

An interdepartmental program

East Asian Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (B.A.)

Objectives

East Asian studies 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 advisor a faculty member who seems best suited to that student's interest and area of future work.

Committee

Ralph Thaxton, Chair
(Politics)

Donald Hindley
(Politics)

Gary Jefferson
(Economics)

Nadia Kim
(Sociology; Women's and Gender Studies)

Richard Lyman
(History)

Ellen Schattschneider
(Anthropology)

John Schrecker
(History)

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

Aida-Yuen Wong
(Fine Arts)

Requirements for the Major

A. Satisfactory completion of at least 10 semester courses from among the EAS and cross-listed offerings. No course with a grade below C- can count towards the major requirement of 10 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 10 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 10. 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 cross-listed offerings:

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

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

E. Candidates for honors are required to register for EAS 99d or for a 99d in an appropriate department and to prepare an honors thesis on a topic relating to East Asia. If completed successfully, the 99d (a year-long two-semester course) can be counted as two of the 10 courses of the major.

Requirements for the Minor

A. 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. For further information on these language requirements, see the undergraduate advising head.

B. The EAS core course, HIST 80a (Introduction to East Asian Civilization).

C. At least three additional courses from the EAS or cross-listed offerings. These three courses must be in at least two different departments.

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 105a Cinematic Expressions of National Disgrace: Understanding Modern Chinese History through Media & Film

[hum]

Focuses on how the Chinese have created the history of China's national disgrace in modern period (1840-2004). Studies the way in which the First Opium War and the forced opening of the Qing Empire by foreign military has been presented in Chinese as well as Western Historiography, and it explores the numerous cinematic expressions of national disgrace, including the films released since the founding of the PRC. Compares narrative strategies, aesthetic formulas, and technical means of several films, and tries to understand the official state view of China's national history and its place in mass media. Special one-time offering, spring 2005.
Ms. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik

EAS 115b Memory and Conflict: South Asia after 1947

[nw hum]

Examines expressions of gender, religion, and ethnic identity by pursuing a comparative approach to the literature and politics of South Asia. Readings include works by writers and theorists such as Khushwant Singh, A. Sivanandan, Kamila Shamsie, and Aijaz Ahmad. Special one-time offering, spring 2005.
Mr. Singh

EAS 125b Seminar in the Unofficial History of the Cultural Revolution in China

[hum]

In the past two decades, multiple channels of voicing memories of China's Cultural Revolution have emerged with magazines, websites, films, and literature serving as platforms of information and exchange. This course focuses on these platforms in an effort to understand their agendas and perspectives on how the Chinese have coped with the traumatic experience of Mao Zedong's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Explores the international discussion of trauma and memory not just in China but also with a focus on the United States and Germany. Special one-time offering, spring 2005.
Ms. Weigelin-Schwiedrzik

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.

Surveys Chinese literature from the classical era through the 18th 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

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 the *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

EAS 175a

Masterpieces of Chinese Literature

ECON 64a

East Asia's Economies

ECON 175a

Introduction to the Economics of Development

FA 12a

History of Asian Art

FA 181b

The Art of Japan

FA 184a

Studies in Asian Art

HIST 176a

The Emergence of Modern Japan

HIST 180b

Topics in Modern Chinese History

HIST 181a

Seminar on Traditional Chinese Thought

HIST 182a

Sino-American Relations from the Eighteenth Century to the Present

HIST 184a

Nation and Empire in Modern East Asia

JAPN 98a

Readings in Japanese

JAPN 98b

Readings in Japanese

JAPN 105a

Advanced Conversation and Composition I

PHIL 119b

Chinese Philosophy

POL 147a

The Government and Politics of China

POL 148a

Seminar: Contemporary Chinese Politics

POL 150a

Politics of Southeast Asia