East Asian Languages and Literatures

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The major in East Asian Languages and Literatures provides an intellectually focused and rigorous immersion in the East Asian humanities. The department’s courses reflect the breadth, depth, and variety of East Asian textual traditions, premodern through modern, including film and theater. The major is focused on the analysis of literature, culture, and thought, and is built on a solid foundation of language study. Students elect either the Chinese or the Japanese track, but are encouraged to take courses in both tracks and to become familiar with aspects of East Asian literary culture that transcend geographic parameters.

Courses for Nonmajors

All courses offered by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures are open to nonmajors.

Course Numbering

Language courses use the subject codes CHNS, JAPN, or KREN. Courses with the subject code EALL are content courses whose focus is critical and humanistic; those numbered 200 to 299 are introductory, and those numbered 300 to 399 are advanced. Courses numbered EALL 001 to 099 are freshman seminars on East Asian literature, film, and humanities.

Prerequisite

Candidates for the major must complete CHNS 140 or JAPN 140 or the equivalent.

Placement Procedures

Students who enroll in the department’s language courses for the first time but who have studied Chinese, Japanese, or Korean elsewhere, and students who have skills in one of these languages because of family background, must take a placement examination at the beginning of the academic year. The times and places of the examinations are listed on the departmental website in August. The Chinese and Japanese examinations have online components accessed through the same site. Students of Japanese, Chinese, and Korean returning from programs abroad must take a placement examination unless the course work was completed at an institution preapproved by the Richard U. Light Fellowship program. For questions, consult with the director of undergraduate studies.

Requirements of the Major

The major consists of at least eleven term courses beyond the prerequisite. Students must take two terms of advanced modern Chinese (CHNS 150 and 151 or equivalents) or advanced Japanese (JAPN 150 and 151 or equivalents), as well as two terms of literary Chinese or Japanese (CHNS 170 and 171, or JAPN 170 and 171). Students also take a survey course in Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian history and culture, preferably early in their studies. Three courses are required in literature in translation, taught in English, selected from EALL 200–399; one must be focused primarily on premodern content. These three may include courses on theater and film. In addition, two advanced courses with readings in literary or modern Chinese and/or Japanese are required.

Credit/D/Fail

A maximum of one course taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the requirements of the major, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

Senior Requirement

Students prepare a one-term senior essay in EALL 491 or a yearlong senior essay in EALL 492 and 493. Those who elect a yearlong essay effectively commit to taking twelve term courses in the major, because the second term of the essay may not be substituted for any of the eleven required courses.

Study Abroad

Students are encouraged to study abroad. Interested students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies and with the office of the Richard U. Light Fellowship to apply for support for programs in China, Japan, and Korea.

Requirements of the Major

Prerequisite CHNS 140 or JAPN 140 or equivalent

Number of courses 11 courses (incl one-term senior essay) or 12 courses (incl yearlong senior essay) beyond prereq

Specific courses required Chinese track—CHNS 150, 151, 170, 171, or equivalents; Japanese track—JAPN 150, 151, 170, 171, or equivalents

Distribution of courses 1 course in Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian hist and culture; 3 courses in lit in translation numbered EALL 200–399, one of them premodern; 2 adv courses with readings in Chinese and/or Japanese

Senior requirement One-term senior essay (EALL 491) or yearlong senior essay (EALL 492, 493)

Faculty of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures

Professors Kang-i Sun Chang, Aaron Gerow, Edward Kamens, Tina Lu (Chair), Jing Tsu

Assistant Professors Lucas Bender, Michael Hunter, Seth Jacobowitz
Senior Lecturer Pauline Lin
Senior Lecturer II Seungja Choi
Senior Lecturers Hsiu-hsien Chan, Min Chen, Koichi Hiroe, Angela Lee-Smith, Rongzhen Li, Ninghui Liang, Fan Liu, Yoshiko Maruyama, Michiaki Murata, Hiroyo Nishimura, Yu-lin Wang, Saussy, Masahiko Seto, Jianhua Shen, Mari Stever, Wei Su, Haiwen Wang, Peisong Xu, Yongtao Zhang, William Zhou
Lectors Aoi Saito, Chuanmei Sun
Affiliated Faculty Chloe Starr (Divinity School)

East Asian Humanities

* EALL 050a, Imperial Pleasure Parks and Private Gardens of China Pauline Lin
Study of imperial parks and private gardens in China, focusing on five historic times, spanning from the second century CE to modernity. Topics include the rationales, philosophies, and economies of constructing gardens; their designs; depictions in paintings and literature; their impact on the Chinese cultural imagination; modern commercial recreations of earlier gardens and environmental art; and the changing uses of gardens through time. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program

EALL 200a / HUMS 270a, The Chinese Tradition Tina Lu
An introduction to the literature, culture, and thought of premodern China, from the beginnings of the written record to the turn of the twentieth century. Close study of textual and visual primary sources, with attention to their historical and cultural backdrops. No knowledge of Chinese required.

EALL 210b / LITR 172b, Man and Nature in Chinese Literature Kang-i Sun 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-Taoist 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. Formerly CHNS 200.

EALL 211a / LITR 174a / WGSS 405a, Women and Literature in Traditional China Kang-i Sun Chang
A study of major women writers in traditional China, as well as representations of women by male authors. The power of women’s writing; women and material culture; women in exile; courtesans; Taoist and Buddhist nuns; widow poets; cross-dressing women; the female body and its metaphors; footbinding; notions of love and death; the aesthetics of illness; women and revolution; 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. Formerly CHNS 201.

EALL 212a / PHIL 203a, Ancient Chinese Thought Michael Hunter
An introduction to the foundational works of ancient Chinese thought from the ruling ideologies of the earliest historical dynasties, through the Warring States masters, to the Qin and Han empires. Topics include Confucianism and Daoism, the role of the intellectual in ancient Chinese society, and the nature and performance of wisdom.

* EALL 213a / HUMS 292a / PHIL 205a / RLST 211a, Philosophy, Religion, and Literature in Medieval China Lucas Bender
Exploration of the rich intellectual landscape of the Chinese middle ages, introducing students to seminal works of Chinese civilization and to the history of their debate and interpretation in the first millennium. No previous knowledge of China is assumed. Instead, the course serves as a focused introduction to Chinese philosophy, religion, and literature.

* EALL 236a / LITR 181a, 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 centuries. Attention to recent critical studies in transcultural poetic theory. Inspection and discussion of related artifacts in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Yale University Art Gallery. Readings and discussion in English. No knowledge of Japanese required. Previous study of literary texts is recommended but not required.

EALL 255b, Japanese Modernism Seth Jacobowitz
Japanese literature and art from the 1920s through the 1940s. The avant-garde and mass culture; popular genre fiction; the advent of new media technologies and techniques; effects of Japanese imperialism, militarism, and fascism on cultural production; experimental writers and artists and their resistance to, or complicity with, the state.

* EALL 256b / EAST 358b / GLBL 352b / HUMS 272b / LITR 265b, China in the World Jing Tsu
Recent headlines about China in the world, deciphered in both modern and historical contexts. Interpretation of new events and diverse texts through transnational connections. Topics include China and Africa, Mandarization, labor and migration, Chinese America, nationalism and humiliation, and art and counterfeiting. Readings and discussion in English.
EALL 270b / FILM 306b, Anime and the Posthuman Seth Jacobowitz
Japanese anime and its conceptions of the posthuman condition made possible by advances in science and technology. The persistence of myth, archetype, and humanist philosophy.  HU

* EALL 288a / EAST 404a / ER&M 404a, The History and Literature of the Ainu Dominik Wallner
An exploration of the history, culture, and literature of the Ainu people in northern Japan, from prehistory to the twenty-first century.  HU

* EALL 303b, Readings in Classical Chinese Poetry Kang-i Sun Chang
Study of successive appropriations and reorientation of Chinese poetic forms in the major genres, such as song lyric (ci) and vernacular lyric (qi) traditions, traced from early foundations to those written in later times. Topics include the creation of cultural values and identities, problems of authorship and authority, exile and poetic writing, reception, and material culture. Readings in Chinese; discussion in English. Prerequisite: CHNS 171 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Formerly CHNS 303.  HU

EALL 308b / HUMS 305b / PHIL 410b, Sages of the Ancient World Michael Hunter
Comparative survey of ancient discourses about wisdom from China, India, the Near East, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Topics include teaching, scheming, and dying.  HU

* EALL 317b, The Plum in the Golden Vase Tina Lu
Close reading of the late-sixteenth-century erotic novel The Plum in the Golden Vase. The novel as a window on sixteenth-century Chinese society. Discussion of sexuality, commerce, and material culture. Formerly CHNS 217.  HU

* EALL 325a, Chinese Poetic Form, 1490–1990 Kang-i Sun Chang
Development of the classical Chinese poetic form by modern Chinese poets. The appeal and aesthetic concept of the classical form since the revivalist movement of the late fifteenth century. Emphasis on close critical reading, with attention to cultural and political contexts. Readings in Chinese; discussion in English. Prerequisite: a literary Chinese course or permission of instructor.  HU

* EALL 357a, Meiji Literature and Visual Culture Seth Jacobowitz
Introduction to the literature and visual culture of Meiji Japan (1868–1912), including novels, poetry, calligraphy, woodblock prints, painting, photography, and cinema. The relationship between theories and practices of fine art and literature; changes in word and image relations; transformations from woodblock to movable-type print culture; the invention of photography and early forms of cinematic practice. No knowledge of Japanese required.  HU

* EALL 470a and EALL 471b, Independent Tutorial Staff
For students with advanced Chinese, Japanese, or Korean language skills who wish to engage in concentrated reading and research on literary works in a manner not otherwise offered in courses. The work must be supervised by a specialist and must terminate in a term paper or its equivalent. Ordinarily only one term may be offered toward the major or for credit toward the degree. Permission to enroll requires submission of a detailed project proposal by the end of the first week of classes and its approval by the director of undergraduate studies.

* EALL 491a or b, Senior Essay Staff
Preparation of a one-term senior essay under faculty supervision.

* EALL 492a and EALL 493b, Yearlong Senior Essay Staff
Preparation of a two-term senior essay under faculty supervision. Credit for EALL 492 only on completion of EALL 493.

Chinese

* CHNS 110a, Elementary Modern Chinese I Jianhua Shen, Rongzhen Li, Min Chen, and Chuanmei Sun
Intended for students with no background in Chinese. An intensive course with emphasis on spoken language and drills. Pronunciation, grammatical analysis, conversation practice, and introduction to reading and writing Chinese characters. Credit only on completion of CHNS 120.  L1 RP 1½ Course cr

* CHNS 120a or b, Elementary Modern Chinese II Jianhua Shen and Staff
Continuation of CHNS 110. After CHNS 110 or equivalent.  L2 RP 1½ Course cr

* CHNS 130a or b, Intermediate Modern Chinese I Staff
An intermediate course that continues intensive training in listening, speaking, reading, and writing and consolidates achievements from the first year of study. Students improve oral fluency, study more complex grammatical structures, and enlarge both reading and writing vocabulary. After CHNS 120 or equivalent.  L3 RP 1½ Course cr

* CHNS 132a, Elementary Modern Chinese for Advanced Learners I Fan Liu and Hsiu-hsien Chan
First level of the advanced learner sequence, intended for students with some aural proficiency but limited ability in reading and writing Chinese. Training in listening and speaking, with emphasis on reading and writing. Placement confirmed by placement test and by instructor.  L3 RP 1½ Course cr

* CHNS 140b, Intermediate Modern Chinese II Peisong Xu and Ninghui Liang
Continuation of CHNS 130. To be followed by CHNS 150. After CHNS 130 or equivalent.  L4 RP 1½ Course cr
studies from international enterprises that have successfully entered the Chinese market. After CHNS 155, 162, or equivalent.

Advanced language course with a focus on Chinese business terminology and discourse. Discussion of China’s economic and management reforms, marketing, economic laws, business culture and customs, and economic relations with other countries. After CHNS 140 or equivalent.

Advanced language course with a focus on speaking and writing skills. Issues in contemporary Chinese society explored through media forms such as newspapers, radio, television, and Internet blogs. After CHNS 155, 162, or equivalent.

Advanced language course with a focus on Chinese business terminology and discourse. Discussion of China’s economic and management reforms, marketing, economic laws, business culture and customs, and economic relations with other countries. After CHNS 140 or equivalent.

Advanced language course with a focus on speaking and writing skills. Issues in contemporary Chinese society explored through media forms such as newspapers, radio, television, and Internet blogs. After CHNS 155, 162, or equivalent.

Advanced language course with a focus on Chinese business terminology and discourse. Discussion of China’s economic and management reforms, marketing, economic laws, business culture and customs, and economic relations with other countries. After CHNS 140 or equivalent.

Advanced language course with a focus on Chinese business terminology and discourse. Discussion of China’s economic and management reforms, marketing, economic laws, business culture and customs, and economic relations with other countries. After CHNS 140 or equivalent.
CHNS 170a, Introduction to Literary Chinese I  Michael Hunter
Reading and interpretation of texts in various styles of literary Chinese (wenyan), with attention to basic problems of syntax and literary style. After CHNS 151, 153, or equivalent. 1.5

CHNS 171b, Introduction to Literary Chinese II  Pauline Lin
Continuation of CHNS 170. After CHNS 170. 1.5

Japanese

* JAPN 110a, Elementary Japanese I  Aoi Saito, Yoshiko Maruyama, Koichi Hiroe, Michiaki Murata, Masahiko Seto, and Hiroyo Nishimura
Introductory language course for students with no previous background in Japanese. Development of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including 50 hiragana, 50 katakana, and 75 kanji characters. Introduction to cultural aspects such as levels of politeness and group concepts. In-class drills in pronunciation and conversation. Individual tutorial sessions improve conversational skills. Credit only on completion of JAPN 120. L1 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 120b, Elementary Japanese II  Aoi Saito, Yoshiko Maruyama, Koichi Hiroe, Michiaki Murata, Masahiko Seto, and Hiroyo Nishimura
Continuation of JAPN 110, with additional materials such as excerpts from television shows, anime, and songs. Introduction of 150 additional kanji. After JAPN 110 or equivalent. L2 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 130a, Intermediate Japanese I  Yoshiko Maruyama and Mari Stever
Continued development in both written and spoken Japanese. Aspects of Japanese culture, such as history, art, religion, and cuisine, explored through text, film, and animation. Online audio and visual aids facilitate listening, as well as the learning of grammar and kanji. Individual tutorial sessions improve conversational skills. After JAPN 120 or equivalent. L3 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 140b, Intermediate Japanese II  Mari Stever and Yoshiko Maruyama
Continuation of JAPN 130. After JAPN 130 or equivalent. L4 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 150a, Advanced Japanese I  Mari Stever and Aoi Saito
Advanced language course that further develops proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Reading and discussion materials include works by Nobel Prize winners. Japanese anime and television dramas are used to enhance listening and to develop skills in culturally appropriate speech. Writing of essays, letters, and criticism solidifies grammar and style. Individual tutorial sessions improve conversational skills. After JAPN 140 or equivalent. L5 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 151b, Advanced Japanese II  Mari Stever and Aoi Saito
Continuation of JAPN 150. After JAPN 150 or equivalent. L5 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 156a, Advanced Japanese III  Michiaki Murata and Hiroyo Nishimura
Close reading of modern Japanese writing on current affairs, social science, history, and literature. Development of speaking and writing skills in academic settings, including formal speeches, interviews, discussions, letters, e-mail, and expository writing. Interviews of and discussions with native speakers on current issues. Individual tutorial sessions provide speaking practice. L5 RP 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 157b, Advanced Japanese IV  Michiaki Murata and Hiroyo Nishimura
Continuation of JAPN 156. After JAPN 156 or equivalent. L5 1½ Course cr

* JAPN 162a, Reading Academic Japanese I  James Scanlon-Canegata
Close reading of major writings from the Meiji era to the present, including newspaper articles, scholarly works, fiction, and prose. Students gain a command of academic Japanese through comprehensive study of grammar in the context of culture. Individual tutorial sessions provide speaking practice. After JAPN 157 or equivalent; recommended to be taken after or concurrently with JAPN 170. L5

* JAPN 163b, Reading Academic Japanese II  Masahiko Seto
Continuation of JAPN 162. After JAPN 162 or equivalent; recommended to be taken after JAPN 170. L5

* JAPN 164a and JAPN 165b, Academic and Professional Spoken Japanese  Koichi Hiroe
Advanced language course with a focus on the speaking skills necessary in academic and professional settings. Includes online interviews, discussions, and debates with native Japanese students and scholars on contemporary topics such as globalization, environment, technology, human rights, and cultural studies. Individual tutorial sessions provide speaking practice. After JAPN 157 or equivalent. L5

* JAPN 165b, Academic and Professional Spoken Japanese  Koichi Hiroe
Advanced language course with a focus on the speaking skills necessary in academic and professional settings. Includes online interviews, discussions, and debates with native Japanese students and scholars on contemporary topics such as globalization, environment, technology, human rights, and cultural studies. Individual tutorial sessions provide speaking practice. After JAPN 164 or equivalent. L5

JAPN 170a, Introduction to Literary Japanese  Edward Kamens
Introduction to the grammar and style of the premodern literary language (bungōtai) through a variety of texts. After JAPN 151 or equivalent. L5
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* JAPN 171b, Readings in Literary Japanese  Jeffrey Niedermaier
Close analytical reading of a selection of texts from the Nara through the Tokugawa periods: prose, poetry, and various genres. Introduction to kanbun. After JAPN 170 or equivalent.  L5

Korean

* KREN 110a, Elementary Korean I  Angela Lee-Smith
A beginning course in modern Korean. Pronunciation, lectures on grammar, conversation practice, and introduction to the writing system (Hankul). Credit only on completion of KREN 120.  L1  RP  1½ Course cr

* KREN 120b, Elementary Korean II  Seungja Choi
Continuation of KREN 110. After KREN 110 or equivalent.  L2  RP  1½ Course cr

* KREN 130a, Intermediate Korean I  Seungja Choi
Continued development of skills in modern Korean, spoken and written, leading to intermediate-level proficiency. After KREN 120 or equivalent.  L3  RP  1½ Course cr

* KREN 132a, Intermediate Korean for Advanced Learners I  Seungja Choi
Intended for students with some oral proficiency but little or no training in Hankul. Focus on grammatical analysis, the standard spoken language, and intensive training in reading and writing.  L3  RP  1½ Course cr

* KREN 140b, Intermediate Korean II  Angela Lee-Smith
Continuation of KREN 130. After KREN 130 or equivalent.  L4  RP  1½ Course cr

* KREN 142b, Intermediate Korean for Advanced Learners II  Angela Lee-Smith
Continuation of KREN 132. After KREN 132 or equivalent.  L4  RP  1½ Course cr

* KREN 152a, Advanced Korean for Advanced Learners  Angela Lee-Smith
An advanced course in modern Korean. Reading of short stories, essays, and journal articles, and introduction of 200 Chinese characters. Students develop their speaking and writing skills through discussions and written exercises. After KREN 142 or 151, or with permission of instructor.  L5  1½ Course cr

* KREN 154b, Advanced Korean III  Seungja Choi
An advanced language course designed to develop reading and writing skills using Web-based texts in a variety of genres. Students read texts independently and complete comprehension and vocabulary exercises through the Web. Discussions, tests, and intensive writing training in class. After KREN 151 or equivalent.  L5