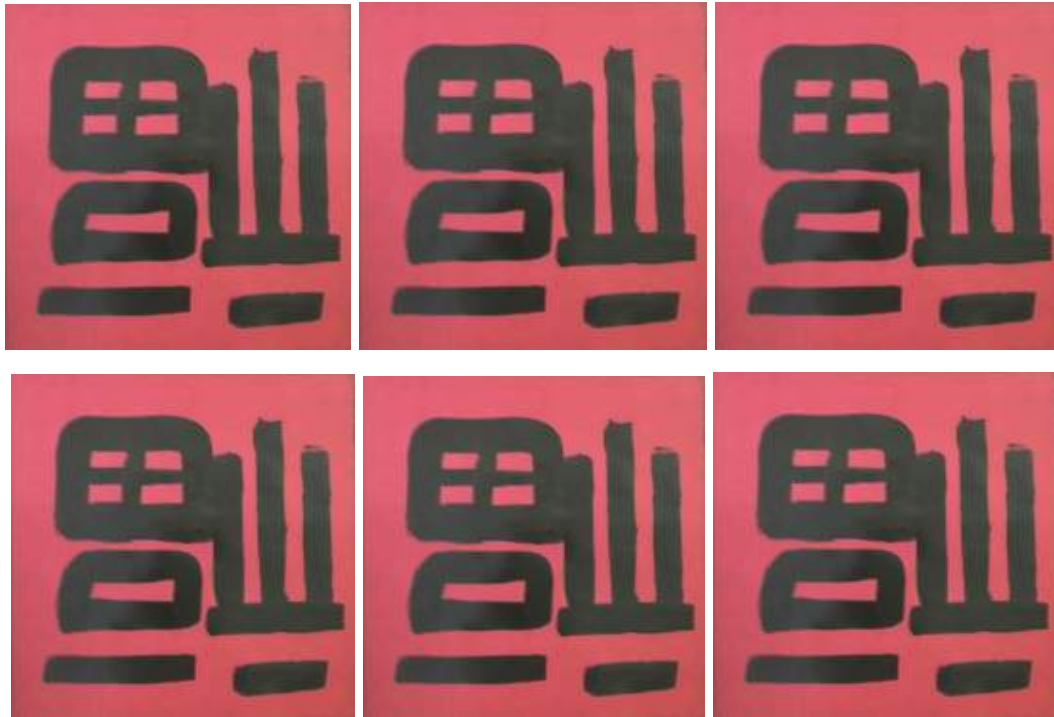


## Exploring Asian Studies at Colgate and Beyond



The Chinese character above, 福 fú, is a powerful and proud cultural symbol. Posted in homes every year during Spring Festival wherever Chinese people are found, it means “good fortune,” but implies much more. Its presence brings positive, hopeful energy to the peoples and places around it. When posted upside-down, as in the images above, we can know that *fú dào le*: that its power has arrived and is among us. Pasted on or above doorways and gates, 福 welcomes you in, to share as one family your hope for tomorrow, to make a better day for all.

The Program in Asian Studies at Colgate stands in firm solidarity with all who oppose racism, discrimination, and xenophobia on our campus. We especially support international students from Asia, and everywhere around the world. These students enrich our campus, bringing with them the spirit of learning that pulls our world together.

If you are concerned about our international community, and would like to contribute to making a better Colgate and a better world, please review the shared document [“A Plea to the Community”](#) composed by EALL Professor Yukari Hirata and take action. Let your stand and your story be known.

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## From the Director

A great part of teaching at Colgate is the chance to travel for research, study groups, and planning new courses. While on leave last spring and autumn, I broke from my usual China orbit for first-time visits to Japan and Thailand. Though I wasn't long in either place, it was long enough to reaffirm what our majors discover year after year: that Asia is a diverse, yet deeply interconnected region whose complexity demands a plural, interdisciplinary approach.



Being in Asia makes that sense of diversity and connection physical. For instance, tea originated in what we now view as the borderlands of South Asia, Southeast Asia and China. When you try green tea in China, or green tea in Japan, you can taste the same leaf, but appreciate the reinventions, especially when trying, say, green tea ice cream, or green tea beer. Then there's Thailand's national dish, Pad Thai. Pad Thai originated from the stir-fried noodles of Chinese traders, but was later transformed to distinctly reflect Thai tastes, which are themselves very diverse. Some say the most "authentic" Pad Thai is still a delicious fusion of Chinese bean thread noodles and Thai ingredients. And, whether you're in Tokyo, Bangkok, or Beijing, you can visit, and get lost in, an imperial palace. China's is a museum. The other two, though, are still active residences. The histories of how each of these three monarchies engaged one another, and the world, are tales of modern politics contested to this day.

But when it comes to challenging our senses, and our sensibilities, it's hard to beat the artists. A highlight of my travels was a weekend in Chiang Mai, and a visit with Kamin Lertchaiprasert, arranged last minute by my Thai friend, Non. When we walked into Kamin's studio, I could smell wet, black Chinese ink. Kamin was brush painting, but in Thai script, and wielding a four-inch wide house painter's brush. ("It holds the ink better.") Across the courtyard stood a bronze statue of Avalokitesvara, the Thousand-armed Bodhisattva, but a version whose limbs wrestle with the perils of modern material living. Kamin's biggest project, however, is his 31st Century Museum of the Modern Spirit. The Museum isn't a big building with pillars, but a series of open-ended events made to conform with the people and places they are held, from Bangkok to Kanazawa to Chicago. The project itself is dedicated to recognizing how each place, each person, and each encounter "has its own unique value, existing naturally in all of us through love, compassion, and acts of positive energy." It was good message to bring home, and one that we hope to spread through Asian Studies, too.

John A. Crespi



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## Why Study Asia?

Asia holds a unique and vital place within the globalizing world of the early 21st century. Home to an extraordinary range of linguistic and ethnic groups, this broad and dynamic region is rich in cultural and environmental diversity. In the spirit of liberal arts education, Asian Studies provides you with an intellectual space that accommodates and encourages your aspiration to engage with the whole of the place and its peoples, rather than viewing them through a single disciplinary lens. Our premise is that if you want to understand something about an Asian economy, for example, you cannot do so without knowing that particular country's historical experience, geographical setting, political dynamics, and relations with other countries, changing social values and realities, and evolving language. Engaging the many changes taking place in Asian societies today requires a diverse set of intellectual skills, which will prepare you to extend your career in and with one of the most dynamic world regions of our time.

## Asian Studies Program at Colgate



Nine courses are required for the major, of which four courses must be at the 300 or 400 level.

The introductory course may count toward the five courses focused on a single subregion of Asia. Three other courses should be chosen from the list of Governed Electives and may address any region of Asia. Other courses may also serve as electives for this major if they are at the 300 or 400 level and if at least 40 percent of the course and of the student's work concerns Asia. Students must gain approval from the director of Asian Studies prior to taking these courses for them to count toward the major.

Majors are strongly encouraged to acquire proficiency in one or more Asian languages, although no more than three language courses at any level may count toward the nine courses required for the major. Normally, the nine courses will include courses from at least two of these three divisions: arts and humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics.

We also offer a minor in Asian Studies.

For more information visit us at: <http://www.colgate.edu/asian-studies>

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## Asia Events at Colgate

### **EALL Chinese New Year Party**

On February 17, 2018, the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures invited all its students of Chinese language to join a party in 105 Lawrence to celebrate the Year of the Dog. At the start of the reception, Professor John A. Crespi gave a speech to welcome everyone, then left the stage for the performances. While the students of first- and second-year Chinese sang the songs 'Gongxi' (Celebrate), and a Chinese version of Backstreet Boys' "I Want it that Way", the upper-level students read a modern poem "I Sing for Young Men and Women" and performed a play based on the 1931 novel *Family*, which tells the story of young people trying to escape from tradition. Later, the party provided students with a variety of Chinese food, such as beef lo mein, chicken fried rice, and fried dumplings. The turnout was impressive: around 45 students came. "The food is really great," one student commented, "The performances are awesome. Everyone is having fun."



### **Japan Spring Festival**

On March 24, the Japan Club held the Japan Spring Festival from 6 to 8pm in the OISS Kitchen and the Common Lounge at 113 Broad St. It was not a traditional festival; rather, the Club wished to celebrate the spring season, introduce Japanese culture to the campus scene, and raise money for the victims of the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in 2011. Upon entering the festival, people were greeted with a great variety of game booths: hoop throwing, goldfish scooping, and dart throwing. As people played



these games, they would win tickets to exchange them for meals. Options for dinner in the Festival varied: not only did the Club members prepare delicious choices for the main course, such as *yakisoba* (stir fry noodles), *yakitori* (skewered chicken), and *okonomiyaki* (Japanese savory pancake), but they also supplied desserts like *taiyaki* (Japanese fish-shaped cake) and *dorayaki* (red-bean pancake). Around one hundred people came, including students and faculty. Everyone had a good time.

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## Upcoming Events



**William Nu'utupu Giles, April 11-12.** The Organization of Asian Sisters in Solidarity (OASiS) brings Will Nu'utupu Giles to Colgate for a workshop and performance. Will identifies as fa'afafine, a Sāmoan third gender. He and his team won the 2008 Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam Festival. Many of Will's pieces focus on the experience of colonialism, racism, gender identity, alcoholism, and depression. The perspective that Will brings is one truly underrepresented on this campus—and is thus so important to share.



**The 16th Annual Japanese Speech Contest, April 13 at 4 pm, 105 Lawrence. Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.**

A long-standing tradition in Colgate's Japanese language program, the Annual Speech Contest challenges students at all levels of accomplishment to express themselves to their professors, peers, and a panel of judges. Come support our hard-working students of Japanese.



***Have a Nice Day* (dir. Liu Jian, 2017, 75 min), Friday April 20 at 5pm, Golden Auditorium. Friday Night Film Series.**

animation.

A hard rain is about to fall on a small town in Southern China. In a desperate attempt to find money to save his fiancée's failed plastic surgery, Xiao Zhang, a mere driver, steals a bag containing a million yuan from his boss. News of the robbery spreads fast within the town and, over the course of one night, everyone starts looking for Xiao Zhang and his money. *Have a Nice Day* is a whirlwind neo-noir from Liu Jian, a pioneering force in independent Chinese



***Human Flow* (dir. Ai Weiwei, 2017, 140 min) Sunday, April 29, at 2:30 pm, Golden Auditorium; followed by livestream Q&A with director Ai Weiwei at 5 pm. Sponsored by the Program in Film and Media Studies.**

Over 65 million people have been forced to escape famine, climate change, and war in the greatest human displacement since World War II. This documentary elucidates the staggering scale of this refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact. The screening will be followed by a livestream Q&A with renowned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei.



**Silkroad, Wednesday, April 11 at 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Colgate Memorial Chapel.**

Founded by cellist Yo-Yo-Ma in 1998, the Grammy Award-winning ensemble creates music that sparks radical cultural collaboration and passion-driven learning to build a more hopeful world. Funded by the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation

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## Going Beyond

### Studying Abroad with Asian Studies

The Asian Studies Program strongly encourages majors to participate in Colgate study groups and in approved programs in India or other locations in Asia. Faculty of the program serve as directors of study-abroad programs in China, Japan, and Korea.

**China Study Group** spends approximately four months in Shanghai, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, in intensive language training and firsthand observation of recent cultural, political, and economic changes.

**Japan Study Group**, based in Kyoto, provides lodging with Japanese families; intensive language training; and instruction in Japanese politics, economics, business, religion, art, linguistics, and literature.

**Korea Study Group**, hosted by Yonsei University in Seoul, serves the academic needs of students interested in educational studies and Asian studies.



#### Approved Programs

- China Shanghai CIEE Shanghai: China in a Global Context
- China Shanghai Alliance for Global Education: 21st Century City
- China Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- India Pune Alliance for Global Education: Contemporary India
- India Bodh Gaya Antioch Buddhist
- India Dharamsala Emory Tibetan Studies Program
- India New Delhi SIT India: National Identity and the Arts
- India Madurai South India Term Abroad (SITA)
- Japan Kyoto Antioch Japan and Buddhist Traditions Program
- Japan Hirakata City Kansai Gaidai
- Sri Lanka Kandy ISLE Program (Bowdoin)



## Explore Asian Studies

### Courses Offered in Fall 2018

ARTS 244 A	Temples, Caves, and Stupas
CHIN 122 A, B	Elementary Chinese I
CHIN 202 A, B	Intermediate Chinese I
CHIN 222 A	China through Literature & Film
CHIN 222L A	Required Film Screening
CHIN 405 A	Reading Chinese Newspapers
CHIN 450 A	Advanced Readings in Chinese Worldview
CORE 165C B	China
CORE 167C A	Japan
ECON 339A	The Japanese Economy
ENGL 202A, B	Justice/Power-Postcolonial Literature
HIST 265 A	War and Violence in East
CHIN 303 A	Films and Broadcasts
HIST 370 A	The Mongol Empire
JAPN 121 A, B	Elementary Japanese I
JAPN 201 A	Intermediate Japanese I
JAPN 301 A	Advanced Japanese I
JAPN 401 A	Readings in Japanese
POSC 214 A	Comparative Politics: East and Southeast Asia
POSC 214 B	Comparative Politics: East and Southeast Asia (WI)
RELG 232 A	Health & Healing in Asian Religions
RELG 218 A	Experiencing Hinduism



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### Department and Program

Japanese

Chinese and Asian Studies

Russian and Eurasian Studies

Art and Art History

Geography, Russian and Eurasian Studies

Japanese

History, African and Latin American Studies

Sociology

Religion

Art and Art History, University Studies

Economics

History, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Economics

Japanese

Political Science

Political Science

Educational Studies

English

History

History, Peace and Conflict Studies

Political Science

Economics

Religion

Chinese

Chinese

Geography, Asian Studies

**Find us at:** <http://www.colgate.edu/asian-studies>

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