EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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

Chair
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Assistant Professor Lucas Bender, Rosa van Hensbergen

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Senior Lectors II Seungja Choi, Angela Lee-Smith, Ninghui Liang, Peisong Xu


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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.

Teaching experience is an integral part of the graduate program in East Asian Languages & Literatures. As such, the department requires all students to serve as teaching fellows for four terms, typically in the third and fourth years. With the permission of the DGS, students can substitute a professional development opportunity for a teaching fellowship or, in extraordinary circumstances, reduce their academic teaching requirement by one or more terms. Note that this academic requirement is distinct from the Graduate School’s financial requirement that students serve as teaching fellows for four terms.

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](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 503a, The Tale of Genji**  James Scanlon-Canegata
A reading of the central work of prose fiction in the Japanese classical tradition in its entirety (in English translation) along with some examples of predecessors, parodies, and adaptations (the latter include Noh plays and twentieth-century short stories). Topics of discussion include narrative form, poetics, gendered authorship and readership, and the processes and premises that have given *The Tale of Genji* its place in world literature. Attention is also given to the text’s special relationship to visual culture. No knowledge of Japanese required. A previous college-level course in the study of literary texts is recommended but not required.

**EALL 512b, Ancient Chinese Thought**  Mick 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. This is primarily an undergraduate course; graduate students are provided readings in the original language and meet in an additional session to review translations.

**EALL 552b / EAST 509a / FILM 881b, Japanese Cinema before 1960**  Aaron Gerow
The history of Japanese cinema to 1960, including the social, cultural, and industrial backgrounds to its development. Periods covered include the silent era, the coming of sound and the wartime period, the occupation era, the golden age of the 1950s, and the new modernism of the late 1950s.

**EALL 563a / EAST 509a, Ecocritical Theory and Japanese Literature**  Christine Marran
In this course students develop familiarity with key theories and discourses that enable serious consideration of the more-than-human world in literature. Students analyze how theories of the material turn, the nonhuman turn, and specific works of Japanese and Japanese-American/Canadian literature are productive and necessary to area studies and literary studies in our age of rising seas. We analyze different concepts of the material and more-than-human world through various schools of thought including new materialism, speculative realism, object-oriented ontology, obligate storytelling, and archipelagic/aquapelagic thinking. We discuss core movements in theory and treat literary forms as their own site of theoretical production. We explore how to incorporate these new materialist and speculative realist perspectives into
our own literary analysis and the merits for doing so. Advanced undergraduate and
graduate students from all departments are invited to take this course. Required
readings will be in English or English translation. Students are asked to read
approximately 200 pages per week on average. Students are encouraged to consider
the relevance of these methodological approaches to their own research and primary
materials. No Japanese proficiency is required for this course.

**EALL 600b / EAST 640b, 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 733a, Zhuangzi**  Mick Hunter

An in-depth examination of one of the great masterworks of ancient philosophy.
Topics vary according to student interest but include: the interpretation of the text,
its formation and history, its reception in the commentarial and scholarly literature,
and its role in the modern construction of classical Chinese philosophy. This seminar
is designed primarily for students who can read classical Chinese but is also open to
students reading the text in translation. In that event, we will hold separate sessions for
students working in the original language. Proficiency in classical Chinese is preferred
but not absolutely necessary.

**EALL 745b, Readings in Medieval Chinese Thought**  Lucas Bender

This class considers documents pertaining to the intellectual history of medieval China,
roughly from the end of the Han dynasty in 220 CE to the end of the Tang dynasty
in 907. Texts change from term to term. Readings are in the original, so prospective
students should have a firm background in Literary Chinese. Prerequisites: CHNS 170
and 171 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

**EALL 753b / MDVL 975b / RLST 955b, Proseminar for Jobseekers in Premodern Fields**  Lucas Bender

This course is intended for doctoral students studying premodern cultures, who have
advanced to candidacy and plan to seek employment within the academy, broadly
construed. Over the course of the semester, students work with peers as well as faculty convener to build the skills they need to present their research to others in a clear, compelling way. Topics covered include genres of academic writing; modes of publication; CV building; preparing standard application materials; and interviewing. Weekly sessions generally include workshop time as well as presentations by the convener and visitors. Students work toward at least one end product relevant to their plans, e.g., a fully drafted application for a dissertation completion fellowship, job, or postdoc. This proseminar is particularly directed toward students affiliated with ARCHAIA and Medieval Studies but welcomes all those with research interests in the premodern world. The broad range of primary specialties represented provides
students with experience engaging with scholars outside their field, which is increasingly essential for premodernists in the modern academic world.

**EALL 893a / FILM 893a, Japanese Comedy**  Aaron Gerow
Survey of the history of Japanese comedy, focusing on humor in Japanese performance, literature, cinema, television, and other media, and analyzing its socio-cultural and ideological implications over time. The seminar will concentrate on the Meiji period on, though it will cover some of the history before that. Knowledge of Japanese is required.

**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 990a 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**  James Scanlon-Canegata
Introduction to the grammar and style of the premodern literary language (*bungotai*) through a variety of texts. Prerequisite: JAPN 151 or equivalent.