foundation Grant for Institutional Project Support
- William F. Sibley Memorial Translation Prize
- UW Royalty Research Fund Award
- UW Simpson Center Center Society of Scholars Fellowship
- UW Honors Program Excellence in Teaching Award

## STUDENTS (2010-2011)

- 127** Undergraduate majors
- 31** Graduate students
- 4,523** Total student enrollment

## DEGREES AWARDED (July 2010 - August 2011)

- 64** Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 6** Master of Arts degrees
- 6** PhD degrees

## FACULTY (2010-2011)

- 7** Professors
- 6** Associate Professors
- 1** Assistant Professor
- 1** Acting Assistant Professor
- 5** Senior Lecturers
- 11** Lecturers
- 3** Emeritus Faculty
- 5** Adjunct Faculty
- 2** Affiliate Faculty



## Research

Faculty in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature pursue their study of Asian languages and cultures primarily through the medium of text, but they represent a wide range of disciplinary interests, including linguistics, philosophy, history, literature, and cultural studies. They participate in collaborative research projects that extend throughout the UW community and beyond. Examples include:

- Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project: Established in 1996 to edit, study, and publish the earliest collections of Buddhist manuscripts yet discovered, dating to the first century C.E.
- *Wen xuan*: Multi-volume translation of the most important anthology of pre-modern Chinese literature.
- Japanese-Language Education in Prewar Seattle: Faculty and students from UW and Nagoya University catalogued 2,000 Japanese-language volumes at the Seattle Japanese Language School; 28 language textbooks published in Seattle will be reprinted in Japan.
- Comparative Court Cultures in Cross-Cultural Perspective: International project that seeks to illuminate court life in Europe and Asia in the period known in European chronology as the Middle Ages and early Renaissance.
- Japanese Visiting Scholar Program: Every spring the Department hosts a senior scholar from a leading Japanese research university to co-teach a graduate seminar with department faculty on a topic of shared interest.

## Outreach

The Department strongly encourages its students to study abroad through programs coordinated with the Office of International Programs and Exchanges. During the 2010-2011 academic year, nearly 500 students from many UW departments participated in study programs in Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. For undergraduate and graduate students alike, the overseas experience is a crucial element in their intellectual, personal, and professional development.

All language programs in the department sponsor activities and workshops at the annual UW World Languages Day to introduce Asian languages and culture to over 1,400 high school students from the greater Seattle area.

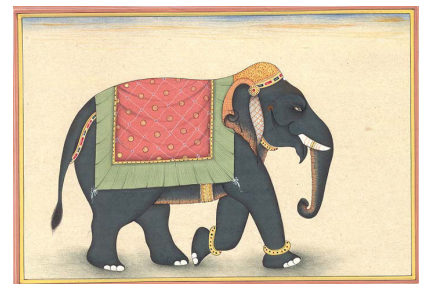
The Department sponsors two annual evening lecture series for the general public: the endowed Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lecture (inaugurated in 1998) and the Distinguished Faculty Lecture (inaugurated in 2003).

## AREAS OF RESEARCH

*Ancient Chinese Syntax and Phonology*  
*Applied Japanese Linguistics*  
*Asian Film and Cultural Studies*  
*Classical and Modern Chinese Literature*  
*Classical and Modern Japanese Literature*  
*Comparative Chinese Dialectology*  
*Early Chinese Manuscripts*  
*Early Indian Buddhism and Buddhist Manuscripts*  
*Early Writing Systems and Epigraphy*  
*Hindi Literature and Linguistics*  
*Material Cultural History of Japan*  
*Medieval Hindi Religious Literature*  
*Medieval Japanese Poetry and Noh Drama*  
*Modern Korean Literature*  
*Sanskrit Literature and Religious Texts*  
*Translation and Literature*  
*Urdu Literature*

## STUDENT AWARDS (2010-2011)

- 6 *Phi Beta Kappa*
- 6 *Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships*
- 2 *Japanese Government (Monbukagakushō) Scholarships*
- 1 *Lilly Scholarship*
- 1 *UW Bonderman Travel Fellowship*



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