

East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture

The Major

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures offers an undergraduate major in East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture. This major is designed to give students a deep understanding of the philosophical and religious traditions central to East Asia's diverse cultures. The curriculum emphasizes a comprehensive approach that includes rigorous training in the texts, languages, and cultural contexts of East Asian societies. Students will explore how these age-old traditions influence modern societies and how they can be integrated into various humanistic disciplines. This major aims to cultivate a nuanced appreciation of East Asia's rich intellectual heritage and contemporary relevance.

Honors Program:

Students who demonstrate exceptional academic ability can undertake an honors thesis. Details on requirements and application procedures are under the Major Requirements tab.

Minor Program

There is no minor program in East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture. Students interested in Buddhism should consider the Buddhist Studies (<https://buddhiststudies.berkeley.edu/buddhist-studies/undergraduate-studies-cbs/>) minor offered by the Group in Buddhist Studies.

Other Majors and Minors Offered by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Chinese Language (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/chinese-language/>) (Major and Minor)
 East Asian Humanities (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/east-asian-humanities/>) (Major only)
 Japanese Language (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/japanese-language/>) (Major and Minor)
 Korean Language (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/korean-language/>) (Minor only)
 Tibetan (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/tibetan/>) (Minor only)

In addition to the University, campus, and college requirements listed on the College Requirements tab, students must fulfill the requirements specific to their major program.

General Guidelines

1. All courses that fulfill the major requirements below must be taken for graded credit, other than courses listed on a *Pass/No Pass* basis only.
2. No more than one upper division course may simultaneously fulfill requirements for a student's major and minor programs, except for minors offered outside the College of Letters & Science.
3. A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 must be maintained in both upper- and lower-division courses used to fulfill the major requirements.

4. Students with previous language experience must take a placement exam (<https://ealc.berkeley.edu/programs/undergraduate/placement-exams/>) for the required language sequence (four courses in one of the required languages). Students placed out of lower-level language courses must make up those units with replacement courses in higher-level language courses.
5. No more than two upper-division courses can be taken outside the EALC department, and the undergraduate advisor must approve them. A course syllabus may be required to approve courses outside the department.

Please see the College Requirements tab for information regarding residence and unit requirements.

Declaring the Major

Students are advised to begin preparation for the major as soon as possible while completing university, college, and department requirements. Students are admitted to the major after completing the prerequisites (with a grade of C or higher). Please see the Major Requirements tab on this page for information regarding the prerequisites. Students can view the department's East Asian Religion Thought & Culture major page (<https://ealc.berkeley.edu/programs/undergraduate/undergraduate-requirements/east-asian-religion-major-requirements/>) for the most up-to-date information.

Students interested in majoring in the program should schedule an appointment with the undergraduate adviser (<https://calendly.com/cassandra-dunn-ug-advisor/>) regarding major requirements, transfer credits, and other academic concerns.

Prerequisites

Select one language course:

CHINESE 1A	Elementary Chinese (or higher level)	4-5
	or CHINESE 1A Accelerated Elementary Chinese for Heritage Speakers	
JAPAN 1A	Elementary Japanese (or higher level)	5
TIBETAN 1A	Elementary Tibetan (or higher level)	5
One course from the List A (Core Course) Requirements		4
BUDDSTD 190	Topics in the Study of Buddhism	4
CHINESE 51	Chinese Thought in the Han Dynasty	4
CHINESE 110A	Introduction to Literary Chinese	4
CHINESE 110B	Introduction to Literary Chinese	4
CHINESE C116	Buddhism in China	4
CHINESE 130	Topics in Daoism	4
CHINESE C140	Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts	4
CHINESE 186	Confucius and His Interpreters	4
EA LANG C50	Introduction to the Study of Buddhism	4
EA LANG 110	Bioethics in Asian Thought and Culture	4
EA LANG C120	Buddhism on the Silk Road	4
EA LANG C128	Buddhism in Contemporary Society	4
EA LANG C130	Zen Buddhism	4
EA LANG C132	Pure Land Buddhism	4
EA LANG C135	Tantric Traditions of Asia	4
EA LANG C152	Buddhist Astral Science	4
JAPAN C115	Buddhism and its Culture in Japan	4
JAPAN 116	Introduction to the Religions of Japan	4
JAPAN 120	Introduction to Classical Japanese	4

JAPAN C141	Introductory Readings in Kanbun	4
JAPAN 144	Edo Literature	4
JAPAN 146	Japanese Historical Documents	4
MONGOLN C117	Mongolian Buddhism	4
TIBETAN 110A	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN 110B	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN C114	Tibetan Buddhism	4
TIBETAN 116	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN C154	Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism	4

Major Requirements (including prerequisites)

Language Requirement

Select Chinese, Japanese, or Tibetan and complete a four-course sequence

Chinese

CHINESE 1A & CHINESE 1B	Elementary Chinese and Elementary Chinese	10
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Or

CHINESE 1X Accelerated Elementary Chinese for Heritage
& CHINESE 1Y Speakers
and Elementary Chinese for Heritage Speakers

CHINESE 10A & CHINESE 10B	Intermediate Chinese and Intermediate Chinese ¹	10
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Or

CHINESE 10X Accelerated Intermediate Chinese for Heritage
Speakers
& CHINESE 10Y and Course Not Available

Japanese

JAPAN 1A & JAPAN 1B	Elementary Japanese and Elementary Japanese	10
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JAPAN 10A Intermediate Japanese
& JAPAN 10B and Intermediate Japanese ¹

Tibetan

TIBETAN 1A & TIBETAN 1B	Elementary Tibetan and Elementary Tibetan	\
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TIBETAN 10A Course Not Available
& TIBETAN 10B and Course Not Available ¹

East Asian Tools & Methods - Philosophy & Religion

EA LANG 191	Tools and Methods in the Study of East Asian Philosophy and Religion ⁴	4
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Six courses from the List A (Core Course) Requirements 20

BUDDSTD 190	Topics in the Study of Buddhism	4
CHINESE 51	Chinese Thought in the Han Dynasty	4
CHINESE 110A	Introduction to Literary Chinese	4
CHINESE 110B	Introduction to Literary Chinese	4
CHINESE C116	Buddhism in China	4
CHINESE 130	Topics in Daoism	4
CHINESE C140	Readings in Chinese Buddhist Texts	4
CHINESE 186	Confucius and His Interpreters	4
EA LANG C50	Introduction to the Study of Buddhism	4
EA LANG 110	Bioethics in Asian Thought and Culture	4
EA LANG C120	Buddhism on the Silk Road	4

EA LANG C128	Buddhism in Contemporary Society	4
EA LANG C130	Zen Buddhism	4
EA LANG C132	Pure Land Buddhism	4
EA LANG C135	Tantric Traditions of Asia	4
EA LANG C152	Buddhist Astral Science	4
JAPAN C115	Buddhism and its Culture in Japan	4
JAPAN 116	Introduction to the Religions of Japan	4
JAPAN 120	Introduction to Classical Japanese	4
JAPAN C141	Introductory Readings in Kanbun	4
JAPAN 144	Edo Literature	4
JAPAN 146	Japanese Historical Documents	4
MONGOLN C117	Mongolian Buddhism	4
TIBETAN 110A	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN 110B	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN C114	Tibetan Buddhism	4
TIBETAN 116	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN C154	Death, Dreams, and Visions in Tibetan Buddhism	4

Two Supplementary Disciplinary Breadth courses (List B) ³

Art History

HISTART 130A	Early Chinese Art, Part I	4
HISTART 131A	Sacred Arts in China	4
HISTART 134A	Topics in Buddhist Art and Architecture: Buddhist Temple Art & Architecture in Japan	4
HISTART 134B	Topics in Buddhist Art and Architecture: Buddhist Icons in Japan	4
HISTART 134C	Topics in Buddhist Art and Architecture: Buddhist Art in the Modern/Contemporary World	4
HISTART 190A	Special Topics in Fields of Art History: Asian (When topic is relevant.see advisor for approval)	4

Film

CHINESE 172	Contemporary Chinese Language Cinema	4
EA LANG 180	East Asian Film: Directors and their Contexts	4
EA LANG 181	East Asian Film: Special Topics in Genre	4
JAPAN 185	Introduction to Japanese Cinema	4
JAPAN 188	Japanese Visual Culture: Introduction to Anime	4
JAPAN 189	Topics in Japanese Film	4
KOREAN 186	Introduction to Korean Cinema	4
KOREAN 187	History and Memory in Korean Cinema	4
KOREAN 188	Cold War Culture in Korea: Literature and Film	4
KOREAN 189	Korean Film Authors	4

History

HISTORY 100F	Special Topics in Asian History (When topic is relevant, see advisor for approval)	4
HISTORY 103F	Proseminar: Problems in Interpretation in the Several Fields of History: Asia (When topic is relevant, see advisor for approval)	4
HISTORY 113B	Modern Korean History	4
HISTORY 116A	China: Early China	4
HISTORY 116B	China: Two Golden Ages: China During the Tang and Song Dynasties	4
HISTORY 116C	China: Modern China	4
HISTORY 116D	China: Twentieth-Century China	4
HISTORY 116G	Imperial China and the World	4

HISTORY 117A	Topics in Chinese History: Chinese Popular Culture	4
HISTORY 117D	Topics in Chinese History: The Chinese Body: Gender and Sex, Health, and Medicine	4
HISTORY 118A	Japan: Japan, Archaeological Period to 1800	4
HISTORY 118B	Japan: Japan 1800-1900	4
HISTORY 118C	The Twentieth Century in Japan	4
HISTORY 119A	Topics in Japanese History: Postwar Japan	4
MONGOLN 116	The Mongol Empire	4
MONGOLN 118	Modern Mongolia	4
TIBETAN 118	Course Not Available	4
TIBETAN 119	Course Not Available	4
Philosophy		
PHILOS 153	Chinese Philosophy	4
Religious Studies		
ANTHRO 158	Religion and Anthropology	4
EA LANG C126	Buddhism and the Environment	4
RELIGST 190	Topics in the Study of Religion	4
Asian Literature		
CHINESE 120	Ancient Chinese Prose	4
CHINESE 122	Ancient Chinese Poetry	4
CHINESE 134	Readings in Classical Chinese Poetry	4
CHINESE 136	Readings in Medieval Prose	4
CHINESE 153	Reading Taiwan	4
CHINESE 155	Readings in Vernacular Chinese Literature	4
CHINESE 156	Modern Chinese Literature	4
CHINESE 157	Contemporary Chinese Literature	4
CHINESE 158	Reading Chinese Cities	4
CHINESE 176	Bad Emperors: Fantasies of Sovereignty and Transgression in the Chinese Tradition	4
CHINESE 178	Traditional Chinese Drama	4
CHINESE 179	Exploring Premodern Chinese Novels	4
CHINESE 180	The Story of the Stone	4
CHINESE 187	Literature and Media Culture in Taiwan	4
CHINESE 188	Popular Media in Modern China	4
EA LANG 101	Catastrophe, Memory, and Narrative: Comparative Responses to Atrocity in the Twentieth Century	4
EA LANG 105	Dynamics of Romantic Core Values in East Asian Premodern Literature and Contemporary Film	4
EA LANG 106	Expressing the Ineffable in China and Beyond: The Making of Meaning in Poetic Writing	4
EA LANG 107	War, Empire, and Literature in East Asia	4
EA LANG 108	Revising the Classics: Chinese and Greek Poetry in Translation	4
EA LANG 109	History of the Culture of Tea in China and Japan	4
EA LANG 111	Reading Global Politics in Contemporary East Asian Literature	4
EA LANG 112	The East Asian Sixties	4
EA LANG 114	Illness Narratives, Vulnerable Bodies	4
EA LANG 115	Knowing Others, and Being Known: The Art of Writing People	4
EA LANG 116	Modern East Asian Fiction	4
EA LANG 118	Sex and Gender in Premodern Chinese Culture	4
EA LANG 119	The History of Heaven	4

JAPAN 130	Classical Japanese Poetry	4
JAPAN 140	Heian Prose	4
JAPAN 155	Modern Japanese Literature	4
JAPAN 159	Contemporary Japanese Literature	4
JAPAN 170	Classical Japanese Literature in Translation	4
JAPAN 173	Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	4
JAPAN 177	Urami: Rancor and Revenge in Japanese Literature	4
JAPAN 180	Ghosts and the Modern Literary Imagination	4
KOREAN 130	Genre and Occasion in Traditional Poetry	4
KOREAN 140	Narrating Persons and Objects in Traditional Korean Prose	4
KOREAN 150	Modern Korean Poetry	4
KOREAN 153	Readings in Modern Korean Literature	4
KOREAN 155	Modern Korean Fiction	4
KOREAN 157	Contemporary Korean Literature	4
KOREAN 170	Intercultural Encounters in Korean Literature	4
KOREAN 172	Gender and Korean Literature	4
KOREAN 174	Modern Korean Fiction in Translation	4
KOREAN 180	Critical Approaches to Modern Korean Literature	4
KOREAN 185	Picturing Korea	4
MONGOLN 110	Literary Mongolian	4
TIBETAN 115	Course Not Available	4

Honors Program

Criteria:

- Completion of 12 units of upper-division language courses within the department.
- A minimum GPA of 3.5 in these courses.
- An overall GPA of 3.0 at the university.

Program Structure and Requirements:

- Qualified seniors may apply for admission to the honors program.
- Accepted students will enroll in EA LANG H195A and EA LANG H195B honors courses over two consecutive semesters.
- Participants must complete an honors thesis submitted by the 13th week of the semester in which they expect to graduate.

Guidance and Assessment:

- During the program, students will undertake independent advanced study under the guidance of an assigned honors thesis adviser.
- A faculty committee will evaluate the completed thesis and the student's overall performance within the department to determine the level of honors awarded: honors, high honors, or highest honors.

Graduation Criteria:

- To be eligible for honors, students must also achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 in all undergraduate coursework at the

university by graduation. Failure to meet this criterion will result in the non-issuance of honors recognition.

Organizing an Honors Thesis Project

To initiate an Honors Thesis Project in the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures (EALC), a student should follow these steps:

1. Choosing a Supervisor:
 - The student must approach and secure a faculty member from the EALC department to serve as the thesis supervisor. The faculty member should have expertise in the area of study the student wishes to explore.
2. Project Development:
 - Together, the student and the faculty supervisor will determine the topic, scope, and a detailed plan for research and writing of the thesis. This collaborative planning ensures the project is feasible and aligns with academic standards and goals.
3. Forming the Thesis Committee:
 - In consultation with the faculty supervisor, the student will identify and invite two additional faculty members to join the thesis committee. This should be completed by the beginning of the student's final semester before graduation.
 - The committee members provide additional perspectives and expertise, contributing to a robust review and guidance process.
4. Registration and Support:
 - The student should consult with the Undergraduate Advisor to discuss the process for enrolling in the necessary thesis courses and to receive advice on getting started with the thesis project.

These steps are designed to ensure that the student is well-prepared and supported throughout the process of completing the honors thesis, leading to a meaningful and academically rigorous culmination of their studies in the EALC department.

Undergraduate students must fulfill the following requirements in addition to those required by their major program.

For a detailed lists of L&S requirements, please see Overview tab to the right in this guide or visit the L&S Degree Requirements (<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/degree-requirements/>) webpage. For College advising appointments, please visit the L&S Advising (<https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/home/>) Pages.

University of California Requirements

Entry Level Writing

All students who will enter the University of California as freshmen must demonstrate their command of the English language by fulfilling the Entry Level Writing requirement. Fulfillment of this requirement is also a prerequisite to enrollment in all reading and composition courses at UC Berkeley and must be taken for a letter grade.

American History and American Institutions

The American History and American Institutions requirements are based on the principle that all U.S. residents who have graduated from an

American university should have an understanding of the history and governmental institutions of the United States.

Berkeley Campus Requirement

American Cultures

All undergraduate students at Cal need to take and pass this campus requirement course in order to graduate. The requirement offers an exciting intellectual environment centered on the study of race, ethnicity and culture of the United States. AC courses are plentiful and offer students opportunities to be part of research-led, highly accomplished teaching environments, grappling with the complexity of American Culture.

College of Letters & Science Essential Skills Requirements

Quantitative Reasoning

The Quantitative Reasoning requirement is designed to ensure that students graduate with basic understanding and competency in math, statistics, or computer/data science. The requirement may be satisfied by exam or by taking an approved course taken for a letter grade.

Foreign Language

The Foreign Language requirement may be satisfied by demonstrating proficiency in reading comprehension, writing, and conversation in a foreign language equivalent to the second semester college level, either by passing an exam or by completing approved course work taken for a letter grade.

Reading and Composition

In order to provide a solid foundation in reading, writing, and critical thinking the College of Letters and Science requires two semesters of lower division work in composition in sequence. Students must complete parts A & B reading and composition courses in sequential order by the end of their fourth semester for a letter grade.

College of Letters & Science 7 Course Breadth Requirements

Breadth Requirements

The undergraduate breadth requirements provide Berkeley students with a rich and varied educational experience outside of their major program. As the foundation of a liberal arts education, breadth courses give students a view into the intellectual life of the University while introducing them to a multitude of perspectives and approaches to research and scholarship. Engaging students in new disciplines and with peers from other majors, the breadth experience strengthens interdisciplinary connections and context that prepares Berkeley graduates to understand and solve the complex issues of their day.

Unit Requirements

- 120 total units
- Of the 120 units, 36 must be upper division units
- Of the 36 upper division units, 6 must be taken in courses offered outside your major department

Residence Requirements

For units to be considered in "residence," you must be registered in courses on the Berkeley campus as a student in the College of Letters &

Science. Most students automatically fulfill the residence requirement by attending classes at Cal for four years, or two years for transfer students. In general, there is no need to be concerned about this requirement, unless you graduate early, go abroad for a semester or year, or want to take courses at another institution or through UC Extension during your senior year. In these cases, you should make an appointment to meet an L&S College adviser to determine how you can meet the Senior Residence Requirement.

Note: Courses taken through UC Extension do not count toward residence.

Senior Residence Requirement

After you become a senior (with 90 semester units earned toward your B.A. degree), you must complete at least 24 of the remaining 30 units in residence in at least two semesters. To count as residence, a semester must consist of at least 6 passed units. Intercampus Visitor, EAP, and UC Berkeley-Washington Program (UCDC) units are excluded.

You may use a Berkeley Summer Session to satisfy one semester of the Senior Residence requirement, provided that you successfully complete 6 units of course work in the Summer Session and that you have been enrolled previously in the college.

Modified Senior Residence Requirement

Participants in the UC Education Abroad Program (EAP), Berkeley Summer Abroad, or the UC Berkeley Washington Program (UCDC) may meet a Modified Senior Residence requirement by completing 24 (excluding EAP) of their final 60 semester units in residence. At least 12 of these 24 units must be completed after you have completed 90 units.

Upper Division Residence Requirement

You must complete in residence a minimum of 18 units of upper division courses (excluding UCEAP units), 12 of which must satisfy the requirements for your major.

Major maps are experience maps that help undergraduates plan their Berkeley journey based on intended major or field of interest. Featuring student opportunities and resources from your college and department as well as across campus, each map includes curated suggestions for planning your studies, engaging outside the classroom, and pursuing your career goals in a timeline format.

Use the major map below to explore potential paths and design your own unique undergraduate experience:

View the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture Major Map.
(<https://discovery.berkeley.edu/getting-started/major-maps/east-asian-religion-thought-culture/>)

EA LANG R1B Reading and Composition on topics in East Asian Humanities 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The arts of reading a text, summarizing its argument, questioning its suppositions, generating balanced opinions, and expressing those opinions with clarity and effectiveness lie at the center of university life and educated human endeavor. EA Lang R1B is designed to help inculcate those skills, paying particular attention to East Asian humanistic topics. This four-unit course focuses on how to formulate questions and hone observations into well reasoned, coherent, and convincing essays. Attention will be paid to the basic rules of grammar, logical construction, compelling rhetorical approaches, research techniques, library and database skills, and forms of citation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Previously passed an R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Previously passed an articulated R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Score a 4 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature and Composition. Score a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Language and Composition. Score of 5, 6, or 7 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

EA LANG 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2024

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to fifteen freshmen.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week
 8 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week
 10 weeks - 1.5 hours of lecture per week
 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

EA LANG C50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This introduction to the study of Buddhism will consider materials drawn from various Buddhist traditions of Asia, from ancient times down to the present day. However, the course is not intended to be a comprehensive or systematic survey; rather than aiming at breadth, the course is designed around key themes such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, and death. The overarching emphasis throughout the course will be on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and Buddhism in particular.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C50/S, SEASN C52

EA LANG 84 Sophomore Seminar 1 or 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2012

Sophomore seminars are small interactive courses offered by faculty members in departments all across the campus. Sophomore seminars offer opportunity for close, regular intellectual contact between faculty members and students in the crucial second year. The topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 sophomores.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: At discretion of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-6 hours of seminar per week
 10 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar per week
 15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-5 hours of seminar per week
 8 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

EA LANG 101 Catastrophe, Memory, and Narrative: Comparative Responses to Atrocity in the Twentieth Century 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Summer 2015 First 6 Week Session

This course will examine comparative responses to and representations of violent conflict. We will pay attention to how catastrophic events are productive of new forms of expression--oral, written, and visual--as well as destructive of familiar ones. We will examine the ways in which experience and its representation interact during and in the aftermath of extreme violence. Our empirical cases will be drawn from our research on responses to WWII atrocities, and on the post-Cold War civil wars in Africa.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 105 Dynamics of Romantic Core Values in East Asian Premodern Literature and Contemporary Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2019, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session

This course explores representation of romantic love in East Asian cultures in premodern and post-modern contexts. Students develop a better understanding of the similarities and differences in traditional values in three East Asian cultures by comparing how canonical texts of premodern China, Japan and Korea represent romantic relationship. This is followed by the study of several contemporary East Asian films, giving the student the opportunity to explore how traditional values persist, change, or become nexus points of resistance.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Wallace

EA LANG 106 Expressing the Ineffable in China and Beyond: The Making of Meaning in Poetic Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2012, Spring 2010

This course will explore how the Chinese and English-language literary traditions (broadly defined) delineate the realm of the ineffable, and how cultural notions of the inexpressible shape the writing and reading of poems, songs, and a selection of prose pieces, from the uses of figurative language and prosody to genre and canon formation. In addition, in order to deepen our understanding of how writing achieves its aims, some attention will be given to nonverbal modes of expression, including calligraphy and painting--and attempts to render them in writing. Over this course of study, students will not only refine their sensitivity to the power of artistic modes of indirection, but will also hone their skills in close reading, analytical writing, and oral expression. All readings will be in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Varsano

EA LANG 107 War, Empire, and Literature in East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2013, Fall 2008

This course will examine war, empire, and the writing and memorialization of history through an eclectic group of literary, graphic, and cinematic texts from China, Japan, Europe, and the U.S.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG 108 Revising the Classics: Chinese and Greek Poetry in Translation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2006, Spring 2006

This course will explore poetic translation, across languages, across cultures, and across historical ages, not merely from the perspective of the "accuracy" with which a classic text is represented in the translation, but as a window into the nature of poetic tradition and poetic writing itself. Works will be primarily drawn from the Chinese tradition, but in the interest of allowing a comparative discussion of the course's central themes, a significant amount of reading from ancient and modern Greek poetry will be included as well. The goal of the class is not simply to gain familiarity with Chinese poetry and poets, but more fundamentally to gain skill and sophistication in reading, responding to, and thinking about poetry.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Ashmore

EA LANG 109 History of the Culture of Tea in China and Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

In this course we compare the cultural traditions of tea in China and Japan. In addition, using tea as the case study, we analyze the mechanics of the flow of culture across both national boundaries and social practices (such as between poetry and the tea ceremony). Understanding the tea culture of these countries informs students of important and enduring aspects of both cultures, provides an opportunity to discuss the role of religion and art in social practice, provides a forum for cultural comparison, and provides as well an example of the relationship between the two countries and Japanese methods of importing and naturalizing another country's social practice. Korean tea traditions are also briefly considered.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Wallace

EA LANG 110 Bioethics in Asian Thought and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2017

This course will explore some of the most difficult bioethical issues confronting the world today from the perspective of traditional values embedded in the cultural history of India, China, and Japan as evidenced in their religions, legal codes, and political history. Possible topics include population control, abortion, sex-selection, euthanasia, suicide, genetic manipulation, brain-death, and organ transplants.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Blum

EA LANG 111 Reading Global Politics in Contemporary East Asian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016

This class examines the global dynamics and local distinction of literary writings from contemporary East Asia. Beginning with the colonial connections among Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul during the 1920s-1940s, and moving on to texts composed since 2000 in Manila, Hong Kong, India and elsewhere, the course considers how literary writers have grappled with an increasingly integrated global marketplace in which culture, ideas and people circulate alongside (and as) capital. Discussions will reflect on the confluence of culture and politics in literary writings that treat race tension, ecological crisis, capitalist catastrophe and other themes. Primary readings will be supplemented by iconic essays of cultural criticism and recent films.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG 112 The East Asian Sixties 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2017, Spring 2014

The 1960s were a time of historical transformation and upheaval in East Asia. It saw the overthrow of political regimes, the consolidation of communism, unprecedented capitalist expansion, and the emergence of new technologies that affected aesthetic production and consumption. This course explores the multiple aspects of culture, aesthetics, and politics that defined this moment. It asks how and why we can define the 1960s as a period, while considering the significance of defining East Asia (a term which denotes an imagined space of relations) as a particular region at this time.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 114 Illness Narratives, Vulnerable Bodies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

The course will introduce students to narratives about illness, disease and healing written by patients, physicians, caretakers, and others. These narratives report an experience. They reveal the interactions between the unfolding life of the patient and the shifting social meanings attached to illness. We will study the relationships between illness and society through readings of fiction, memoir, films, essays and graphic novels in order to understand how these varied forms of storytelling organize and give meaning to crucial questions about embodiment, disability and emergent forms of sociality enabled by our bodily vulnerabilities.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 115 Knowing Others, and Being Known: The Art of Writing People 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2017

What does it mean to use the medium of writing to “know” a person, and precisely how does one avail oneself of that medium to make oneself—or someone else—“known”? This course will guide students in writing about one of the most challenging of subjects: people. Students will have the opportunity to (a) read deeply in a selection of writings drawn from a range of genres and cultures, to acquaint themselves with a range of rhetorical tools employed in the portrayal of human lives and character, (b) identify the aims of their own writings, and (c) develop competency in applying what they have learned as readers to their own writing.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

EA LANG 116 Modern East Asian Fiction 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2017

Comparative analysis of modern literature from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Korea, and Japan with an emphasis on the short story and the novel. We will think about both the specificities of the literatures of the region as well as shared and interconnected experiences of modernity that broadly connect the cultures of East Asia during the twentieth century. Thematic concerns will include: modernism and modernity; nostalgia and homesickness; empire and its aftermath; and the cultures of globalization.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 117 Lu Xun and his Worlds 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018

This course provides a forum for reading and discussing East Asia's greatest and most iconic modern writers, Lu Xun. We will closely read Lu Xun's major works, discuss his role in the reinvention of the Chinese language and literary tradition, explore the global literary and intellectual currents with which he was deeply engaged, as well as situating him within the tumultuous era of colonialism, modernization, and revolution. All readings will be available in English translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 118 Sex and Gender in Premodern Chinese Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2021

This course explores Chinese cultures of sex and gender from antiquity to the seventeenth century. We concentrate on three interconnected issues: women's status, homoeroticism, and the human body. Our discussion will be informed by cross-cultural comparisons with ancient Greece, Renaissance England, and Contemporary America. In contrast to our modern regime of sexuality, which collapses all the three aforementioned issues into the issues of desire and identity intrinsic to the body, we will see how the early Chinese regime of sexual act evolved into the early modern regime of emotion that concerned less inherent identities than a media culture of life-style performance.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Lam

Formerly known as: Chinese 181

EA LANG 119 The History of Heaven 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Higher Learning begins with the study of heaven. As the source of orientation in space and time, heaven provides humanity the foundation for its knowledge and political order. To understand what knowledge is or how politics function, we need a basic understanding of the ways of heaven. This course examines the function heaven serves in the founding of order against the void in nature through the formation of conventional systems of time and space and the role heaven has played in the promulgation of governments. From a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary perspective that covers the course of Eurasian history and using primary sources in translation, we will see heaven unfold through the developments that leave us with the world we know today.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG C120 Buddhism on the Silk Road 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course will discuss the social, economic, and cultural aspects of Buddhism as it moved along the ancient Eurasian trading network referred to as the "Silk Road". Instead of relying solely on textual sources, the course will focus on material culture as it offers evidence concerning the spread of Buddhism. Through an examination of the Buddhist archaeological remains of the Silk Road, the course will address specific topics, such as the symbiotic relationship between Buddhism and commerce; doctrinal divergence; ideological shifts in the iconography of the Buddha; patronage (royal, religious and lay); Buddhism and political power; and art and conversion. All readings will be in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C120

EA LANG 125 The Art of Writing: Writing the Limits of Empathy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2021

How far can we go into the minds and bodies of others? How strongly can we sense their presence? When, and why, do we hit a wall separating us from the world beyond us? In this course we will experiment, through a number of genres and media, with the art of writing (and thinking and feeling) empathetically. These genres and media include diary, fiction, poetry, editorial, letter writing, reportage, description (of nature, art, emotions, psychic states, etc.), film, video, and photography.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG C126 Buddhism and the Environment 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2009, Spring 2008

A thematic course on Buddhist perspectives on nature and Buddhist responses to environmental issues. The first half of the course focuses on East Asian Buddhist cosmological and doctrinal perspectives on the place of the human in nature and the relationship between the salvific goals of Buddhism and nature. The second half of the course examines Buddhist ethics, economics, and activism in relation to environmental issues in contemporary Southeast Asia, East Asia, and America.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower-division course in Buddhist Studies or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C126

EA LANG C128 Buddhism in Contemporary Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

A study of the Buddhist tradition as it is found today in Asia. The course will focus on specific living traditions of East, South, and/or Southeast Asia. Themes to be addressed may include contemporary Buddhist ritual practices; funerary and mortuary customs; the relationship between Buddhism and other local religious traditions; the relationship between Buddhist institutions and the state; Buddhist monasticism and its relationship to the laity; Buddhist ethics; Buddhist "modernism," and so on.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: von Rospatt

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C128/S, SEASN C145

EA LANG C130 Zen Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2013, Spring 2010

This course will introduce students to the Zen Buddhist traditions of China and Japan, drawing on a variety of disciplinary perspectives (history, anthropology, philosophy, and so on). The course will also explore a range of hermeneutic problems (problems involved in interpretation) entailed in understanding a sophisticated religious tradition that emerged in a time and culture very different from our own.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower division course in Asian religion recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sharf

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C130

EA LANG C132 Pure Land Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

This course will discuss the historical development of the Pure Land school of East Asian Buddhism, the largest form of Buddhism practiced today in China and Japan. The curriculum is divided into India, China, and Japan sections, with the second half of the course focusing exclusively on Japan where this form of religious culture blossomed most dramatically, covering the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. The curriculum will begin with a reading of the core scriptures that form the basis of the belief system and then move into areas of cultural expression. The course will follow two basic trajectories over the centuries: doctrine/philosophy and culture/society.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required, with common exam group.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C132

EA LANG C134 Russia and Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2020

This course offers a cultural history of encounters between Russia and Asia in literature, film and visual art. The lenses of Orientalism, Eurasianism and Internationalism will be used to analyze Russian interactions with three spaces: the Caucasus, Central Asia, and East Asia. We will discuss works by classic Russian writers and artists (including Tolstoy, Blok and Platonov) that address the question of Russia's engagement with Asia and consider Russia's ambiguous spatial identity between Europe and Asia. We will also examine responses to Russian culture and the Russian/Soviet state in the literature and culture of China (Lu Xun, Xiao Hong), Japan (Kurosawa), Central Asia (Aitmatov) and the Caucasus (Sadulaev). All readings in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Also listed as: SLAVIC C134N

EA LANG C135 Tantric Traditions of Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2013, Spring 2010

The emergence of the tantras in seventh and eighth-century India marked a watershed for religious practice throughout Asia. These esoteric scriptures introduced complex new ritual technologies that transformed the religious traditions of India, from Brahmanism to Jainism and Buddhism, as well as those of Southeast Asia, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Korea, and Japan. This course provides an overview of tantric religion across these regions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C135/S, SEASN C135

EA LANG C142 Psychoanalytic Theory, Asian Texts 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2021

Through the prism of psychoanalytical theories, early and contemporary, this course explores a variety of pre-modern and modern East Asian texts—literary, artistic, religious, and theoretical. We will be asking both how these theories enrich our reading of the texts, and how the texts enrich our understanding of the theories. Through close readings of all the material we will begin to discern how theory and text reshape one another, where they mesh productively, and where they insistently stay apart. Topics include: the unconscious, selfhood, repression, attachment, beauty, dreams, ritual, ghosts and haunting, madness, meditative states, mystical experience, mourning, healing, therapeutic method and cure. No prerequisites.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Also listed as: S, SEASN C142

EA LANG 144 Form and Formlessness: Practices and Theories of Meaning 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

We commonly understand things-- both things available to our senses and "mental objects"--by imposing a system of meaning on them.

Aesthetic thinking demands we grapple with what an object means based on our engagement or confrontation with the object, rather than through a theory or pre-conceived idea.

This class offers an exploration of (and a training in) our aesthetic relationship to things (written, visual and musical) in the world—things made by people worthy of close attention (works of art and human thought, including literature, visual arts, music, dance, and philosophy), and things in the world not wholly made by us but inspire human attention (including nature).

The objects will come from East Asia and elsewhere around the globe.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG C152 Buddhist Astral Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course studies the purview of astral science under Buddhist dominion. Here it is at once promoted for promulgating Buddhist world order and repudiated for begetting the suffering-inducing physical universe, a warped vessel of ceaselessly turning stars that the Buddhist dharma must transcend. The course begins with the part astral science plays in genesis, the creation of Buddhist world order. It then covers the science's central aspects, celestial systems, spatial orientation, time reckoning, the making of a calendar, and publication of an almanac. Thereafter, it treats the science's outgrowth into interrelated forms of Buddhist propaganda manifest as divination, magic, medicine, ritual, scripture, and iconography.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C152

EA LANG 160 Neurodiversity in Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session

This course investigates how neurotypical and neurodivergent authors (those with neurological conditions) depict and discuss "neurodiversity". We pay particular attention to how the autistic community embraces this idea. The course emphasizes two Japanese authors, Oe Kenzaburō and autistic author Higashida Naoki (both read in English). We also read other fiction and poetry dealing with themes of autism. To better contextualize the Japanese authors, we read nonfiction work on neurodiversity as well. Taking a comparative, cross-cultural approach brings into relief the ways in which neurodiversity is understood, depicted, and expressed; and the unique difficulties with representation. Satisfies Arts & Letters (AL) breadth requirements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 162 Science Fiction in East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course comprises an immersive survey of science fiction - historically the only literary genre fully devoted to imagining the alterity of the future - as it takes on a unique and pressing relevance in contemporary East Asian culture and society. Providing students with both comprehensive training in literary analysis and critical thinking as well as a substantive sociohistorical introduction to contemporary East Asian societies and politics, the course will constitute a solid foundation for the East Asian humanities major. All readings will be in English; no prior knowledge of Asian languages and/or cultures expected.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Smith

EA LANG C175 Archaeology of East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology in China, Japan, and Korea.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: ANTHRO C125A

EA LANG 180 East Asian Film: Directors and their Contexts 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Spring 2008

A close analysis of the oeuvre of an East Asian director in its aesthetic, cultural, and political contexts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division or graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

EA LANG 181 East Asian Film: Special Topics in Genre 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

The study of East Asian films as categorized either by industry-identified genres (westerns, horror films, musicals, film noir, etc.) or broader interpretive modes (melodrama, realism, fantasy, etc).

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG 191 Tools and Methods in the Study of East Asian Philosophy and Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is a capstone experience that centers on the philosophies and religions of East Asia examined from multiple theoretical perspectives. It comprises several thematic units within which a short set of readings about theory are followed by chronologically arranged readings about East Asia. Themes will alternate from year to year but may include: ritual and performance studies; religion and evolution; definitions of religion and theories of its origins; and the role of sacrifice.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preference will be given to majors, especially those with junior or senior standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG H195A Honors Course 2 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Directed independent study and preparation of senior honors thesis.

Limited to senior honors candidates in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major (for description of Honors Program, see Index).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior honors standing in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major, 3.5 GPA in major, 3.3 overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part one of a year long series course. A provisional grade of IP (in progress) will be applied and later replaced with the final grade after completing part two of the series. Final exam not required.

EA LANG H195B Honors Course 2 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

Directed independent study and preparation of senior honors thesis.

Limited to senior honors candidates in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major (for description of Honors Program, see Index).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior honors standing in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major, 3.5 major GPA, 3.3 overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series. Final exam not required.

Courses

EA LANG R1B Reading and Composition on topics in East Asian Humanities 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

The arts of reading a text, summarizing its argument, questioning its suppositions, generating balanced opinions, and expressing those opinions with clarity and effectiveness lie at the center of university life and educated human endeavor. EA Lang R1B is designed to help inculcate those skills, paying particular attention to East Asian humanistic topics. This four-unit course focuses on how to formulate questions and hone observations into well reasoned, coherent, and convincing essays. Attention will be paid to the basic rules of grammar, logical construction, compelling rhetorical approaches, research techniques, library and database skills, and forms of citation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Previously passed an R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Previously passed an articulated R_A course with a letter grade of C- or better. Score a 4 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Literature and Composition. Score a 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement Exam in English Language and Composition. Score of 5, 6, or 7 on the International Baccalaureate Higher Level Examination in English

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

EA LANG 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Spring 2024

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to fifteen freshmen.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

10 weeks - 1.5 hours of lecture per week

15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam not required.

EA LANG C50 Introduction to the Study of Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This introduction to the study of Buddhism will consider materials drawn from various Buddhist traditions of Asia, from ancient times down to the present day. However, the course is not intended to be a comprehensive or systematic survey; rather than aiming at breadth, the course is designed around key themes such as ritual, image veneration, mysticism, meditation, and death. The overarching emphasis throughout the course will be on the hermeneutic difficulties attendant upon the study of religion in general, and Buddhism in particular.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C50/S, SEASN C52

EA LANG 84 Sophomore Seminar 1 or 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2012

Sophomore seminars are small interactive courses offered by faculty members in departments all across the campus. Sophomore seminars offer opportunity for close, regular intellectual contact between faculty members and students in the crucial second year. The topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 sophomores.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: At discretion of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

5 weeks - 3-6 hours of seminar per week
10 weeks - 1.5-3 hours of seminar per week
15 weeks - 1-2 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-5 hours of seminar per week
8 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

EA LANG 101 Catastrophe, Memory, and Narrative: Comparative Responses to Atrocity in the Twentieth Century 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2020, Summer 2015 First 6 Week Session

This course will examine comparative responses to and representations of violent conflict. We will pay attention to how catastrophic events are productive of new forms of expression--oral, written, and visual--as well as destructive of familiar ones. We will examine the ways in which experience and its representation interact during and in the aftermath of extreme violence. Our empirical cases will be drawn from our research on responses to WWII atrocities, and on the post-Cold War civil wars in Africa.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 105 Dynamics of Romantic Core Values in East Asian Premodern Literature and Contemporary Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2019, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session

This course explores representation of romantic love in East Asian cultures in premodern and post-modern contexts. Students develop a better understanding of the similarities and differences in traditional values in three East Asian cultures by comparing how canonical texts of premodern China, Japan and Korea represent romantic relationship. This is followed by the study of several contemporary East Asian films, giving the student the opportunity to explore how traditional values persist, change, or become nexus points of resistance.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Wallace

EA LANG 106 Expressing the Ineffable in China and Beyond: The Making of Meaning in Poetic Writing 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2012, Spring 2010

This course will explore how the Chinese and English-language literary traditions (broadly defined) delineate the realm of the ineffable, and how cultural notions of the inexpressible shape the writing and reading of poems, songs, and a selection of prose pieces, from the uses of figurative language and prosody to genre and canon formation. In addition, in order to deepen our understanding of how writing achieves its aims, some attention will be given to nonverbal modes of expression, including calligraphy and painting--and attempts to render them in writing. Over this course of study, students will not only refine their sensitivity to the power of artistic modes of indirection, but will also hone their skills in close reading, analytical writing, and oral expression. All readings will be in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Varsano

EA LANG 107 War, Empire, and Literature in East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2013, Fall 2008

This course will examine war, empire, and the writing and memorialization of history through an eclectic group of literary, graphic, and cinematic texts from China, Japan, Europe, and the U.S.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG 108 Revising the Classics: Chinese and Greek Poetry in Translation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2006, Spring 2006

This course will explore poetic translation, across languages, across cultures, and across historical ages, not merely from the perspective of the "accuracy" with which a classic text is represented in the translation, but as a window into the nature of poetic tradition and poetic writing itself. Works will be primarily drawn from the Chinese tradition, but in the interest of allowing a comparative discussion of the course's central themes, a significant amount of reading from ancient and modern Greek poetry will be included as well. The goal of the class is not simply to gain familiarity with Chinese poetry and poets, but more fundamentally to gain skill and sophistication in reading, responding to, and thinking about poetry.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Ashmore

EA LANG 109 History of the Culture of Tea in China and Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

In this course we compare the cultural traditions of tea in China and Japan. In addition, using tea as the case study, we analyze the mechanics of the flow of culture across both national boundaries and social practices (such as between poetry and the tea ceremony). Understanding the tea culture of these countries informs students of important and enduring aspects of both cultures, provides an opportunity to discuss the role of religion and art in social practice, provides a forum for cultural comparison, and provides as well an example of the relationship between the two countries and Japanese methods of importing and naturalizing another country's social practice. Korean tea traditions are also briefly considered.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Wallace

EA LANG 110 Bioethics in Asian Thought and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2017

This course will explore some of the most difficult bioethical issues confronting the world today from the perspective of traditional values embedded in the cultural history of India, China, and Japan as evidenced in their religions, legal codes, and political history. Possible topics include population control, abortion, sex-selection, euthanasia, suicide, genetic manipulation, brain-death, and organ transplants.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Blum

EA LANG 111 Reading Global Politics in Contemporary East Asian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016

This class examines the global dynamics and local distinction of literary writings from contemporary East Asia. Beginning with the colonial connections among Tokyo, Shanghai and Seoul during the 1920s-1940s, and moving on to texts composed since 2000 in Manila, Hong Kong, India and elsewhere, the course considers how literary writers have grappled with an increasingly integrated global marketplace in which culture, ideas and people circulate alongside (and as) capital. Discussions will reflect on the confluence of culture and politics in literary writings that treat race tension, ecological crisis, capitalist catastrophe and other themes. Primary readings will be supplemented by iconic essays of cultural criticism and recent films.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG 112 The East Asian Sixties 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2017, Spring 2014

The 1960s were a time of historical transformation and upheaval in East Asia. It saw the overthrow of political regimes, the consolidation of communism, unprecedented capitalist expansion, and the emergence of new technologies that affected aesthetic production and consumption. This course explores the multiple aspects of culture, aesthetics, and politics that defined this moment. It asks how and why we can define the 1960s as a period, while considering the significance of defining East Asia (a term which denotes an imagined space of relations) as a particular region at this time.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 114 Illness Narratives, Vulnerable Bodies 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

The course will introduce students to narratives about illness, disease and healing written by patients, physicians, caretakers, and others. These narratives report an experience. They reveal the interactions between the unfolding life of the patient and the shifting social meanings attached to illness. We will study the relationships between illness and society through readings of fiction, memoir, films, essays and graphic novels in order to understand how these varied forms of storytelling organize and give meaning to crucial questions about embodiment, disability and emergent forms of sociality enabled by our bodily vulnerabilities.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 115 Knowing Others, and Being Known: The Art of Writing People 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2022, Spring 2017

What does it mean to use the medium of writing to “know” a person, and precisely how does one avail oneself of that medium to make oneself—or someone else—“known”? This course will guide students in writing about one of the most challenging of subjects: people. Students will have the opportunity to (a) read deeply in a selection of writings drawn from a range of genres and cultures, to acquaint themselves with a range of rhetorical tools employed in the portrayal of human lives and character, (b) identify the aims of their own writings, and (c) develop competency in applying what they have learned as readers to their own writing.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

EA LANG 116 Modern East Asian Fiction 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2017

Comparative analysis of modern literature from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), Korea, and Japan with an emphasis on the short story and the novel. We will think about both the specificities of the literatures of the region as well as shared and interconnected experiences of modernity that broadly connect the cultures of East Asia during the twentieth century. Thematic concerns will include: modernism and modernity; nostalgia and homesickness; empire and its aftermath; and the cultures of globalization.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 117 Lu Xun and his Worlds 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018

This course provides a forum for reading and discussing East Asia's greatest and most iconic modern writers, Lu Xun. We will closely read Lu Xun's major works, discuss his role in the reinvention of the Chinese language and literary tradition, explore the global literary and intellectual currents with which he was deeply engaged, as well as situating him within the tumultuous era of colonialism, modernization, and revolution. All readings will be available in English translation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 118 Sex and Gender in Premodern Chinese Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2021

This course explores Chinese cultures of sex and gender from antiquity to the seventeenth century. We concentrate on three interconnected issues: women's status, homoeroticism, and the human body. Our discussion will be informed by cross-cultural comparisons with ancient Greece, Renaissance England, and Contemporary America. In contrast to our modern regime of sexuality, which collapses all the three aforementioned issues into the issues of desire and identity intrinsic to the body, we will see how the early Chinese regime of sexual act evolved into the early modern regime of emotion that concerned less inherent identities than a media culture of life-style performance.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Lam

Formerly known as: Chinese 181

EA LANG 119 The History of Heaven 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Higher Learning begins with the study of heaven. As the source of orientation in space and time, heaven provides humanity the foundation for its knowledge and political order. To understand what knowledge is or how politics function, we need a basic understanding of the ways of heaven. This course examines the function heaven serves in the founding of order against the void in nature through the formation of conventional systems of time and space and the role heaven has played in the promulgation of governments. From a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary perspective that covers the course of Eurasian history and using primary sources in translation, we will see heaven unfold through the developments that leave us with the world we know today.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/
Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG C120 Buddhism on the Silk Road 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course will discuss the social, economic, and cultural aspects of Buddhism as it moved along the ancient Eurasian trading network referred to as the "Silk Road". Instead of relying solely on textual sources, the course will focus on material culture as it offers evidence concerning the spread of Buddhism. Through an examination of the Buddhist archaeological remains of the Silk Road, the course will address specific topics, such as the symbiotic relationship between Buddhism and commerce; doctrinal divergence; ideological shifts in the iconography of the Buddha; patronage (royal, religious and lay); Buddhism and political power; and art and conversion. All readings will be in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C120

EA LANG 125 The Art of Writing: Writing the Limits of Empathy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2021

How far can we go into the minds and bodies of others? How strongly can we sense their presence? When, and why, do we hit a wall separating us from the world beyond us? In this course we will experiment, through a number of genres and media, with the art of writing (and thinking and feeling) empathetically. These genres and media include diary, fiction, poetry, editorial, letter writing, reportage, description (of nature, art, emotions, psychic states, etc.), film, video, and photography.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG C126 Buddhism and the Environment 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Fall 2009, Spring 2008

A thematic course on Buddhist perspectives on nature and Buddhist responses to environmental issues. The first half of the course focuses on East Asian Buddhist cosmological and doctrinal perspectives on the place of the human in nature and the relationship between the salvific goals of Buddhism and nature. The second half of the course examines Buddhist ethics, economics, and activism in relation to environmental issues in contemporary Southeast Asia, East Asia, and America.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower-division course in Buddhist Studies or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C126

EA LANG C128 Buddhism in Contemporary Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

A study of the Buddhist tradition as it is found today in Asia. The course will focus on specific living traditions of East, South, and/or Southeast Asia. Themes to be addressed may include contemporary Buddhist ritual practices; funerary and mortuary customs; the relationship between Buddhism and other local religious traditions; the relationship between Buddhist institutions and the state; Buddhist monasticism and its relationship to the laity; Buddhist ethics; Buddhist "modernism," and so on.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: von Rospatt

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C128/S, SEASN C145

EA LANG C130 Zen Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2013, Spring 2010

This course will introduce students to the Zen Buddhist traditions of China and Japan, drawing on a variety of disciplinary perspectives (history, anthropology, philosophy, and so on). The course will also explore a range of hermeneutic problems (problems involved in interpretation) entailed in understanding a sophisticated religious tradition that emerged in a time and culture very different from our own.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: One lower division course in Asian religion recommended

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Sharf

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C130

EA LANG C132 Pure Land Buddhism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

This course will discuss the historical development of the Pure Land school of East Asian Buddhism, the largest form of Buddhism practiced today in China and Japan. The curriculum is divided into India, China, and Japan sections, with the second half of the course focusing exclusively on Japan where this form of religious culture blossomed most dramatically, covering the ancient, medieval, and modern periods. The curriculum will begin with a reading of the core scriptures that form the basis of the belief system and then move into areas of cultural expression. The course will follow two basic trajectories over the centuries: doctrine/philosophy and culture/society.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required, with common exam group.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C132

EA LANG C134 Russia and Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2020

This course offers a cultural history of encounters between Russia and Asia in literature, film and visual art. The lenses of Orientalism, Eurasianism and Internationalism will be used to analyze Russian interactions with three spaces: the Caucasus, Central Asia, and East Asia. We will discuss works by classic Russian writers and artists (including Tolstoy, Blok and Platonov) that address the question of Russia's engagement with Asia and consider Russia's ambiguous spatial identity between Europe and Asia. We will also examine responses to Russian culture and the Russian/Soviet state in the literature and culture of China (Lu Xun, Xiao Hong), Japan (Kurosawa), Central Asia (Aitmatov) and the Caucasus (Sadulaev). All readings in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Also listed as: SLAVIC C134N

EA LANG C135 Tantric Traditions of Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2013, Spring 2010

The emergence of the tantras in seventh and eighth-century India marked a watershed for religious practice throughout Asia. These esoteric scriptures introduced complex new ritual technologies that transformed the religious traditions of India, from Brahmanism to Jainism and Buddhism, as well as those of Southeast Asia, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Korea, and Japan. This course provides an overview of tantric religion across these regions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Dalton

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C135/S, SEASN C135

EA LANG C142 Psychoanalytic Theory, Asian Texts 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2021

Through the prism of psychoanalytical theories, early and contemporary, this course explores a variety of pre-modern and modern East Asian texts—literary, artistic, religious, and theoretical. We will be asking both how these theories enrich our reading of the texts, and how the texts enrich our understanding of the theories. Through close readings of all the material we will begin to discern how theory and text reshape one another, where they mesh productively, and where they insistently stay apart. Topics include: the unconscious, selfhood, repression, attachment, beauty, dreams, ritual, ghosts and haunting, madness, meditative states, mystical experience, mourning, healing, therapeutic method and cure. No prerequisites.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Also listed as: S,SEASN C142

EA LANG 144 Form and Formlessness: Practices and Theories of Meaning 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

We commonly understand things-- both things available to our senses and "mental objects"--by imposing a system of meaning on them. Aesthetic thinking demands we grapple with what an object means based on our engagement or confrontation with the object, rather than through a theory or pre-conceived idea.

This class offers an exploration of (and a training in) our aesthetic relationship to things (written, visual and musical) in the world—things made by people worthy of close attention (works of art and human thought, including literature, visual arts, music, dance, and philosophy), and things in the world not wholly made by us but inspire human attention (including nature).

The objects will come from East Asia and elsewhere around the globe.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG C152 Buddhist Astral Science 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course studies the purview of astral science under Buddhist dominion. Here it is at once promoted for promulgating Buddhist world order and repudiated for begetting the suffering-inducing physical universe, a warped vessel of ceaselessly turning stars that the Buddhist dharma must transcend. The course begins with the part astral science plays in genesis, the creation of Buddhist world order. It then covers the science's central aspects, celestial systems, spatial orientation, time reckoning, the making of a calendar, and publication of an almanac. Thereafter, it treats the science's outgrowth into interrelated forms of Buddhist propaganda manifest as divination, magic, medicine, ritual, scripture, and iconography.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C152

EA LANG 160 Neurodiversity in Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2023 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session

This course investigates how neurotypical and neurodivergent authors (those with neurological conditions) depict and discuss "neurodiversity". We pay particular attention to how the autistic community embraces this idea. The course emphasizes two Japanese authors, Oe Kenzaburô and autistic author Higashida Naoki (both read in English). We also read other fiction and poetry dealing with themes of autism. To better contextualize the Japanese authors, we read nonfiction work on neurodiversity as well. Taking a comparative, cross-cultural approach brings into relief the ways in which neurodiversity is understood, depicted, and expressed; and the unique difficulties with representation. Satisfies Arts & Letters (AL) breadth requirements.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG 162 Science Fiction in East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course comprises an immersive survey of science fiction - historically the only literary genre fully devoted to imagining the alterity of the future - as it takes on a unique and pressing relevance in contemporary East Asian culture and society. Providing students with both comprehensive training in literary analysis and critical thinking as well as a substantive sociohistorical introduction to contemporary East Asian societies and politics, the course will constitute a solid foundation for the East Asian humanities major. All readings will be in English; no prior knowledge of Asian languages and/or cultures expected.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Smith

EA LANG C175 Archaeology of East Asia 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Prehistoric and protohistoric archaeology in China, Japan, and Korea.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: ANTHRO C125A

EA LANG 180 East Asian Film: Directors and their Contexts 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011, Spring 2008

A close analysis of the oeuvre of an East Asian director in its aesthetic, cultural, and political contexts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division or graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

EA LANG 181 East Asian Film: Special Topics in Genre 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

The study of East Asian films as categorized either by industry-identified genres (westerns, horror films, musicals, film noir, etc.) or broader interpretive modes (melodrama, realism, fantasy, etc).

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

EA LANG 191 Tools and Methods in the Study of East Asian Philosophy and Religion 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is a capstone experience that centers on the philosophies and religions of East Asia examined from multiple theoretical perspectives. It comprises several thematic units within which a short set of readings about theory are followed by chronologically arranged readings about East Asia. Themes will alternate from year to year but may include: ritual and performance studies; religion and evolution; definitions of religion and theories of its origins; and the role of sacrifice.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preference will be given to majors, especially those with junior or senior standing

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/ Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

EA LANG H195A Honors Course 2 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Directed independent study and preparation of senior honors thesis.

Limited to senior honors candidates in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major (for description of Honors Program, see Index).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior honors standing in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major, 3.5 GPA in major, 3.3 overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part one of a year long series course. A provisional grade of IP (in progress) will be applied and later replaced with the final grade after completing part two of the series. Final exam not required.

EA LANG H195B Honors Course 2 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

Directed independent study and preparation of senior honors thesis.

Limited to senior honors candidates in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major (for description of Honors Program, see Index).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior honors standing in the East Asian Religion, Thought, and Culture major, 3.5 major GPA, 3.3 overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series. Final exam not required.

EA LANG 200 Proseminar: Approaches to East Asian Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course is a pro-seminar required for all entering graduate students in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures no matter their particular areas of interest. Its purpose is to introduce graduate students in the program to the major theoretical concerns, academic issues, and interpretive methodologies relevant to humanistic studies more generally and to the study of East Asian literature, thought, religion, and culture in particular. Supervising faculty change from year to year, as does the focus of the seminar.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

EA LANG 202 Close Reading Area Studies: China and Japan in the World 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009

This course will consider alternative strategies and modes of close reading that can be relevant to the study of East Asia with a focus on China and Japan. As we concentrate on the historical role of philological research, translation studies, interdisciplinary scholarship and ask how "knowledge" about East Asia is produced in our fields, our readings on "close reading" will help us question the common sense of "civilization," culture," and "tradition," and explore new ways of asking questions about text and context, aesthetics and politics, cultural memory, historical narratives, and regimes of knowledge.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: O'Neill

EA LANG 204 Topics in East Asian Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course provides a place for graduate-level seminars in East Asian Studies that rely primarily on secondary scholarship and texts in translation. Content will vary between semesters but will typically focus on a particular theme. Themes will be chosen according to faculty and student interests, with an eye toward introducing students to the breadth of available western scholarship on that subject, from classics in the field to the latest publications.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

EA LANG C220 Seminar in Buddhism and Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Content varies with student interests. The course will normally focus on classical Buddhist texts that exist in multiple recensions and languages, including Chinese, Sanskrit, and Tibetan.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C220/S, SEASN C220

EA LANG 375 Methods of Teaching East Asian Languages 2 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course aims to provide basic pedagogical training for teaching East Asian languages as second/foreign language. It involves critical reading and discussion of major pedagogical principles and issues in teaching Asian languages as second languages, with emphasis on the following topics:

Practical topics such as lesson planning, classroom observation, peer teaching, classroom activities, self- and peer evaluations, best practices in teaching. The focus of this course is on teaching theory, methodology, curriculum and lesson plan design, focusing on the teaching of Chinese, Japanese and Korean as foreign/second languages. Classes include lecture, discussion of readings, activities and feedback on observed language classes.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: East Asian Languages and Cultures/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Letter grade.