EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Humanities Quadrangle, Rm. 110, 203.432.2860
http://call.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
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Assistant Professor Lucas Bender

Senior Lecturer Pauline Lin

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Lector Hyun Sung Lim

FIELDS OF STUDY

Fields for doctoral study are Chinese literature and Japanese literature. (See also the Combined Ph.D. Program in Film and Media Studies.) Although the primary emphasis is on these East Asian subjects, the department welcomes applicants who are seeking to integrate their interests in Chinese or Japanese literature with interdisciplinary studies in such fields as history, history of art, linguistics, religious studies, comparative literature, film and media studies, theater studies, literary theory and criticism, and the social sciences.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

During the first three years of study, students are required to take at least fourteen term courses. Usually students complete twelve term courses in the first and second years, and then take two tutorials or two seminars in the third year. Students concentrating in Chinese or Japanese literature are encouraged to take at least one term course in Western literature or literary theory. If approved by the director of graduate studies (DGS), graduate courses taken for a grade of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory in other departments or programs in which these courses are counted toward that department/program's doctoral course or certificate requirements will be counted toward the fourteen-course requirement. By the end of the second year, all students must prove their proficiency in a language other than their primary language of study that is relevant to their course of study and is approved by the DGS. By the end of the third year, students specializing in premodern Japanese literature must pass a reading test in literary Chinese. At the end of the second full academic year, the student must take a written examination in the language of the student's specialization, including both its modern and premodern forms.

At the end of each academic year, until a student is admitted to candidacy, a faculty committee will review the student's progress. For the second-year review, the student must submit a revised seminar research paper, on a topic selected in consultation with the adviser, no later than April 1 of the fourth term. No later than the end of the sixth term the student will take the qualifying oral examination. The exam will cover three fields distinguished by period and/or genre in one or more East Asian national literatures or in other fields closely related to the student's developing specialization. These fields and accompanying reading lists will be selected in consultation with the examiners and the DGS in order to allow the student to demonstrate knowledge and command of a range of topics. After having successfully passed the qualifying oral examination, students will be required to submit a dissertation prospectus to the department for approval by September 1 of the seventh term in order to complete the process of admission to candidacy for the Ph.D.

Opportunities to obtain experience in teaching language and literature form an important part of this program. Students in East Asian Languages and Literatures normally teach in their third and fourth years in the Graduate School.

COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAM

The Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures also offers, in conjunction with the Film and Media Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures and Film and Media Studies. For further details, see Film and Media Studies. Applicants to the combined program must indicate on their application that they are applying both to Film and Media Studies and to East Asian Languages and Literatures. All documentation within the application should include this information.
MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil. The successful completion of all predissertation requirements, including the qualifying examination and the dissertation prospectus, will make a student eligible for an M.Phil. degree.

M.A. (en route to the Ph.D.) The successful completion of twelve term courses and languages required in the first two years of study will make a student eligible for an M.A. degree.

Additional program materials are available on the department website, http://eall.yale.edu.

COURSES

Courses in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels are listed in Yale College Programs of Study. See also https://courses.yale.edu.

CHNS 570a, Introduction to Literary Chinese I  Pauline Lin
Reading and interpretation of texts in various styles of literary Chinese (wenyan), with attention to basic problems of syntax and literary style. Prerequisite: CHNS 151 or CHNS 153 or equivalent.

CHNS 571b, Introduction to Literary Chinese II  Pauline Lin
Continuation of CHNS 570. Reading and interpretation of texts in various styles of literary Chinese (wenyan), with attention to basic problems of syntax and literary style. Prerequisite: CHNS 570 or equivalent.

EALL 521a / RLST 568a, Introduction to Chinese Buddhist Literature  Eric Greene
This class is an introduction to Chinese Buddhist literature. Although written in classical Chinese, Buddhist texts in China were written in a particular idiom that was much influenced by the Indian languages and which can be difficult to understand without special training. This class introduces students who already have some reading ability in literary Chinese to this idiom and the tools and background knowledge needed to read and understand Chinese Buddhist literature. We read a series of selections of some of the most influential Chinese Buddhist texts from various genres including canonical scriptures, apocryphal scriptures, monastic law, doctrinal treatises, and hagiography. Secondary readings introduce the basic ideas of Indian and Chinese Buddhist thought to the extent necessary for understanding our readings. Prerequisite: CHNS 571 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor. Students of Japanese or Korean literature who can read basic kanbun or gugyeol are also welcome to enroll; no knowledge of modern, spoken Chinese is required.

EALL 536a, Japanese Poetry and Poetics  Edward Kamens
Core concepts and traditions of classical Japanese poetry explored through the medium of translation. Readings from anthologies and treatises of the ninth through early twentieth century. Attention to recent critical studies in transcultural poetic theory. Inspection and discussion of related artifacts in the Beinecke Library and the Yale Art Gallery.

EALL 562b, Natsume Sōseki  Timothy Goddard
This seminar explores the oeuvre of Natsume Sōseki (1867–1916), the preeminent writer of modern Japan. Readings include a broad sampling of Sōseki’s fiction from across his career, as well as selected poems and essays. Discussions situate Sōseki’s writings in the context of Japan’s rapid modernization and imperial expansion during the Meiji period (1868–1912) and consider Sōseki’s enduring legacy in the Japanese literary canon and as a figure of world literature.

EALL 565b / EAST 553b, Japanese Literature after 1970  Timothy Goddard
This course provides a survey of Japanese literature from 1970 to the present. Readings include novels and essays from a diverse range of authors, addressing themes such as identity, language, memory, domesticity, postmodernism, and racial discrimination. Students develop extensive knowledge of contemporary Japanese literature, while also cultivating skills in close reading and research methods. All readings are in English translation; no knowledge of Japanese is required.

EALL 568b, The Literature of Japanese Empire  Timothy Goddard
Spanning a period from the 1910s to the 1940s, this course considers the effects of Japanese imperialism on the development of modern literature in East Asia. How did authors from mainland Japan represent the so-called outer territories of the empire? How did authors from colonial Taiwan and Korea navigate issues of language, identity, and culture in their writings? What significance did the semi-colonial city of Shanghai hold in the modern literary imagination? Readings include a broad range of primary sources, including novels, short stories, essays, poems, and travelogues. We also engage with selections from recent secondary sources to understand how scholars have approached this tumultuous era in East Asian literary history. Graduate students are expected to conduct research in any and all East Asian languages relevant to their topic and in which they are proficient.

EALL 573a, Postwar Japanese Literature, 1945–1970  Timothy Goddard
Spanning a period from 1945 to 1970, this course provides an introduction to Japanese literature after Japan’s catastrophic defeat in the Asia-Pacific War. Readings include novels, essays, and poetry by major writers of the era, including Dazai Osamu, Enchi Fumiko, Kawabata Yasunari, Mishima Yukio, and Tanizaki Jun’ichi. In our discussions, we consider how Japanese writers responded to this moment of profound crisis, exploring such themes as identity, memory, modernity, and the nation.

EALL 581a / FILM 873a, Japanese Cinema and Its Others  Aaron Gerow
Critical inquiry into the myth of a homogeneous Japan through analysis of how Japanese film and media historically represent “others” of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, and sexualities, including women, black residents, ethnic Koreans, Okinawans, Ainu, undocumented immigrants, LGBTQ minorities, the disabled, youth, and monstrous others such as ghosts.
EALL 600a / EAST 640a, Sinological Methods  Pauline Lin
A research course in Chinese studies, designed for students with background in modern and literary Chinese. Students explore and evaluate the wealth of primary sources and research tools available in China and in the West. For native speakers of Chinese, introduction to the secondary literature in English and instruction in writing professionally in English on topics about China. Topics include Chinese bibliographies; bibliophiles’ notes; specialized dictionaries; maps and geographical gazetteers; textual editions, variations, and reliability of texts; genealogies and biographical sources; archaeological and visual materials; and major Chinese encyclopedias, compendia, and databases.

EALL 601a, Ancient and Medieval Chinese Poetry  Lucas Bender
Readings in ancient and middle-period Chinese poetry, from the beginnings of the tradition through the Song dynasty. Prerequisite: one year of classical/literary Chinese or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

EALL 608b, Sages of the Ancient World  Mick Hunter
Comparative survey of the embodiment and performance of wisdom by ancient sages. Distinctive features and common themes in discourses about wisdom from China, India, the Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Topics include teaching, scheming, and dying.

EALL 715a, Readings in Modern Japanese Literature  Timothy Goddard
Readings from a selection of representative texts from modern to contemporary Japanese literature with a focus on comprehension, translation, critical reception, and close reading. Students have the opportunity to select a few texts of interest in consultation with the instructor.

EALL 761a, Topics in Early Chinese Thought  Mick Hunter
An examination of certain key problems in the study of early Chinese thought. Topics vary from year to year but in general include intellectual typologies and affiliations, relating received texts and excavated manuscripts, the role of Han editors in shaping pre-Han textual traditions, ruling ideology, and comparisons with other parts of the ancient world. Discussions and papers are in English. Because readings are different each year, this course may be repeated for credit.

EALL 806b / EAST 806b / FILM 921b, Research in Japanese Film History  Aaron Gerow
This seminar covers the methods and problems of researching and writing Japanese film history. We review the theoretical issues involved in historiography in general and film historiography in particular, and then consider how these are pertinent to the study of Japanese cinema history. Our approach is critical, as we examine several recent examples of Japanese film historiography, as well as practical, as we explore various methods and strategies for researching Japanese film history. We particularly focus on the Japanese cinema's historical relation to the nation, especially in terms of how cinema may help us historicize the nation, and vice versa. Students develop their own research project using the unique collections at Yale. Knowledge of Japanese is helpful but not essential.

EALL 874a / HIST 892a, China at Its Borders  Denise Ho
This reading seminar examines recent English-language scholarship on China's engagement with the world, focusing on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Weekly topics include the following themes: frontiers and borders, the region as a unit of analysis, trading systems and regulation, migration and diaspora, models of modernity and revolution, World War II and the Cold War, socialist internationalism, the era of reform and opening, and China’s global ambitions today.

EALL 900a or b, Directed Readings  Mick Hunter
Offered by permission of instructor and DGS to meet special needs not met by regular courses.

EALL 900a or b, Directed Research  Mick Hunter
Offered as needed with permission of instructor and DGS for student preparation of dissertation prospectus.

JAPN 570a, Introduction to Literary Japanese  Edward Kamens
Introduction to the grammar and style of the premodern literary language (bungotai) through a variety of texts. Prerequisite: JAPN 151 or equivalent.