

Why East Asian Studies at Brandeis?

East Asian studies is an interdisciplinary program offering both a major and a minor. The program provides an introduction to an East Asian language, as well as to the history, politics, and culture of one of the most dynamic regions of the world. It provides students with an introduction to the internal dynamics of continuity and change in China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and other nations and helps them grasp the importance of East Asia in the global community and the global political economy. The program also provides a basis for comparative and creative work on the West and for East Asian interactions with important players in Oceania, North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East.

Curriculum Overview

Students have the option of completing a major or a minor in East Asian studies.

The major requires the following:

- Satisfactory completion of ten semester courses from among the EAS and cross-listed course offerings. No course with a grade below C-minus can count toward the major requirement. At least five of the courses used to fulfill the major must be taken in residence.
- Completion of the 40-level or its equivalent in Chinese or Japanese. Students who can demonstrate this level of competence in another East Asian language may use it to fulfill this requirement. In a student's first East Asian language, no course below the 40-level may count toward the ten required courses for the major. However, if a student has achieved the 40-level in one language, courses in additional East Asian languages at or above the 20-level may count toward the ten.
- The EAS core course HIST 80a, Introduction to East Asian Civilization.
- From the EAS or cross-listed offerings: at least one course in the social sciences in addition to HIST 80a; at least one course in the humanities or creative arts; and an additional course either in the social sciences or in the humanities or creative arts.
- Candidates for honors are required to register for EAS 99d or for a similar course in an appropriate department and to prepare an honors thesis on a topic relating to East Asia. If completed successfully, 99d (a yearlong, two-semester course) may be counted as two of the ten courses of the major.

The minor requires the following:

- Completion of the 20-level or its equivalent in Chinese or Japanese. Students who can demonstrate this level of competence in another East Asian language may use it to fulfill the requirement.

- The EAS core course HIST 80a, Introduction to East Asian Civilization.
- At least three additional courses from the EAS or cross-listed offerings. Students who are exempted from the language requirement for the minor must complete a fourth elective course from the EAS or cross-listed offerings for a total of five courses. These courses must be in at least two different departments.

Core courses include:

CHIN 10a Beginning Chinese
 CHIN 20b Continuing Chinese
 CHIN 30a Intermediate Chinese
 CHIN 40b Advanced Intermediate Chinese
 HIST 80a Introduction to East Asian Civilization
 JAPN 10a Beginning Japanese
 JAPN 20b Continuing Japanese
 JAPN 30a Intermediate Japanese
 JAPN 40b Advanced Intermediate Japanese

Some examples of electives include:

ANTH 178b Culture, Gender, and Power in East Asia
 ECON 64a East Asia's Economies
 FA 12a History of Asian Art
 HIST 176a The Emergence of Modern Japan
 HIST 180b Topics in Modern Chinese History
 POL 148a Seminar in Contemporary Chinese Politics

Special Programs

The East Asian studies program faculty work together to provide students with a range of opportunities to meet other students in the program and also students and faculty from other disciplines—many East Asian studies majors pursue dual majors. We provide students with opportunities to participate in the East Asian Studies Colloquium, which invites leading international scholars to speak on both scholarly and timely topics. We also sponsor an annual Meet the East Asian Studies Faculty and East Asian Studies Majors event and dinner so that students can learn about faculty guidance, study-abroad programs, and opportunities for summer internships.

Career and Education Options

Students who graduate with degrees in East Asian studies go on to careers in the academy, public service, international development, diplomacy, law, finance, and business.

Faculty

Following is a list of faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Ralph Thaxton, chair**
Comparative politics, East Asia, China, comparative revolutions, comparative democratic movements
- **Gary Jefferson, undergraduate advising head**
Economics of innovation, institutional economics, development, industrial organization, China
- **Ellen Schattschneider, colloquium director**
Religion; war and memory; anthropology of the body; commodification; psychoanalytic theory; East Asia; Japan
- **Yu Feng**
Chinese language
- **Matthew Fraleigh**
Japanese literature and culture
- **Donald Hindley**
Comparative politics; Southeast Asian and Latin American politics
- **Richard Lyman**
East Asian history; social and cultural history; disability history
- **John Schrecker**
East Asian history and civilization, Sino-Western relations
- **Hiroko Sekino (on leave fall 2007)**
Japanese language
- **Aida Yuen Wong**
Asian art