EAST ASIAN STUDIES

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In the East Asian Studies major, students focus on a country or an area within East Asia and concentrate their work in the humanities or the social sciences. The major offers a liberal education that serves as excellent preparation for graduate study or for business and professional careers in which an understanding of East Asia is essential.

The major in East Asian Studies is interdisciplinary, and students typically select classes from a wide variety of disciplines. The proposed course of study must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies.

PREREQUISITE

The prerequisite to the major is completion of study at the L2 level of an East Asian language taught at Yale or the equivalent.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Beyond the prerequisite, the major consists of thirteen course credits, which may include up to six taken in a preapproved program of study abroad. Six course credits must be taken in East Asian language courses, including a course at the L4 level and one year of advanced study (L5) with readings in the East Asian language.

Beyond the language requirement, the major includes seven course credits, six in the country or area of concentration and one outside it. Of the course credits in the area of concentration, one must be in the premodern period, at least two must be seminars, and one is the senior requirement (see below). These courses are normally taken at Yale during the academic year, but with prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies the requirement may be fulfilled through successful course work undertaken elsewhere.

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

During the senior year, all students must satisfy a senior requirement consisting of a major research project that uses Chinese, Japanese, or Korean-language materials, reflects an up-to-date understanding of the region, and demonstrates a strong command of written English. This requirement can be met in one of three ways. Students may take a seminar that relates to the country or area of concentration, culminating in a senior thesis. Alternatively, students who are unable to write a senior essay in a seminar may complete a one-term senior essay in EAST 480 or a one-credit, two-term senior research project in EAST 491, 492 culminating in an essay. The adviser for the senior project should be a faculty member associated with the Council on East Asian Studies with a reading knowledge of the target language materials consulted for the essay.

ADVISING

Selection of courses

Upon entering the major, students are expected to draw up an intellectually coherent sequence of courses in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. They must consult with the director of undergraduate studies each term concerning their course schedules. They should identify as soon as possible a faculty adviser in their area of specialization. As a multidisciplinary program, East Asian Studies draws on the resources of other departments and programs in the University. Students are encouraged to examine the offerings of other departments in both the humanities and the social sciences, as well as residential college seminars, for additional relevant courses. The stated area of concentration of each student determines the relevance and acceptability of other courses. For a complete listing of courses approved for the major, see the Council on East Asian Studies Website.

Courses in the graduate and professional schools

Qualified students may elect pertinent courses in the Graduate School and in some of the professional schools with permission of the instructor, the EAST director of undergraduate studies, and the director of graduate studies of the relevant department or the dean or registrar of the professional school.

Combined B.A./M.A. degree program

Exceptionally able and well-prepared students may complete a course of study leading to the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees after eight terms of enrollment. See “Simultaneous Award of the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees” in section K of the Academic Regulations. Interested students should consult the director of undergraduate studies prior to the fifth term of enrollment for specific requirements in East Asian Studies.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisite

L2 level of an East Asian language taught at Yale or the equivalent

Number of courses

13 course credits beyond prereq (incl senior req); up to 6 may be in preapproved study abroad

Distribution of courses

6 course credits in East Asian language courses, incl 1 L4 course and 1 year at L5 level with readings in the lang; 6 addtl course credits in country or area of concentration, incl 1 in premodern era and 2 sems; 1 course credit on East Asia outside country or area of concentration

Senior requirement

Senior sem culminating in senior thesis, or one-term senior essay in EAST 480, or one-credit, two-term senior research proj in EAST 491, 492
Courses

* EAST 030a / HIST 030a, Tokyo  
  Fabian Drixler  
  Four centuries of Japan’s history explored through the many incarnations, destructions, and rebirths of its foremost city. Focus on the solutions found by Tokyo’s residents to the material and social challenges of concentrating such a large population in one place. Tensions between continuity and impermanence, authenticity and modernity, and social order and the culture of play. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  
  WR, HU

* EAST 032a / HIST 032a, Shanghai  
  Denise Ho  
  History of the city of Shanghai, with a focus on how Shanghai has been seen and what its experience reveals about modern China. Shanghai’s unique place in imagining China; its transformation in the nineteenth century from a fishing village to an international “treaty port” and China’s gateway to the West; twentieth-century Shanghai as a site of innovation, from politics and capitalism to media and fashion; the city’s vilification in the early Mao years and later reemergence as a symbol of China’s modernization. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  
  WR, HU

EAST 301b / HIST 307b, The Making of Japan’s Great Peace, 1550–1850  
  Fabian Drixler  
  Examination of how, after centuries of war in Japan and overseas, the Tokugawa shogunate built a peace that lasted more than 200 years. Japan’s urban revolution, the eradication of Christianity, the Japanese discovery of Europe, and the question of whether Tokugawa Japan is a rare example of a complex and populous society that achieved ecological sustainability.  
  HU

* EAST 309a / HIST 309Ja, Uses of the Past in Modern China  
  Denise Ho  
  Modern China’s use of the past in state-sponsored narratives of nation, in attempts to construct heritage by elites and intellectuals, and in grassroots projects of remembrance. Theories on history and memory; primary sources in English translation; case studies from twentieth-century China. Interdisciplinary readings in art history, anthropology, cultural studies, and history.  
  WR, HU

EAST 310a / GLBL 309a / PLSC 357a, The Rise of China  
  Daniel Mattingly  
  Analysis of contemporary Chinese politics, with focus on how the country has become a major power and how the regime has endured. Topics include China’s recent history, state, ruling party, economy, censorship, elite politics, and foreign policy.  
  SO

* EAST 327a, Race and Ethnicity in East Asia and Beyond  
  Kazuko Suzuki  
  Exploration of how racial, ethnic, and national identities—the sense of being Japanese, Korean, and Chinese—change in different social, political, and historical contexts. Consideration of how majorities and minorities are made and marked across cultural, regional, and national boundaries by examining issues surrounding major minority groups in East Asia and East Asians outside their home countries.  
  SO

* EAST 336b / MUSI 236b, Performing Rituals in East Asian Traditions  
  Staff  
  Examination of ritual practices in religious, philosophical, and cosmological traditions associated with East Asia. Students explore how Buddhist chants, Shamanist performances, Confucian ceremonies, and Christian prayers—were and are—as enacted as scripted or improvised performances of bodies, voices, and instruments; have meanings for practitioners; and are important in East Asia’s pursuit of nationhood, modernization, and globalization in the twentieth century.  
  HU

EAST 338a / ECON 338a / GLBL 318a, The Next China  
  Stephen Roach  
  Economic development in China since the late 1970s. Emphasis on factors pushing China toward a transition from its modern export- and investment-led development model to a pro-consumption model. The possibility of a resulting identity crisis, underscored...
by China’s need to embrace political reform and by the West’s long-standing misperceptions of China. Prerequisite: introductory macroeconomics. SO

* EAST 358b / EALL 256b / GLBL 251b / 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, Mandarinization, labor and migration, Chinese America, nationalism and humiliation, and art and counterfeit. Readings and discussion in English. HU

EAST 375b / HIST 375b, China from Mao to Now Denise Ho
The history of the People’s Republic of China from Mao to now, with a focus on understanding the recent Chinese past and framing contemporary events in China in historical context. How the party-state is organized; interactions between state and society; causes and consequences of economic disparities; ways in which various groups—from intellectuals to religious believers—have shaped the meaning of contemporary Chinese society. HU

* EAST 401b / SOCY 305b, State and Society Relations in Post-Socialist China Abigail Coplin
Focus on the interplay of state, market, and society in contemporary China. How institutions of the market reform era have redistributed material assets, political power, and social capital among different groups of social actors and how to use contemporary China as a case with which to engage social and political theory. SO

* EAST 402b / HIST 303b, Everyday Life in Modern Korea, 1800 to the Present Holly Stephens
The history of modern Korea, from 1800 to the present. Tracing major events that reshaped Korean society, including reform and rebellion in the nineteenth century, empire and colonialism, war, industrialization, democratization, and the political tensions surrounding North and South Korea. Consideration of the everyday lives of Koreans who lived through “the headlines” and how we have come to understand Korean history in the present. HU

* EAST 403b / ANTH 411b, Biological, Archaeological, and Historical Perspectives of Early East Asia Leland Rogers
Exploration of prehistoric and early-historical interactions of the peoples of northeast Asia from 3000 B.C.E. through the Han Dynasty period, including foundational influences involved in the construction of the modern concept of “East Asia.” Focus on early demographic and genetic data as revealed by ancient DNA and population genetics analyses; introduction to analytical and methodological approaches to DNA analysis in relation to the material culture and textual records. No prior experience with genetics or biological anthropology required. SO

* EAST 404a / EALL 288a / 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

* EAST 405a / PLSC 405a, Microfoundations of Japanese Politics Seiki Tanaka
Examination of Japanese politics from a comparative perspective; how Japanese politics and society work and how Japan resembles and differs from other democracies. Topics include elections, gender discrimination, immigration, disaster relief, economic policy, foreign policies, structural changes such as population aging, and the rise of China. Students develop skills for evaluating and constructing causal arguments about politics across time and space and learn how to study empirical implications of causal arguments. SO

* EAST 408a / EP&E 269a / SOCY 395a, Wealth and Poverty in Modern China Deborah Davis
The underlying causes and consequences of the changing distribution of income, material assets, and political power in contemporary China. Substantive focus on inequality and stratification. Instruction in the use of online Chinese resources relevant to research. Optional weekly Chinese language discussions. Prerequisite: a previous course on China since 1949. SO

* EAST 414a / ANTH 414a, Hubs, Mobilities, and World Cities Helen Siu and Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer
Analysis of urban life in historical and contemporary societies. Topics include capitalist and postmodern transformations; class, gender, ethnicity, and migration; and global landscapes of power and citizenship. SO RP

* EAST 454b / ECON 474b / GLBL 312b, Economic and Policy Lessons from Japan Stephen Roach
An evaluation of modern Japan’s prostrated economic problems and of their potential implications for other economies, including the United States, Europe, and China. Policy blunders, structural growth impediments, bubbles, the global economic crisis of 2008, and Abenomics; risks of secular stagnation and related dangers to the global economy from subpar post-crisis recoveries. Focus on policy remedies to avert similar problems in other countries. Prerequisite: an introductory course in macroeconomics. SO

EAST 480a or b, One-Term Senior Essay Frances Rosenbluth
Preparation of a one-term senior essay under the guidance of a faculty adviser. Students must receive the prior agreement of the director of undergraduate studies and of the faculty member who will serve as the senior essay adviser. Students must arrange to meet with that adviser on a regular basis throughout the term.

* EAST 491a and EAST 492b, Senior Research Project Frances Rosenbluth
Two-term directed research project under the supervision of a ladder faculty member. Students should write essays using materials in East Asian languages when possible. Essays should be based on primary material, whether in an East Asian language or English. Summary of secondary material is not acceptable. Credit for EAST 491 only on completion of EAST 492. ½ Course cr per term
Electives within the Major

PREMODERN PERIOD

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

* 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 economics 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 HU

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. HU TR

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. HU TR

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. HU TR

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. HU

* 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. HU

* EALL 256a / 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. WR, HU

* EALL 305b, 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 (qu) 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 TR
HIST 101a, The World Circa 1000  Anders Winroth and Valerie Hansen
A study of the world's major societies and the encounters among them circa 1000, when globalization began. Attention to China, India, Europe, the Vikings, Africa, the Islamic world, Amerindians including the Maya. Analysis of written and archaeological sources.  HU

HIST 321b, China from Present to Past, 2015–600  Peter Perdue
Underlying causes of current issues facing China traced back to their origins in the premodern period. Topics include economic development, corruption, environmental crises, gender, and Pacific island disputes. Selected primary-source readings in English, images, videos, and Web resources.  HU

HSAR 143b / RLST 188b / SAST 260b, Introduction to the History of Art: Buddhist Art and Architecture, 900 to 1600  Mimi Yiengpruksawan
Buddhist art and architecture of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Tibet from the tenth century to the early modern period. Emphasis on cross-regional engagements including the impact of Islam.  HU

* HSAR 453a, Textiles of Asia, 800–1800 C.E.  Ruth Barnes
Survey of the great textile traditions of China, India, and the Islamic world from the ninth through eighteenth centuries C.E. The roles of central and southeast Asia in the transmission of styles and techniques. The cultural meaning, mobility, and cross-cultural significance of textiles in Asia. Extensive use of the Yale University Art Gallery’s textile collections.  HU

JAPN 170a, Introduction to Literary Japanese  Edward Kamens
Introduction to the grammar and style of the premodern literary language (bungotai) through a variety of texts. After JAPN 151 or equivalent.  L5

* 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

* RLST 127a / SAST 467a, Visual Worlds of Himalayan Buddhism  Andrew Quintman
The role of images and imagining in the religious traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. How Tibetan Buddhist cultures produce religious images; ways of visualizing those images to invest them with meaning. Topics include specific modes of visual representation, relationships between text and image, social lives of images, and processes of reading and interpretation.  HU

* RLST 182b / SAST 490b, Buddhist Traditions of Mind and Meditation  Andrew Quintman
Buddhist meditation practices examined in the context of traditional theories of mind, perception, and cognition. Readings both from Buddhist canonical works and from secondary scholarship on cognitive science and ritual practice. Recommended preparation: a course in Asian religions.  HU

MODERN PERIOD

ANTH 254a, Japan: Culture, Society, Modernity  Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer
Introduction to Japanese society and culture. The historical development of Japanese society; family, work, and education in contemporary Japan; Japanese aesthetics; and psychological, sociological, and cultural interpretations of Japanese behavior.  WR, SO Anthropology: Sociocultural

* ANTH 414a / EAST 417a, Hubs, Mobilities, and World Cities  Helen Siu and Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer
Analysis of urban life in historical and contemporary societies. Topics include capitalist and postmodern transformations; class, gender, ethnicity, and migration; and global landscapes of power and citizenship.  SO RP

* ARCH 341a / GLBL 253a / LAST 318a, Globalization Space  Keller Easterling
Infrastructure space as a primary medium of change in global polity. Networks of trade, energy, communication, transportation, spatial products, finance, management, and labor, as well as new strains of political opportunity that reside within their spatial disposition. Case studies include free zones and automated ports around the world, satellite urbanism in South Asia, high-speed rail in Japan and the Middle East, agripoles in southern Spain, fiber optic submarine cable in East Africa, spatial products of tourism in North Korea, and management platforms of the International Organization for Standardization.  HU

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.  HU

* EALL 269b / LITR 251b, Japanese Literature after 1970  Stephen Poland
Study of Japanese literature published between 1970 and the present. Writers may include Murakami Ryu, Maruya Saiichi, Shimada Masahiko, Nakagami Kenji, Yoshimoto Banana, Yamada Eimi, Murakami Haruki, and Medoruma Shun. Enrollment limited to 20. No knowledge of Japanese required.  HU

* EALL 352a, 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 TR

* ECON 442b, Microfoundations of Growth in China Xiaoxue Zhao
A comprehensive overview of the challenges China faces as it transitions from a centrally planned economy to adopting a greater reliance on market-based mechanisms. Review of microeconomic literature on China’s recent economic and institutional transformation to provide a general analytical framework for understanding the economic implications of the process. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. SO

* GLBL 312b / EAST 454b / ECON 474b, Economic and Policy Lessons from Japan Stephen Roach
An evaluation of modern Japan’s protracted economic problems and of their potential implications for other economies, including the United States, Europe, and China. Policy blunders, structural growth impediments, bubbles, the global economic crisis of 2008, and Abenomics; risks of secular stagnation and related dangers to the global economy from subpar post-crisis recoveries. Focus on policy remedies to avert similar problems in other countries. Prerequisite: an introductory course in macroeconomics. SO Global Affairs: Development

GLBL 318a / EAST 338a / ECON 338a, The Next China Stephen Roach
Economic development in China since the late 1970s. Emphasis on factors pushing China toward a transition from its modern export-and investment-led development model to a pro-consumption model. The possibility of a resulting identity crisis, underscored by China’s need to embrace political reform and by the West’s long-standing misperceptions of China. Prerequisite: introductory macroeconomics. SO Global Affairs: Development

HIST 319b / MMES 314b / NELC 317b, Islam in Asia Valerie Hansen and Michael Rapoport
Examination of the three countries with the largest Muslim populations (Indonesia, India, and Pakistan) and China. Case studies on how the history of Islam in these countries helps us to understand present-day controversies regarding violence (jihad), gender, law (Shari'a), and governance (caliphate). Exploration of similarity and diversity in beliefs and practices. HU

* HSAR 475b, Chinese Painting in the Seventeenth Century David Sensabaugh
Chinese painting from the masters of the late Ming period to the individualist and orthodox masters of the early Qing dynasty. Issues of art based on either art or nature. Attention to paintings from the period in the Yale University Art Gallery collection. HU

* SOCY 086a, China in the Age of Xi Jinping Deborah Davis
An overview of the major social institutions in contemporary China, with a focus on the changing relationship between individual and society. Use of print and visual sources to explore the social consequences of China’s recent retreat from socialism and its rapid integration into the global economy. May count toward the Sociology major as an intermediate course. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. SO