

Center for Southeast Asian Studies



The Center for Southeast Asian Studies is a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Our faculty associates teach and conduct research about the 11 countries of Southeast Asia in anthropology, art history, ethnomusicology, geography, history, languages, literatures and political science. The program prepares you for careers in academia, art history, business, communications, diplomacy, intelligence, museums, national security, NGOs, public health and public service. The center also works closely with NIU's Center for Burma Studies—the only such center in the United States.

Program Requirements

We offer an undergraduate minor, contract major and a graduate certificate. The minor can be paired with any bachelor's degree program. It requires 19 credit hours, including 10 hours of language study and nine hours of coursework from at least two other departments.



Student Funding

Through its federal grant support, the center awards Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships for both undergraduate and graduate students who have completed one year of Southeast Asian language study. Academic-year FLAS grants include tuition, fees and a monthly stipend. Summer FLAS grants cover tuition for immersion-language training in Southeast Asia and a stipend to cover airfare and other costs. The center can also connect you with other funding opportunities inside and outside of NIU to study, conduct research and acquire advanced language skills.

Study Abroad

Faculty associates regularly lead study abroad programs to the region, which offer you a deeper engagement with Southeast Asia. Most recent programs have included anthropology field schools in Cambodia, a colonial history and culture tour of Malaysia and Indonesia and a performing and visual arts program in Bali. Students have also traveled to Brunei, Laos, the Philippines and Vietnam through Study Abroad.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minor in Southeast Asian Studies



Course Offerings

You are required to complete 10 semester hours (one year of study) of an intensively taught Southeast Asian language or 12 semester hours of Chinese language

Note: FLAS fellowships are not awarded for Chinese language study

FLBU 103	Beginning Burmese I
FLBU 104	Beginning Burmese II
FLCH 101	Beginning Chinese I
FLCH 102	Beginning Chinese II
FLCH 201	Intermediate Chinese I
FLCH 202	Intermediate Chinese II
FLIN 103	Beginning Indonesian I
FLIN 104	Beginning Indonesian II
FLTA 103	Beginning Tagalog I
FLTA 104	Beginning Tagalog II
FLTA 203	Intermediate Tagalog I
FLTA 204	Intermediate Tagalog II
FLTH 103	Beginning Thai I
FLTH 104	Beginning Thai II
FLKH 103	Beginning Khmer I
FLKH 104	Beginning Khmer II

You may select an additional 9 semester hours, from at least two departments, of Southeast Asian language or non-language course below.

** May be counted toward minor when topic is appropriate*

ANTH 302	Asian American Cultures
ANTH 304	Muslim Cultures in Anthropological Perspective
ANTH 310	The Archaeology of Oceania and Southeast Asia
ANTH 328	Anthropology of Religion*
ANTH 363	Globalization and Corporate Cultures*
ANTH 407	Peoples and Cultures of Insular Southeast Asia
ANTH 408	Peoples and Cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia
ANTH 421	Social Organization
ANTH 422	Gender in Southeast Asia
ANTH 426	Political Anthropology
ANTH 428	Ritual and Myth*
ANTH 462	Collections Management
ANTH 491	Current Topics in Anthropology*
ANTH 493	Anthropology Field Study*
ANTH 498	Independent Study in Anthropology*
ARTH 294	Art History Survey: Arts of Asia*
ARTH 370	Studies in Asian Art
ARTH 457	Topics in Art History: Asian Art

FCNS 384	Asian American Families
FLBU 203	Intermediate Burmese I
FLBU 204	Intermediate Burmese II
FLCH 201	Intermediate Chinese I
FLCH 202	Intermediate Chinese II
FLIN 203	Intermediate Indonesian I
FLIN 204	Intermediate Indonesian II
FLIN 300	Special Topics in Indonesian Language, Literature or Culture
FLIN 421	Introduction to Indonesian Literature
FLIS 481	Independent Study in a Foreign Language
FLKH 203	Intermediate Khmer I
FLKH 204	Intermediate Khmer II
FLST 381	Special Studies in Language I*
FLST 382	Special Studies in Language II*
FLST 481	Special Topics in Literature I*
FLST 482	Special Topics in Literature II*
FLST 483	Special Topics in Linguistics*
FLTA 203	Intermediate Tagalog I
FLTA 204	Intermediate Tagalog II
FLTH 203	Intermediate Thai I
FLTH 204	Intermediate Thai II
GEOG 338	Geography of Asia*
GEOG 390	Topics in Geography*
GEOG 408	Tropical Environmental Hazards*
GEOG 491	Undergraduate Research in Geography*
GEOG 498	Seminar in Current Problems*
HIST 342	History of Southeast Asia to ca. 1800
HIST 343	History of Southeast Asia Since ca. 1800
HIST 346	Women in Asian History*
HIST 387	History of Genocide*
HIST 442	History of Buddhist Southeast Asia
HIST 443	History of Islamic Southeast Asia
HIST 469	The Vietnam War
HIST 470	America and Asia
HIST 475	The United States and Southeast Asia and the Indian Subcontinent
HIST 480	Spies, Lies and Secret Wars: CIA in the World*
HIST 490	Special Topics in History*
HIST 493	Independent Study
JOUR 482	International News Communications*
MUHL 431	Music of Southeast Asia
MUSE 370	Gamelan
POLS 362	Politics of Developing Areas*
POLS 365	Origins of Political Order
POLS 371	Politics in Southeast Asia
POLS 376	Political Violence*
POLS 378	Political Islam
POLS 384	Contemporary Foreign Policy*
POLS 395	Contemporary Topics in Political Science*
POLS 495	Seminar in Current Problems*
POLS 496	Independent Study in Political Science
SEAS 225	Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World
SEAS 490	Advanced Topics in Interdisciplinary Studies

Contact Information

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Language Instruction

You may study any of these Southeast Asian languages:

Burmese
Indonesian
Khmer
Tagalog
Thai

Activities, Clubs and Groups

The center offers opportunities for you to engage in scholarly research, study abroad in Southeast Asia, attend lectures and conferences and participate in student clubs, US State Department exchange programs and cultural and outreach activities.

Southeast Asia Club
Burma Interest Group
Southeast Asia Law Club
Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society



Northern Illinois University

Your Future. Our Focus.