

ASIAN CONVERSATIONS

Discussion based.

Interim in China or Japan.

Linked Classes.

Asian Conversations offers students a sophomore-year option that includes language study, a January interim in China or Japan, and dynamic classes on the movement of people and ideas throughout Asia. Students begin their study of Chinese or Japanese language in their first year on campus, and then apply for the three-course sequence in the spring. Those accepted into the program will embark on a series of linked courses that explore "*Journeys through Asia*." While continuing language studies, Asian Conversations students will investigate:

- ♦ tales told and experiences had by Asian travelers, pilgrims, and migrants, historically and today;
- ♦ the range of communities and boundaries that have shaped Asia: political, economic, cultural, linguistic, and environmental communities will all be included; and
- ♦ Asian interpretations of the human condition, from religious, philosophical and literary perspectives.

Your schedule during a year in Asian Conversations:

<u>Fall semester</u>	<u>Interim</u>	<u>Spring semester</u>
<p>Chinese 231 or Japanese 231</p> <p>AS210: Mapping Journeys How do pilgrims, travelers and migrants make sense of their journeys in Asia? We will explore maps, histories, tales and guides that define Asia today and in years past, including at least one of the classic Asian texts. We will study how cultural, linguistic, economic, religious, social and political connections and divisions create and sustain communities in Asia. Students will spend the last few weeks of the term planning related projects for their Interim course.</p>	<p>AS215: Experiencing Asia</p> <p>Students pursue guided fieldwork experience in China and Japan. Activities and readings in this course build on the topics from Asian Studies 210 and three semesters of language study. Students reflect on their experience of Asia through readings, site visits, and local interviews. Students develop projects and follow a process of inquiry that will help them understand how ordinary people construct "Asian" culture and society today. Prerequisite: Asian Studies 210. Offered during interim.</p> <p><i>*MN-based option available upon petition.</i></p>	<p>Chinese 232 or Japanese 232</p> <p>AS220 Interpreting Journeys Having looked at how people journey through Asia, this final semester in Asian Conversations considers how ideas journey over time and space. We will examine a range of interpretations of Asia, including spiritual, literary, philosophical and linguistic ideas. Students will present the ideas gathered from contacts made during Interim at the beginning of the semester. Additional materials include memoirs, novels, films that share individualized interpretations of Asian journeys.</p>

GE Credits

(awarded at end of sequence)

ALS-A

ALS-L

HBS

MSG

ORC

WRI