

# EAST ASIAN STUDIES

## Departmental Guidelines

To graduate with a degree in East Asian Studies requires a balance of courses in Chinese or Japanese language study with courses selected from a variety of departments, focusing on the East Asian region (normally defined as China, Japan, and Korea). Study in China or Japan for a semester or a year on an approved program is encouraged. Every senior major will research a topic chosen by the student in consultation with professors.

## Mission Statement

To prepare students to meet the challenges of an increasingly interrelated world, the East Asian Studies Program promotes the teaching and research on fundamental concepts, developments and trends in history, language, art and culture in East Asia, and offers students opportunities to build their language competency in Chinese or Japanese. The program is committed to the development of students' comparative understanding of the traditional values of East Asia as well as the contemporary challenges it faces. Students can be expected to use their knowledge about East Asian culture and their proficiency in East Asian languages and literature in a broad range of professions, including business, government service, and academia.

## Faculty

Shao-yun Yang, Chair

John Davis, (Anthropology), Zachary Joachim (Philosophy), Leksa Lee (Global Commerce), Xinda Lian (Chinese), Anne Sokolsky (Modern Languages), Catherine Stuer (Art History and Visual Culture), Taku Suzuki (International Studies), Michael Tangeman (Japanese), Shao-yun Yang (History)

### Academic Administrative Assistant

Liz Barringer-Smith

View faculty profiles and contact information (<https://denison.edu/academics/east-asian-studies/contacts/>)

## East Asian Studies Major

Majors will choose courses in consultation with a faculty advisor. In their senior year students will apply the methodologies of East Asian Studies to a research topic normally focusing on China, Japan, Korea or their interaction. The major requires:

1. two semesters of intermediate Chinese or Japanese,
2. two core survey courses, one from 2.i. and one from 2.ii,
3. five area studies courses with a maximum of two from 3.ii and 3.iii combined, and
4. a senior research project, that in conjunction with the other requirements, will total forty credit hours.

Advisors can help the student select which courses in approved study-abroad programs will meet the requirements below:

1. Language requirement: two semesters of intermediate Chinese or Japanese course work, or the equivalent. Majors are encouraged to begin their language work at Denison during their first year.
2. Two Core Courses surveying both:

### i. Traditional East Asia

Code	Title
EAST/HIST 141	Traditional East Asian Civilization
EAST/CHIN 206	Dream and Fantasy in East Asian Literature
EAST/AHVC 231	Art of Japan
and	
EAST/AHVC 232	Art of China

Students who take both "Art of Japan" and "Art of China" will fulfill their traditional core course requirement and satisfy one of the five Area Studies (3.i.) requirements. Note that students choosing this option must take both EAST 231 - Art of Japan/AHVC 231 - Art of Japan and EAST 232 - Art of China/AHVC 232 - Art of China to meet the traditional core requirement.

### ii. Modern East Asia

Code	Title
EAST/HIST 142	Modern East Asian Civilization
EAST/JAPN 219	Voices from the Dark Valley: East Asians Under Japanese Fascism (1910-1945)
EAST/JAPN 235	Introduction to Modern Chinese and Japanese Literature

### 3. Five East Asian area studies courses, which may include the following:

#### i. East Asian Area Studies

Code	Title
EAST/AHVC 131	Asian Art and Visual Culture
EAST/CHIN 206	Dream and Fantasy in East Asian Literature
EAST/HIST 211	Modern East Asia at War
EAST/ANSO 221	Contemporary Japan: In Search of the "Real" Japan
EAST/AHVC 231	Art of Japan
EAST/AHVC 232	Art of China
EAST/JAPN 235	Introduction to Modern Chinese and Japanese Literature
EAST/JAPN 239	Introduction to Japanese Genre Fiction
EAST/AHVC 263	World Views: Spatial Imagination in East Asia
EAST/JAPN 273	Modern Japan in Film and Literature
EAST/PHIL 288	Ancient Chinese Philosophy
EAST/CHIN 305	Spontaneity: Taoism and Chinese Literature
EAST/JAPN 309	Japan's Modern Canon
EAST/AHVC 333	Art and Revolution in 20th Century China
EAST 342/HIST 312	China's Golden Age: The Tang Dynasty

#### ii. Independent and Directed Study (maximum of two from ii and iii combined) - Examples:

Code	Title
CHIN 361	Directed Study
CHIN 362	Directed Study
JAPN 361	Directed Study
JAPN 362	Directed Study
EAST 361	Directed Study
EAST 362	Directed Study
EAST 363	Independent Study
EAST 364	Independent Study

iii. Comparative Courses (Maximum of two from ii and iii combined):

Code	Title
East Asia in comparison with another region of the world	
EAST/AHVC 131	Asian Art and Visual Culture
ECON 412	Economics of the Developing World
ECON 423	International Trade
EAST/REL 105	Buddhism
Various special topics courses (typically numbered as EAST 264 or EAST 345) may also be counted as either area studies or comparative courses, depending on their content.	

4. Senior Research Project

EAST 451 - Senior Research or EAST 452 - Senior Research: Working closely with the project advisor of the student's own choice, the student chooses a topic in East Asian Studies and analyzes that topic in a major research paper. The student is allowed, but not required, to choose a secondary advisor from the East Asian Studies faculty, or outside experts from the topic-related disciplines. This research project culminates the major and can be proposed for either semester of the senior year. The student signing up must get signatures from the project advisor in the course registration period preceding the semester when the project will be written.

## East Asian Studies Minor

The twenty-eight credits to fulfill the East Asian Studies minor include: two semesters of intermediate Chinese or Japanese, the two core courses, and three additional courses chosen from East Asian area studies courses chosen from category 3 (see above). Only one independent study course, or one comparative course will count towards the minor.

## Additional Points of Interest

### Study Abroad

Approved programs of study in the People's Republic of China include programs in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Xian. In Japan, students may study in programs in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and Nagasaki. The availability of semester-long, year-long or summer courses depends on the respective program.

### Summer Research Through Denison's Young Scholar Awards

No separate East Asian awards exist. Guidelines are on the Lisska Center's homepage under student research. The research must culminate in a written or artistic project and a presentation to other summer scholars. Student scholars will live on Denison's campus and receive

a student stipend. Dormitory housing is provided. Meals are excluded. Applications: Submit by late January for the coming summer.

## Summer Internships

There are no special grants for East Asian Studies internships. However, the Center for Career Exploration can be a resource for students interested in searching and applying for internships. There are also internship stipend programs meant to support students in their respective internship experiences. Contact the Austin E. Knowlton Center for Career Exploration by phone (740-587-6656) or email (career@denison.edu) to learn more about Denison internship resources and how stipend funding works.

## Courses

### EAST 105 - Buddhism (4 Credit Hours)

A historical and thematic survey of the Buddhist tradition from the time of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, until the present. Emphasis upon the way in which Buddhist teachings and practices have interacted with and been changed by various cultures in Asia, and more recently in North America.

**Crosslisting:** REL 105.

### EAST 129 - Japanese Stories: Retelling Culture in Film, Drama, and Fiction (4 Credit Hours)

This course introduces students to 1000 years of Japanese storytelling tradition in diverse mediums: epic tales, drama (bunraku/kabuki, and noh), fiction, and film. Students will engage with such representations of Japanese culture as: - Imperial court life of the 10th century, the role of spirit possession as women's "weapon," and a 20th-century novel that builds on these traditions. - A war between two clans in the 12th century that is the setting for a key duel between unevenly matched opponents retold over the centuries in three different mediums: epic tale, bunraku/kabuki theater, and noh drama. - In the same war, the tragic defeat of one of the clans is reimagined as the source of a famous ghost story written in the 19th century...by a European with connections to Cincinnati! - Postwar short stories that retell Japanese fairy tales to situate them in a Japan struggling to cope with the devastation of the Pacific War. - A mystery novel about government corruption, and a master director's film from the same period that treats the same subject - The possibilities – and horrors – of dreams as depicted by a 20th-century novelist, a master director, and an animator.

### EAST 131 - Asian Art and Visual Culture (4 Credit Hours)

An introduction to the art and visual culture of India, China, Japan and Southeast Asia focusing on historical, religious and social issues and the function of both art and visual culture.

**Crosslisting:** AHVC 131.

### EAST 141 - Traditional East Asian Civilization (4 Credit Hours)

A survey of 1,800 years of premodern East Asian history, beginning with the rise and fall of the Han dynasty (202 BCE–220 CE) in China and ending with the devastating Japanese invasions of Korea in 1592–1598 CE, a conflict recently dubbed "the first Great East Asian War. Topics include: Buddhism's spread in East Asia and its influence on politics and culture; the origins of Japan's samurai warrior class; the rise of the Mongol world empire and its impact on East Asia; and the beginnings of European commercial and missionary activity in East Asia.

**Crosslisting:** HIST 111.

**EAST 142 - Modern East Asian Civilization (4 Credit Hours)**

A survey of the history of China, Korea, and Japan from 1600 to the early twenty-first century. We begin with the last two centuries of the early modern era, during which East Asian states managed relations with the rest of the world on terms of their own choosing. We then move on to East Asia's traumatic nineteenth-century confrontation with the newly industrialized and seemingly invincible Western powers, who now insisted on dictating new, "modern" terms of interaction. The sweeping political, cultural, social, and economic changes that sprang from that encounter have dramatically shaped East Asia's fortunes in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Topics covered will include early modern and modern empire-building; nationalist and Communist revolutions; the Sino-Japanese, Pacific, and Korean wars; globalization and economic miracles; and movements for democracy and human rights.

**Crosslisting:** HIST 112.

**EAST 180 - The History of Taiwan (4 Credit Hours)**

This is a special topics course crosslisted with HIST 110.

**EAST 199 - Elementary Topics in East Asian Studies (1-4 Credit Hours)**

A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

**EAST 206 - Dream and Fantasy in East Asian Literature (4 Credit Hours)**

Through close analysis of some of the most important recurrent themes, this course will examine how the Chinese and Japanese literary traditions reinvent and revitalize themselves in their development. Students will also study the distinctive features of the major genres in the two traditions.

**Crosslisting:** CHIN 206.

**EAST 211 - Modern East Asia at War (4 Credit Hours)**

This seminar covers in depth the history of East Asia in 1937–1953, a period characterized by violence, upheaval, suffering, and death on an almost unimaginable scale. The Japanese empire's cataclysmic clash with the Republic of China and (eventually) the United States left Japan in ruins and under American occupation, China on the verge of a Communist revolution, and Korea divided between American and Soviet spheres of influence. The consequences of these events led to America's war in Vietnam and still define and bedevil East Asia's geopolitics today. Our readings will include some of the most significant recent scholarship on four conflicts: the Second Sino-Japanese War, the Pacific War, the Chinese Civil War, and the Korean War. Although we will read much about politics, diplomacy, and military campaigns, our focus will just as often be on the experiences and stories of ordinary people caught in extraordinarily harrowing times.

**Crosslisting:** HIST 211.

**EAST 219 - Voices from the Dark Valley: East Asians Under Japanese Fascism (1910-1945) (4 Credit Hours)**

This course provides students an introduction to the written cultural products (available in translation) from Japan, and two countries – China and Korea – occupied by Japan during the Pacific War (1931-1945). Although Japan's occupation of Korea began in 1910, this course will begin its consideration of this topic in 1890 because the Japanese political and social mechanisms that led to fascist militarist control in the 1930s have their origins at least as far back as 1890. This course fulfills the Modern Core requirement for the East Asian Studies major/minor.

**Crosslisting:** JAPN 219.

**EAST 221 - Contemporary Japan: In Search of the "Real" Japan (4 Credit Hours)**

Japan often conjures images steeped in tradition such as samurai warriors, sumo wrestlers, and geisha clad in kimono. At the same time, however, contemporary Japan is just as easily associated with businessmen, anime, automobiles, and high technology. How have "tradition" and "change" fueled competing visions of Japan what it means to be "Japanese"? How does one go about reconciling these conflicting views? How have these debates evolved over time? How have variously situated individuals and groups in society negotiated shifting circumstances? These questions will be at the heart of this seminar as we consider case studies from different segments of Japanese society. A range of material will be treated as "texts" for analysis and discussion including anime, manga, literary works, and films as well as ethnographic scholarship on Japanese society.

**Crosslisting:** ANSO 221.

**EAST 231 - Art of Japan (4 Credit Hours)**

An introduction to Japanese architecture, sculpture, painting and the decorative arts from prehistoric times to the 20th century, with an emphasis on the works in their cultural and religious context.

**Crosslisting:** AHVC 231.

**EAST 232 - Art of China (4 Credit Hours)**

This course is an introduction to Chinese visual culture from prehistoric times through the Mao era. Organized around a selection of key objects and images, this course explores a variety of art forms from China through diverse contexts such a ritual, gender, imperial patronage, literati ideals, and political icons.

**EAST 235 - Introduction to Modern Chinese and Japanese Literature (4 Credit Hours)**

This course is designed to provide an introduction to modern Chinese and Japanese fiction for the student who has little or no background in the language, history, or culture of these countries.

**Crosslisting:** JAPN 235.

**EAST 239 - Introduction to Japanese Genre Fiction (4 Credit Hours)**

Genre fiction (sometimes called "commercial fiction") around the world has been broadly categorized as less-refined, or less literary. Postmodern thinkers have demonstrated, however, that popular fiction can serve as a fascinating lens through which to read place (society, race, gender, etc.) and time (historical period). This class will serve as an introduction to Japan's long, rich tradition of genre fiction. In addition to reading recent criticism of the genres discussed, we will consider representative works, primarily by twentieth-century authors, in three genres: historical/period fiction, mystery/detective fiction, and horror fiction. This course is taught in English. No Japanese language required.

**Crosslisting:** JAPN 239.

**EAST 263 - World Views: Spatial Imagination in East Asia (4 Credit Hours)**

This course explores visual modes employed in the expression of time and space in the construction of narratives in Asian Art. A variety of pictorial formats including: Wall Painting, Hand-Scrolls, Film, and anime; from southeast Asia, China, and Japan will be examined as case studies to explore and analyze narrative structure.

**Crosslisting:** AHVC 263.

**EAST 264 - Special Topics (4 Credit Hours)**

Selected topics in East Asian Studies.

**EAST 273 - Modern Japan in Film and Literature (4 Credit Hours)**

This course uses film and modern literature to consider responses to political, economic, and sociological changes in Japanese society over the course of the twentieth century. This course is taught in English.

**Crosslisting:** JAPN 273.

**EAST 280 - Yoga, Magic, & Meditation (4 Credit Hours)**

This is a special topics course crosslisted with REL.

**EAST 281 - Migrations Within & Beyond Asia (4 Credit Hours)**

This is a special topics course crosslisted with INTL and ANTH.

**EAST 282 - K-Pop, Hip-Hop, and R&B: Black, Asian, and American Cultural Interactions (4 Credit Hours)**

This course explores the differences, diffusions, appropriations, adaptations, and fusion of African American and Asian American cultures through the musical genres of R&B, Hip-hop, and K-pop. K-pop, Hip-hop, and R&B are three distinct genres of music that have different origins and characteristics but have influenced each other over time. For instance, it is clear how African American hip-hop artists have influenced Korean artists such as Seotaeji and the Boys, Tiger JK, as well as Psy. Meanwhile, African American hip-hop artists, including the Wu-Tang Clan, RZA, and Nicki Minaj, have also showcased Asian-inspired aesthetics in their music. How did these cultural connections occur and what impact do they have on the national and international scale? What do these genres reveal about racial and gender identity formation in America and Asia? Students will explore the intricate interactions between Black, Asian, and Asian American populations from a transnational perspective to contemplate how globalization through music impacts the development of culture in America and Asia. This is a special topics course crosslisted with BLST and WGST 282.

**EAST 283 - Taiwanese Women's World: The Voices of Taiwanese Women in Literature, Film, and Politics (4 Credit Hours)**

In this course, we will study Taiwan's position not just in East Asia but with the United States and other parts of the world through the voices of Taiwanese women. Most histories of Taiwan focus on the male perspective, but what about the female perspective? How does the history and culture of Taiwan differ if we study it through the lens of those who tend not to control the writing of a nation's narrative? Through literature, diaries, travel memoirs, films, and political speeches created by famous and not-so-famous Taiwanese women, we will consider what it means to be "Taiwanese" not just vis-à-vis the People's Republic of China or the legacy of being a colony of Japan, but vis-à-vis the world and through a point of view that often gets overlooked – that of the woman. The course is a special topics course taught in English and crosslisted with CHIN 345, WGST 283, and INTL 250.

**EAST 288 - Ancient Chinese Philosophy (4 Credit Hours)**

This course surveys the philosophical texts at the foundation of two millennia of Chinese thought and of East Asia as a global region. The core concern of these texts is the 'way' (dao): the way to live, the way to rule, the way to know, and the way for words to guide us. We will read the books of Confucius, Mozi, Mencius, Laozi, Zhuangzi, and Xunzi (among others), and critically assess their most unique and groundbreaking ideas.

**EAST 305 - Spontaneity: Taoism and Chinese Literature (4 Credit Hours)**

This course examines a special group of Chinese texts that will not only enlighten, but also delight modern readers: ancient Taoist text written in fascinating literary style, and a variety of literary works informed with Taoist spirit. No knowledge of Chinese is required.

**Crosslisting:** CHIN 305.

**EAST 309 - Japan's Modern Canon (4 Credit Hours)**

In this course we will read extensively from the works of the four twentieth-century Japanese authors who have been elevated to the status of canonized writers, that is, whose works are regarded both in and out of Japan as essential in the history of Japanese letters. Note that readings will vary from semester to semester. This course is taught in English.

**Crosslisting:** JAPN 309.

**EAST 316 - Religion in Contemporary China (4 Credit Hours)**

In this course, we will together examine the beliefs, practices, and discourse that consist of the Chinese religious landscape from the early 20th century to the present day. Our journey starts with a review of the religious heritage in pre-modern China, and moves on to the twentieth century, a formative age where a new country tries to establish itself on a long history of a religiously pluralistic society, by carefully negotiating the ways of its ancient civilization and the challenges presented by a new age of global conversation and conflicts. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between the many religious institutions and traditions, between religious institutions and the state, and between the ideologies, practices, and traditions past and present.

**Crosslisting:** REL 316.

**EAST 333 - Art and Revolution in 20th Century China (4 Credit Hours)**

This course explores how art has engaged social transformation in China. You will be guided to take an inside look at how the notion of revolution stands front and center in art making during China's long 20th century. We think deeply about two interrelated questions: how can art have social and critical agency, and how has it been related to social change in China? We approach these questions historically to become sensitive to the different contexts and experiences of the artists we study but also to how their struggles and creative interventions connect across time. In the process, you will build a framework of reference for understanding social and creative life in 20th century China, and its enduring connections to the global world.

**Crosslisting:** AHVC 333.

**EAST 342 - China's Golden Age: The Tang Dynasty (4 Credit Hours)**

This course is an in-depth introduction to the history and culture of the Tang empire (618–907), widely regarded as China's "golden age." Modern Chinese historical memory idealizes the Tang as an age of great military conquests, exotically "cosmopolitan" tastes in art and music, religious tolerance and cultural diversity, brilliant poets, and free-spirited, polo-playing women. A primary goal of the class is to enable students to take an informed and critical perspective on this romanticized popular image by studying a wide range of historical scholarship and translated primary sources, which they will use to write a major research paper on a topic of their choice.

**Crosslisting:** HIST 312.

**EAST 345 - Studies in Contemporary East Asian Studies (4 Credit Hours)****EAST 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)****EAST 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)****EAST 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)****EAST 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)****EAST 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)****EAST 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)**