EAST ASIAN STUDIES

The MacMillan Center
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M.A.

Chair
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Professors Daniel Botsman (History), Kang-i Sun Chang (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Fabian Drixler (History), Aaron Gerow (East Asian Languages & Literatures; Film & Media Studies), Valerie Hansen (History), Edward Kamens (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Tina Lu (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Peter Perdue (History), Frances Rosenbluth (Political Science), Helen Siu (Anthropology), Chloë Starr (Divinity School), Jing Tsu (East Asian Languages & Literatures; Comparative Literature), Anne Underhill (Anthropology), Arne Westad (History; Global Affairs), Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan (History of Art)

Associate Professors William Honeychurch (Anthropology), Michael Hunter (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Hwansoo Kim (Religious Studies), Yukiko Koga (Anthropology)

Assistant Professors Lucas Bender (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Jinyi Chu (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Eric Greene (Religious Studies), Denise Ho (History), Daniel Mattingly (Political Science), Quincy Ngan (History of Art), Hannah Shepherd (History), Emma Zang (Sociology)

Senior Lecturer Pauline Lin (East Asian Languages & Literatures)

Lecturers Allison Bernard, Garrett Bredell, Russell Burge, Paula Curtis, Philip Gant, Jooyeon Hahn, Alex Finn Macartney, David Porter, Kyle Shernuk, To water Burse

Senior Lecturers II Seungja Choi, Angela Lee-Smith

Senior Lecturers Hsiu-hsien Chan, Min Chen, Rongzhen Li, Ninghui Liang, Fan Liu, Kumiko Nakamura, Hiroyo Nishimura, Aoi Saito, Jianhua Shen, Mari Stever, Wei Su, Chuanmei Sun, Haiwen Wang, Yu-lin Wang Saussy, Peisong Xu, Mika Yamaguchi, Yongtao Zhang, William Zhou

Lector Hyun Sung Lim

FIELDS OF STUDY

The Master of Arts (M.A.) program in East Asian Studies is a multidisciplinary program offering a concentrated course of study designed to provide a broad understanding of the people, history, culture, contemporary society, politics, and economy of China, Japan, or a transnational region within East Asia. This program is designed for students preparing to go on to the doctorate in one of the disciplines of East Asian Studies (e.g., anthropology; economics; history; history of art; language and literature, including comparative literature, film studies, and theater studies; political science; sociology; etc.), as well as for those students seeking a terminal M.A. degree before entering the business world, the media, government service, or a professional school.

COURSE OF STUDY FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

The East Asian Studies graduate program is designed to be completed in either a one-year or a two-year track. The two-year track requires the preparation of a master’s thesis and is therefore ideal for students who are keen to pursue focused, independent research under the guidance of a faculty member. It also provides students with an opportunity to pursue additional disciplinary and language training. Students who enter the two-year track with a strong command of one East Asian language will be encouraged to consider beginning a second (or third) language.

In general, students focus their course work on the study of China, Japan, or transnational East Asia. Some students may prefer to focus their course work on one or two disciplines, in addition to language study and courses focused on East Asia. Others may create a highly interdisciplinary program, taking courses in traditional disciplines such as history, literature, political science, art history, or anthropology, as well as in Yale’s professional schools.

Applicants to the East Asian Studies graduate program must indicate on their application whether they are applying to the one-year or the two-year track.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE: ONE-YEAR TRACK

The program of study for completion of the degree on the one-year track consists of eight term courses that must include two terms of language study at or above Yale’s third-year level (unless the language requirement has already been met through previous study or native
Kim Il Sung. Within each of the six topics, a seminal work is paired with an enthusiastically received recent study investigating the same

This course examines major works in Korean history of the twentieth century, encompassing the colonial period and the Korean War, the First Republic, economic development, and democratization of South Korea, as well as the building of the North Korean state under Kim Il Sung. Within each of the six topics, a seminal work is paired with an enthusiastically received recent study investigating the same
question or time period. By critically analyzing and comparing the issues illuminated and methods employed by these studies, the course seeks to discuss the transformations and continuity of perspectives and methodology in the study of modern Korean history.

**EAST 502b / HIST 890b, History of North Korea: Politics, Society, and Culture**  Staff
This course explores the political, social, and cultural history of North Korea from the origins of the state during the Japanese colonial period to the regime transition in the early twenty-first century. The particular focus is on the factors driving the transformations of North Korea. Nicknamed “the hermit kingdom,” the regime is often commonly perceived as isolated from the outside world. This course seeks to evaluate the importance of external influence and international context at the turning points in North Korean history, which include the establishment of DPRK, its militarization and beginning of nuclear development, Kim Il Sung’s purge of factions and the succession to Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un, and other topics. Discussions also analyze the accompanying changes in North Korean society and art. In addition to academic sources, the course utilizes artworks, films, music, historical newspapers, and memoirs. Through the critical examination of the evolution of North Korea, this course situates the country in the region as well as among other authoritarian and communist states.

**EAST 503a / MUSI 589a / RLST 626a, Popular Music and Christianity in Korea**  Bo kyung Im
How do Korean popular musicians who identify as Christian position themselves in relation to the sonic worlds they inhabit? In what ways do their stylistic choices signal belonging to and/or disavowal of various social formations in the transpacific cultural imaginary?
In this interdisciplinary graduate seminar, we interrogate the relationship between Christianity, popular music, and race through examination of case studies drawn primarily from early twenty-first-century Korea. Musical repertoires are analyzed within a framework that highlights transnational U.S.-Korean routes of religious and musical circulation. First, we address key theoretical and thematic foundations for the course. We then listen closely to important strands in Korean “church music,” including Western classical singing, contemporary worship, and gospel. Finally, we focus on connections between Christianity and R&B/soul, ballad, hip-hop, and “K-pop”—genres traditionally defined as “secular.” This survey of Korean popular music provides students the opportunity to consider the roles that “sacred” and “secular” constructs, race and ethnicity, imperialism, commerce, and aesthetics play in power-inflected processes of cultural globalization. Yale College juniors and seniors are welcome.

**EAST 540a / EALL 510a, Man and Nature in Chinese Literature**  Kang-I Chang
An exploration of man and nature in traditional Chinese literature, with special attention to aesthetic and cultural meanings. Topics include the concept of nature and literature; Neo-Daoist self-cultivation; poetry and Zen (Chan) Buddhism; travel in literature; loss, lament, and self-reflection in song lyrics; nature and the supernatural in classical tales; love and allusions to nature; religious pilgrimage and allegory. All readings in translation; no knowledge of Chinese required. Some Chinese texts provided for students who read Chinese.

**EAST 541b / EALL 511b, Women and Literature in Traditional China**  Kang-I Chang
This course focuses on major women writers in traditional China, as well as representations of women by male authors. Topics include the power of women’s writing; women and material culture; women in exile; courtesans; Taoist and Buddhist nuns; widow poets; the cross-dressing women; the female body and its metaphors; foot binding and its implications; women’s notion of love and death; the aesthetic of illness; women and revolution; women’s poetry clubs; the function of memory in women’s literature; problems of gender and genre. All readings in translation; no knowledge of Chinese required. Some Chinese texts provided for students who read Chinese.

**EAST 542a, Poetry and Ethics Amidst Imperial Collapse**  Lucas Bender
Du Fu has for the last millennium been considered China’s greatest poet. Close study of nearly one-sixth of his complete works, contextualized by selections from the tradition that defined the art in his age. Exploration of the roles literature plays in interpreting human lives and the ways different traditional forms shape different ethical orientation. Poetry as a vehicle for moral reflection. All readings are in English.

**EAST 543a, History of Chinese Imperial Parks and Private Gardens**  Pauline Lin
Study of notable parks and private gardens of China, spanning from the second century BCE to contemporary China. Themes include the history, politics, and economics surrounding construction of parks; garden designs and planning; cultural representations of the garden; and modern reinterpreted landscapes. Some sessions meet in the Yale University Art Gallery. No previous knowledge of Chinese language is necessary.

**EAST 545a / EALL 625a, Chinese Poetic Form, 1490–1990**  Kang-I Chang
What is the appeal and the aesthetic concept of the Classical Chinese poetic form, which began in classical antiquity and continued to serve as a primary medium for poetic expression in modern times? How did modern writers express their “new” voices by using this “old” form? The seminar traces the “modern” development of Chinese classical poetry from the Revivalist (figu) movement of the Ming to contemporary China in Shanghai. Emphasis on critical close reading, with attention to cultural and political contexts. Baihua translations and notes are provided for most of the poems. Primary readings in Chinese; discussion in English.

**EAST 553b, Japanese Literature after 1970**

**EAST 641b, Readings in Classical Chinese Prose**  Kang-I Chang
Close reading of classical Chinese texts (wenyan) primarily from late Imperial China. A selection of formal and informal prose, including memoirs, sanwen essays, classical tales, biographies, and autobiographies. Focus on cultural and historical contexts, with attention to reception in China and in some cases in Korea and Japan. Questions concerning readership and governmental censorship, function of
literature, history and fictionality, memory and writing, and the aesthetics of qing (emotion). Readings in Chinese; discussion in English. Prerequisite: CHNS 171 or equivalent, or permission of instructor.

**EAST 889a / HIST 889a, Research in Japanese History**  Daniel Botsman
After a general introduction to the broad array of sources and reference materials available for conducting research related to the history of Japan since ca. 1600, students prepare original research papers on topics of their own choosing in a collaborative workshop environment. Prerequisite: reading knowledge of Japanese.

**EAST 900a or b, Master’s Thesis**  Hwansoo Kim
Directed reading and research on a topic approved by the DGS and advised by a faculty member (by arrangement) with expertise or specialized competence in the chosen field. Readings and research are done in preparation for the required master’s thesis.

**EAST 910a or b, Independent Study**  Hwansoo Kim
By arrangement with faculty and with approval of the DGS.