

# ASIAN STUDIES U OF L NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 - VOL. 5



**Asian Studies** is an interdisciplinary program at the University of Lethbridge which seeks to understand the human experience in Asia and the Asian diaspora. We create opportunities for students to learn about Asia through courses, presentations, exchange programs, and faculty and student research. Many thanks to our colleagues, students, the Prentice Institute, the International Office, and the Arts & Science Deans for your continued support!

## Michael Chan Prize in Asian Studies

The 2021 Michael Chan Prize was awarded to Matthew Somerville for his essay, "National Learning and Poetry: How *Mono no Aware* Improves a Nation"! Matthew wrote this research essay for Dr. Gideon Fujiwara's HIST 3290 Japan, 1570-1890 class in the spring. "I argued *mono no aware* (the pathos of things) is in poetry and in literature," says Matthew. "When you put true emotion in poetry and read it out loud, some will have an interaction with that work because of the true emotion and that's how *mono no aware* exists...Literature has a huge impact on society." Matthew's work impressed adjudicators, Prof. Trevor Harrison and Prof. Ian MacLachlan, and he is now pursuing his MA at U of Victoria. Michael Wing-Cheung Chan (1952-2001) was a Chinese Canadian scientist and humanitarian known for his brilliance in mathematics and his passion in promoting Canada-Asia understanding. The award was established by Dr. Bonnie Lee and family and friends of Michael Chan. **Next submissions due Aug 20, 2022.** Learn more at [www.uleth.ca/artsci/asian-studies/scholarships](http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/asian-studies/scholarships)

## Asian Studies Courses in Spring 2022

**RELS 2100** The Hindu Tradition (R Balkaran) T/R 1:30-2:45 pm Online Lecture  
**RELS 3100** Goddesses of India (R Balkaran) W 1:00-3:45 pm Online Lecture  
**WGST/ASIA 3150** Gender in Global Asia (G Bonifacio) M/W 1:30-2:45 pm Online Lecture

**ASIA 3850** Population Dynamics in South Asia (K. Islam) T/R 3:00-4:15 pm UHall C630  
**GEOG 3605** The Changing Geography of China (W. Xu) R 12:00-2:45 pm Online Lecture  
**JPNS1100** Beginners' Japanese II (A McMeekin) MWF 1:00-1:50 pm UHall C630  
**JPNS 2020** Intermediate Japanese II (A McMeekin) MWF 11:00-11:50 am FA W731

The Department of History Colloquium Series (co-sponsored by Asian Studies) presents  
**Radio, Cultural Revolution, and the Meaning of Technology in Twentieth-Century China**

Guest speaker Dr. John Alekna (Peking University)  
Dr. Alekna obtained his PhD from Princeton in 2020 and is now an Assistant Professor of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine at Peking.  
Monday, November 22, 2021 7:00 p.m. (MDT) via Zoom  
Register in advance for this meeting: [uleth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEsde-opjlvH9UqSUwarh5WERohJS6NCSCe](https://uleth.zoom.us/j/9452812345)

U of L Students, are you interested in learning about Asia's societies, cultures, and histories?

Want to make your degree international? Considering traveling Asia or pursuing work with ties to Asia?

**If so, declare your Minor in Asian Studies!**

**Required courses:** ASIA 1000 Introduction to Asia plus 5 courses with at least 1 at the 3000/4000 level.

**Consider structuring the Asian Studies Minor into one of the following combinations:**

Major/Minor; Major/Double Minor; or within a General Humanities/Social Science degree. Be creative!

**Coordinator's Desk:** We gladly present to you our Newsletter to highlight the exciting courses offered by our faculty in Spring 2022, and our latest Chan Prize winner, Matthew Somerville, who majored in General Humanities with streams in English Lit, Japanese, and Linguistics, and minored in Asian Studies. Join us Mon, Nov. 22 evening for a virtual talk on Modern Chinese history by Dr. John Alekna of

Peking University. The Winter Light Festival at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden promises to dazzle over many winter evenings. I will embark on a full-year study leave from Jan to Dec, 2022, during which time Dr. John Harding resumes duties as Coordinator of Asian Studies. Let us continue to stay safe and well as we get ready for exam season, and usher in the holidays. Thanks, and best wishes! Gideon Fujiwara

Visit Winter Light Festival at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, Nov 26 to Feb 28, 2022. Book tickets: [Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden in Lethbridge, Alberta](https://www.nikka-yuko.com/)



See more details on our website:

<http://www.uleth.ca/artsci/asian-studies>

Contact the coordinator at

gideon.fujiwara@uleth.ca (until Dec. 31), then john.harding@uleth.ca from Jan. to Dec. 2022