Major in Asian Studies

Belmont’s Asian Studies program provides an opportunity for those students with special interests in Asia to prepare themselves for a wide range of careers and callings. With many different courses and experiences available, students are able to focus on both the modern and traditional history and literature of Asian cultures and societies, contemporary Asian politics, economic links between Asia and the rest of the world, and global philosophical, ethical, and religious issues. Graduates with a major or minor in Asian studies will be better prepared to pursue many diverse careers in an era of globalization, such as international business, government service, education, and research.

Core Courses: 6 Semester Hours, plus tool requirements
- ASN 2000 Asia for the Humanities (topics vary)
- ASN 2010 Asia for the Social Science (topics vary)
- Tool Requirement Study Abroad in Asia Experience (min. 3 wks)
- Tool Requirement Intermediate Level in Asian Language

Area Studies: Choose 18 semester hours (6 courses) or other as approved
- ART 4630 Asian Art & Architecture
- ASN 1990-4990 Special Studies in Asia
- CHN 3000 level or above (3 hours max.)
- ECO 3900 The Chinese Economy
- ENL 2895, 3895 Topics in Asian Literature
- HIS 1700 The Samurai and Their World
- HIS 1800 Survey of East Asian History
- HIS 3540 Modern China
- HIS 3700 History of Central Asia
- HIS 4800 The Vietnam War
- HIS 4820 History of Modern Japan
- HUM 1500 World of Asian Humanities
- HUM 3500 Topics in Asian Cultures
- JPN 3000 level or above (3 hours max.)
- PHI 4070 Eastern Philosophical Traditions
- PHI 4080 Philosophies of China
- PSC 3430 Politics of Asia
- REL 4310 World Religions

Infused Courses. Choose 6 semester hours (2 courses)
- ENL 2330 World Literature I
- ENL 2340 World Literature II
- HIS 1010 World History to 1500
- HIS 1020 World History since 1500
- MBU 3330 International Music Business
- INB 3300 International Business
- MKT 4310 International Marketing
- PSC 2760 Intro to International Political Economy
- PHI 1520 Ethics: Global Moral Cultures
- PHI 3230 Comparative Philosophy
- PSC 2300 International Relations
- PSC 2400 Introduction to Comparative Politics
- REL 3090 Spirituality in World Religions

Belmont University Asian Studies

Dr. Ronnie Littlejohn, Director

Dr. Qingjun (Joan) Li, Asian Studies & Chinese Language

Dr. Kimiyo Murata-Soraci, Asian Studies & Japanese Language
Why Asian Studies?

- Asia is a dominant force, comprising 57% of the world’s population.
- China and India are the first and second most populous nations in the world.
- The world’s second (China) and third (Japan) leading economies are in Asia.
- Asia is the leading destination for U.S. exports. Moreover, 1.2 million U.S. jobs are traceable to exports to Asia.
- Foreign Direct Investment both to Asia and from Asia to the U.S. have doubled in the last decade.
- The Asian and Asian-American population in the U.S. is growing 4 times faster than the population at large.
- 64% of all international students in the U.S. are from Asia, with Chinese students ranking most at over 200,000.
- Visitors from Asia contribute over $41 billion annually to the U.S. economy.
- Asia is the home of some of the world’s most significant and long-lasting philosophical, religious, and spiritual ideas.
- ‘Asia literacy’ provides students with a familiarity and expertise in dealing with Asian societies, languages, political systems, businesses/economies, and cultures.
- Asia is a source for some of the most interesting cuisine, film, anime, music, and art in our time.

Source: http://www.asiamattersforamerica.org/

Recent Alumni: Who’s Where Doing What?

Tara Clance has completed her Master’s in Chinese Politics and Diplomacy at Fudan University, Shanghai. While continuing more graduate study, she is the Chinese IKEA “Swedish Girl” in the company’s national T.V. and commercial campaigns and was a contestant in the CCTV contest “Chinese Ninja Warrior.”

Diana Antenucci lives in Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture where she works as a JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program) professional teaching high school.

Jerie Henderson lives in Hiroshima, Japan where he is International Relations Consultant for Hiroshima Toyo Carp professional baseball team.

Elliott Wheat is Global Sourcing Manager at Sino-Assurance Co., Shanghai.

Ryan Pino taught English in Chengdu, China before beginning his Master’s in Comparative Philosophy at Fudan University in September 2015.

Chelsea Johnson lives in Lucknow, India where she is studying advanced Urdu at the American Institute of Indian Studies on a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Belmont 2015 alumnus Eric McAnally recently moved to China to teach advanced writing, oral communication and movie appreciation to third-year English majors and postgraduate non-English majors at Tsinghua University.

Zach Vallarino has completed his graduate work at Tsinghua University and has returned to the U.S.

Joseph Minga is working with Caterpillar Financial Corporation in its Nashville offices.

Affiliations of Belmont’s Asian Studies Program

- Belmont is one of 16 Regional Centers for Asian Studies Development sponsored by the East-West Center. The Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization with funding from the U.S. government. It promotes better relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.
- Belmont is a member of ASIANetwork, a consortium of 160 American liberal arts colleges and universities dedicated to strengthening the role of Asian Studies within the framework of American education in order to prepare succeeding generations of undergraduates for a world in which Asian societies play prominent roles.
- Belmont is an active partner with the Office of the Consul-General of Japan in Nashville and the Japan-America Society of Tennessee. The university has received the IRIS Award for its Japan related programming and is a leader in the annual Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival (sakura).
- Belmont is a close collaborator with the Confucius Institutes of Middle Tennessee State University and Western Kentucky University as well as the Greater Nashville Chinese Association, the Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville, and the Tennessee Chinese Chamber of Commerce.
Belmont China Trip Students at Songshan Wushu Vocational College
Candice Fowler during her year in Japan
Prof. Thorndike’s Japanese Way

Some Asian Studies Faculty Highlights 2014-2015 Academic Year

Prof. Marty Bell (Asian and Comparative Religions)
Accepted a two-year commitment to deliver addresses to the Summer Dream and Spirituality Conference based on his work on noted psychologist Carl Jung. He presented, “Jung and Buddhism,” in 2015. In 2016, he will offer the Keynote Address, “Jung and World Religions.”

Prof. Cynthia Bisson (East Asian History)
Served on both the Planning Committee and as the Ginza Marketplace Committee Chairman for the Cherry Blossom Festival of Nashville, an annual festival which celebrates the relationship between the U.S. and Japan.

Prof. Judy Bullington (Asian Art and Architecture)
Received Belmont’s Faculty Award for Scholarship and also published a chapter entitled “Cultivating Meaning: The Chinese Manner in Early American Gardens” in the book Global Trade and Visual Arts in Federal New England.

Prof. Corinne Dale (Chinese & Indian Literatures)
Was named as Fulbright Distinguished Senior Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, January - May, 2015.

Prof. Andrew Davis (Indian Philosophy/Buddhism)

Prof. Pete Giordano (Psychology/China)
Is Co-Editor of the Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Newsletter.

Prof. Qingjun Li (East Asian studies/Chinese Language)
Was named Virginia M. Chumley Distinguished Professor at Belmont and served as discussant and translator for visiting Chinese film directors at the community VIP session of the Nashville Film Festival entitled, “The Future of Film in China.”

Prof. Ronnie Littlejohn (Asian and Comparative Philosophy)
Was named Tennessee Professor of the Year 2015 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and he published An Introduction to Philosophy through Chinese Thinkers (London: I.B. Tauris).

Prof. John H.E. Paine (Japanese Literature)
Gave the keynote address at the National Meeting of Japan Studies Association, “Kenko, Essays in Idleness, a Medieval Classic of Japanese Aesthetics.” He is also Editor of the Japan Studies Association Journal.

Prof. Seraphine Shen-Miller (Psychology/China)
Presented the paper, “Infusing Perspectives from Asian Studies in Teaching Introduction to Psychology,” at the National Meeting of the Asian Studies Development Program.

Prof. Stephen Shin (Sports Administration/Korea)
Presented “Education in South Korea” for the Korean adoptive family culture night, Nashville Korean United Methodist Church (NKUMC), Brentwood, TN.

Prof. Andrea Stover (Japanese Literature)
Was awarded a position in the Japan Studies Association field study, “Creating Kyoto: An Interdisciplinary Study of Pre-Modern Japanese History.”

Prof. Marieta Velikova, (Economics/Japan)

China Culture Club

Find both clubs on Facebook

China trip students learning Taiji Quan

The Bass Award for Asian Studies ……was established in 2010 by the faculty of Asian Studies to honor one student as outstanding each year.

The award is named for Ms. Brenda Bass (Belmont, class of 2003) in honor of her generous support for Belmont's Asian Studies program since 2001.

The award recognizes the outstanding student’s high grade point average, contribution to the entire spectrum of Asian Studies at Belmont. In naming a person to this honor, we celebrate the student's conscientious class preparation and participation, dedicated involvement in co-curricular lectures and conversations about Asia, and the student's love of Asia.

Past Recipients

Megan Waddell (2009-10)  Carson Murphy (2010-11)
Henna Jurca (2011-12)  Tara Clauser (2012-13)

Outstanding Asian Studies Student 2015

Ryan Pino, the Bass Award Winner for Outstanding Asian Studies Student 2015

Our student groups

Find both clubs on Facebook

Homestay at the Yellow River (黄河 黄河)
Belmont Japan America Relations Club
(RJAR)

Linda Sekesinski, Tyler Ridings, Bailey Newlan, and Elliot Wheat with China street food

Professor Velikova with BU students in Kanakura

Visiting Scholars from Asia
Wang Shengli, Dean and Professor of English, School of Foreign Languages, Zhengzhou University taught as a Visiting Scholar at Belmont in the Fall Semester 2014

Guan Yaping, Deputy Director, Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, Educational Department of Henan Province, P.R. China is Visiting Researcher at Belmont in the Fall Semester 2015.

Study Abroad in Asia
Short-term Summer Programs. Belmont faculty lead travel study trips of 3 to 4 weeks duration during the Maymester and Summer terms to China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Tibet. Faculty and countries visited vary each year.

Semester and Year Long Programs.
Hong Kong Baptist University. Hong Kong Baptist University has around 6,600 students studying as full-time undergraduates. English is the medium of instruction for formal classroom teaching, apart from Chinese-related subjects.

Lingnan University, Hong Kong. As the only liberal arts university in Hong Kong, Lingnan University has 2,700 students. Most classes are taught in English and Cantonese is the city language. Students have the option of taking Mandarin Chinese classes.

Seinan Gakuin University. With an enrollment of 8,000, SGU is a Christian university in Fukuoka, Japan. It is consistently ranked as one of the leading private universities in the country. Its long-established exchange program accepts international students from partner institutions around the world. All courses except Japanese language are taught in English.

Sogang University. Located in the heart of Seoul, Korea, Sogang University was founded by the Society of Jesus in 1949 and is now one of the most prestigious universities in Korea. Although the main medium of instruction is Korean, many courses are offered in English. Exchange students may also register free of charge in Korean language courses offered by Sogang's Language Education Center.

Tokyo Christian University is a Direct Enroll program and is the premier evangelical university in Japan. It is the only evangelical institution accredited by the Japanese Ministry of Education. Students enroll at the East Asia Institute (EAI) at TCU. All courses are taught in English, but Japanese language study is required.

Zhengzhou University. Located in Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province, People’s Republic of China, is the flagship public university of the province with over 46,000 students. Courses are taught in both Chinese (Mandarin) and English, depending on the department of study. Zhengzhou is an ideal place to improve your Chinese language.

Student Achievers

• ASIANetwork Freeman Student Faculty Fellows Research Award

Asian Studies Professor Dr. Qingjun (Joan) Li and four of her students—Anna Croghan, Samantha Hubner, Joseph Minga and Ryan Pino—were awarded an ASIANetwork/Freeman Foundation Student-Faculty Fellows Grant to research “The Commodification of Culture in China’s New Cultural Industry” in five sites in China.

• Psychology Research Team Embedded in China Travel Study

A team a psychology majors, including Iris Chiang, Heather Dudley, Joseph Kenkel and Matthew Makovey collected data for a psychology research project while at Zhengzhou University in Zhengzhou, China. The four person psychology research team, supervised by Dr. Pete Giordano, administered research questionnaires to 100 Zhengzhou University students devoted to the measurement of two constructs: The Global Dominance Inventory and The Traditional Gender Roles Inventory. The research project was funded in part by a Bass Asian Studies Research Grant.

• Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Award Winner

Salwa Saba was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CLS program is an effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Salwa studied at Shonan University in Tokyo, Japan during the summer 2015. She was assisted in her application by Dr. Qingjin (Joan) Li.

• Chinese Language Study Scholarship Award Winner

Jennifer Topino was awarded a Chinese Language Study Scholarship from the People’s Republic of China as a Confucius Institute scholar to study at Hangzhou Normal University from March – July 2015. She was assisted in her application by Dr. Qingjin (Joan) Li.

• Global Scholarship Winner, Sogang University

International Business major and Japanese language minor, Paul Shaw won a “Global Scholarship” to study at Sogang University.

• Chinese Language Writing Contest Award Winner

Clarke Carter, Belmont sophomore International Business major and Chinese minor, won 1st place in the Advanced Category at Middle Tennessee State University Confucius Institute’s Annual Chinese Language Writing Contest. Clarke is the first Belmont student to win awards in both Elementary Chinese Writing for Non-Heritage Learners and in Advanced Chinese Writing for Non-Heritage or Chinese Writing for Heritage Chinese learners.

• Lumos Travel Award Winner to India

Zach O’Brien received a Lumos Travel Award to live six months in an Indian ashram called Amritapuri. He also volunteered in an adjoining ecovillage where Westerners and Easterners collaborated on a model to enable communities to feed themselves better and more cheaply while protecting the environment and avoiding pollution.

• Appointment to Teach in China

Belmont 2015 alumni Eric McAnally recently moved to China to teach advanced writing, oral communication and movie appreciation to third-year English majors and postgraduate non-English majors at Zhengzhou University.

• Graduate Study in China

Ryan Pino, Belmont Summa Cum Laude graduate with the highest g.p.a. in December 2014, was appointed to teach at Hua Xi English School, Chengdu, Sichuan, PRC and is now a graduate student in Comparative Philosophy at Fudan University, Shanghai.

• Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program Appointee

Logan Snider, Belmont alumnus December 2014, who graduated with a major in Music Performance (flute) and a minor in Japanese, was selected for the prestigious Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program.

China students with Prof. Cochran & Li

Logan Snider in Matsusaka, Mie, Japan where he works with the JET Program

Joseph Minga in Songcheng, President of BU’s International Business Club and Officer in the Chinese Culture Club