An interdepartmental program

East Asian Studies

Objectives

The East Asian Studies Program (EAS) is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to give the student broad yet intimate knowledge of East Asian civilization. It can be taken either as a major or a minor. At the crux of the program is the language requirement of an East Asian language, providing the basis for postgraduate study or careers dealing with East Asia.

How to Become a Major or a Minor

To enroll in the program, either as a major or a minor, students must see the program chair. Together they will select as an adviser a faculty member who seems best suited to that student's interest and area of future work.

Committee

Aida-Yuen Wong, Chair
(Fine Arts)

Yu Feng
(German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature)

Matthew Fraleigh
(German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature)

Donald Hindley
(Politics)

Gary Jefferson, Undergraduate Advising Head
(Economics)

Stephen Platt
(History)

Hiroko Sekino
(German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature)

Ellen Schattschneider, Colloquium Director
(Anthropology)

Ralph Thaxton
(Politics)

Requirements for the Minor

A. At least five courses are required for the minor. Students without East Asian language skills equivalent to a 20-level course will complete a total of six courses.

B. CHIN 10a and CHIN 20b or JAPN 10a and JAPN 20b. These courses must be taken in residence at Brandeis (or abroad with approval of the undergraduate advising head prior to commencement of the language study program), or their equivalents in another approved East Asian language. Students with demonstrated language skills at an equivalent level may be exempted from this requirement. For further information on the language requirement, see the undergraduate advising head.

Requirements for the Major

A. Satisfactory completion of at least ten semester courses from among the EAS and elective offerings. No course with a grade below C– can count toward the major requirement of ten courses. It is expected that at least five of the courses used to fulfill the major will be taken in residence at Brandeis.

B. 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 the requirement. Note that 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. For further information on these language requirements, see the undergraduate advising head.

C. The EAS core course, HIST 80a [Introduction to East Asian Civilization].

D. From the EAS or elective offerings:

1. At least one course in the social sciences (in addition to HIST 80a) and at least one course in the humanities or creative arts.

2. An additional course in either the social sciences (other than HIST 80a) or in the humanities or creative arts.

Honors

Candidates for honors are required to register for EAS 99d [or for a 99d course [or 99a and 99b courses] in an appropriate department] and to prepare an honors thesis on a topic relating to East Asia. If completed successfully, the 99d course [or 99a and 99b courses] can be counted as two of the ten courses of the major.
Courses of Instruction

[1–99] Primarily for Undergraduate Students

EAS 98a Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

EAS 98b Independent Study
Usually offered every year.
Staff

EAS 99d Senior Research
Seniors who are candidates for degrees with honors in East Asian studies must register for this course and, under the direction of a faculty member, prepare an honors thesis on a suitable topic. Usually offered every year.
Staff

[100–199] For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

EAS 175a Masterpieces of Chinese Literature
| hum |
This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken COML 175a in previous years.
Survey Chinese literature from the classical era through the eighteenth century. Readings are in English translation and include a wide range of genres, with particular emphasis on the great Chinese novels. Usually offered every third year.
Staff

Core Courses

CHIN 10a
Beginning Chinese I

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

Elective Courses

The following courses are approved for the program. Not all are given in any one year. Please consult Schedule of Classes each semester. Additional courses may be approved by the chair on a case-by-case basis.

ANTH 178b
Culture, Gender, and Power in East Asia

CHIN 98a
Readings in Modern Chinese

CHIN 98b
Readings in Modern Chinese

CHIN 105a
Advanced Conversation and Composition I

CHIN 106b
Business Chinese and Culture

CHIN 120a
Readings in Contemporary Chinese Literature: Advanced Chinese Language

CHIN 120b
Readings in Contemporary Chinese Literature: Advanced Chinese Language II

CHIN 130b
China on Film: The Changes of Chinese Culture

COML 146b
Classical East Asian Poetics

EAS 175a
Masterpieces of Chinese Literature

ECON 30a
The Economy of China

ECON 64a
East Asia’s Economies

FA 12a
History of Asian Art

FA 13b
Buddhist Art

FA 15b
Arts of the Ming Dynasty

FA 181b
The Art of Japan

FA 184a
Studies in Asian Art

HIST 80b
East Asia: Nineteenth Century to the Present [China and Japan]

HIST 176a
The Emergence of Modern Japan

HIST 181a
Seminar on Traditional Chinese Thought

HIST 182a
Sino-American Relations from the Eighteenth Century to the Present

JAPN 98a
Readings in Japanese

JAPN 98b
Readings in Japanese

JAPN 105a
Advanced Conversation and Composition I

JAPN 120a
Readings in Contemporary Japanese Literature

JAPN 120b
Readings in Modern Japanese Literature

JAPN 125b
Putting Away Childish Things: Coming of Age in Modern Japanese Literature and Film

JAPN 130a
The Literature of Multicultural Japan

JAPN 135a
Screening National Images: Japanese Film and Anime in Global Context

JAPN 140a
The World of Early Modern Japanese Literature

JAPN 145a
The World of Classical Japanese Literature

MUS 4a
Introduction to Chinese Music

PHIL 119b
Chinese Philosophy

POL 147a
The Government and Politics of China

POL 148a
Seminar: Contemporary Chinese Politics

POL 150a
Politics of Southeast Asia

POL 167a
United States and China in World Politics