EAST ASIAN STUDIES

The MacMillan Center
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M.A.

Chair
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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, Tomonori Sugimoto

Senior Lectors II Seungja Choi, Angela Lee-Smith

Senior Lectors 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
fluency), plus six other courses selected from the University's offerings of advanced language study and seminars related to East Asia at the graduate level. For those who meet the language requirement at matriculation, two of the required eight courses may be advanced training in a particular discipline (e.g., economics, history, political theory, statistics, etc.) with no explicit focus on East Asia, but related to the student's professional goals. The course of study must be approved by the director of graduate studies (DGS).

Special Requirements

Students must earn two Honors grades (“H”) over the course of their two terms at Yale. Honors grades earned in any language course cannot be counted toward satisfying this requirement, except with the permission of the DGS.

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

The program of study for completion of the degree on the two-year track consists of sixteen term courses that must include four terms of language study, two of which must be at Yale's fourth-year level (unless the language requirement has already been met through previous study or native fluency), plus twelve other courses selected from the University's offerings of advanced language study and seminars related to East Asia at the graduate level. Students who have achieved advanced proficiency in one East Asian language are strongly encouraged to pursue study of a second East Asian language, but for those who have met the language requirement in one language at matriculation, two of the required sixteen courses may be advanced training in a particular discipline (e.g., economics, history, political theory, statistics, etc.) with no explicit focus on East Asia, but related to the student's professional goals. The course of study must be approved by the director of graduate studies (DGS).

Special Requirements

Students must earn four Honors grades (“H”) over the course of their four terms at Yale. Honors grades earned in any language course cannot be counted toward satisfying this requirement, except with the permission of the DGS. A master's thesis is also required.

Master's Thesis

A master's thesis is required of students enrolled in the two-year degree program. The master's thesis is based on research in a topic approved by the DGS and advised by a faculty member with specialized competence in the chosen topic. M.A. students must register for EAST 900, which may count toward the sixteen required courses. EAST 900 may not be taken for audit. Students may register for an additional independent study to prepare topics and begin research. The master’s thesis must be prepared according to CEAS guidelines and is due in the student's second year on a mid-December date (if completed in the fall term) or an early-May date (if completed in the spring term) as specified by CEAS.

JOINT-DEGREE PROGRAMS

The Council on East Asian Studies (CEAS) collaborates with three of Yale's professional schools – Environment, Law, and Public Health – and has developed joint-degree programs that offer a strong connection between two demanding courses of study while also fulfilling the requirements of each separate school. Only students enrolled in the two-year track of the East Asian Studies M.A. degree program are eligible for a joint degree.

Each joint program leads to the simultaneous award of two graduate professional degrees: the M.A. in East Asian Studies from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and an M.F., M.E.M., M.E.Sc., M.E.S., J.D., or M.P.H. from the relevant professional school. Students can earn the two degrees simultaneously in less time than if they were pursued sequentially.

With the exception of the joint M.A./J.D. program, which requires four years, completion of all requirements takes three years. Typically candidates spend the first year in one program and the second year in the partner program. During the third and final year of study, students register in one program each term. Joint-degree students are guided in this process by a committee composed of the DGS and a faculty member of the relevant professional school.

Candidates must submit formal applications to both the Graduate School and the relevant professional school and be admitted separately to each school, i.e., each school makes its decision independently. It is highly recommended that students apply to and enter a joint-degree program from the outset, although it is possible to apply to the second program once matriculated at Yale.

Program materials are available upon request to the Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University, PO Box 208206, New Haven CT 06520-8206; e-mail, eastasian.studies@yale.edu; website, http://ceas.yale.edu. Applications are available online at http://gsas.yale.edu/admission; e-mail, graduate.admissions@yale.edu.

COURSES

Please consult the course information available online at http://ceas.yale.edu/academics/courses and https://courses.yale.edu for a complete list of East Asian-related courses offered at Yale University.

EAST 501a / HIST 867a, Modern Korean History Studies: Issues and Methods  Staff
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 656a, Popular Music and Christianity in Korea**  
Staff  
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 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 (fugu) 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 571a / HIST 871a, The History of the People's Republic of China**  
Denise Ho  
This is a reading seminar that examines recent English-language scholarship on the People's Republic of China, focusing on the Mao period (1949–76). Considering the question of the PRC as history, the seminar compares present-day scholarship to earlier social science research and discusses the questions being asked and answered by historians today. Reading knowledge of Chinese is not required; open to undergraduates with permission of the instructor.

**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.