Asia: Pre-History to Present

The University of Washington offers graduate training in the pre-modern histories of East, South and Southeast Asia. The Chinese history program is particularly strong in social history and the history of women of the early imperial modern period, and the social, cultural and political history of the later imperial period. Our South Asia program is particularly focused on religious movements in the Mughal and post-Mughal period. Fields of specialization in Southeast Asian History include the pre-modern histories of Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, with particular focus on the politics of language. We are also able to offer instruction in pre-modern Sino-Vietnamese history.

The University of Washington offers graduate training in the modern histories of East, South and Southeast Asia. Fields of specialization in East Asian History include the cultural social and political history of imperial and modern China, the political and social history of modern Japan, and the history of imperial and modern Korea. The Chinese history program is particularly strong in the history of women of the imperial and modern periods. Fields of specialization in Southeast Asian History include the modern histories of Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines, with particular focus on the related issues of social memory, colonialism, nationalism, and the politics of language.

The University's long-standing commitment to teaching in these areas is reflected in a significant infrastructure supporting study. The teaching of Asian histories draws also on the offerings of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, which teaches beginning, intermediate and advanced Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese and Korean and Sanskrit. Instruction is also offered in Filipino, Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese. The University has federally funded Interdisciplinary Area Studies Centers in East, Southeast and South Asian Studies, which provide fellowships and organize seminars and provide outreach to the community in their respective areas. In addition, there are endowed China, Japan and Korea Studies centers that also organize programs and provide fellowship and research support. The East Asia Library has significant holdings in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Tibetan; while South and Southeast Asian materials are found in the Suzzallo Library.

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