EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Chair, Professor Kimberly Besio
Professors Kimberly Besio (Chinese), Tamae Prindle (Japanese), Nikky Singh (Religious Studies), and Ankeney Weitz (Art); Associate Professors Hideko Abe (Japanese), James Behuniak Jr. (Philosophy), Walter Hatch (Government), Steven Nuss (Music), and Hong Zhang (Chinese); Assistant Professors Daniel LaFave (Economics), and Fang Wang (Chinese); Teaching Assistants Wen-hui Chen (Chinese), and Akari Shibata (Japanese)

Language courses offered by the department are listed separately under “Chinese” and “Japanese.”

The East Asian Studies Department offers students a multidisciplinary approach to understanding Japan, China, and Korea. Our mission is to build language competency in Japanese or Chinese and provide in-depth exposure to traditional and contemporary East Asia through a wide variety of course offerings across the humanistic and social science disciplines.

A major in East Asian studies will achieve an ability to communicate effectively in English and an East Asian language, to critically interpret texts, to develop research skills using primary sources and data, and to acquire a comparative understanding of the region. Students achieve these goals through an immersion experience in East Asia as well as their course work at Colby.

Requirements for the Major in East Asian Studies

One introductory comparative course (East Asian Studies 150); a language concentration consisting of three language courses beyond the all-college requirement (normally Japanese 128, 321, and 322 or one 400-level Japanese course; or Chinese 128, 321, and 322 or one 400-level Chinese course); one capstone course, East Asian Studies 493, taken only in the fall semester of the senior year; and an additional six courses chosen from those approved for the East Asian studies major. These six courses must conform to the following distribution: one 200-level art, religion, philosophy, literature, or music course; one 200-level government, anthropology, economics, history, or sociology course; one 300-level or 400-level course; and three additional electives. Fourth-year language courses or three- or four-credit East Asian language courses outside the language concentration may constitute elective courses. Students who start taking Chinese or Japanese at the 300-level or above are expected to take at least four language courses, which may include three- or four-credit independent study Japanese 491, 492 or Chinese 491, 492. East Asian studies majors are required to spend at least one semester of study in the country of their language concentration. Under extraordinary circumstances students may petition to substitute an equivalent immersion experience in the country of the language concentration for a semester of study.

The point scale for retention of the major applies to all courses offered toward the major. No requirement for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. To achieve distinction in the East Asian studies major, the student will have to achieve a 3.5 grade point average in the courses listed for the major and will have to take two additional language courses beyond those required for the major. These courses may be a continuation of the language of concentration at the 400 level, or they may be introductory courses in a second Asian language.

Honors in East Asian Studies

An honors program is available for senior majors who have earned a 3.5 major average. Normally, application to the program must be submitted prior to the senior year. Some aspect of the culture of East Asia must be studied as the honors project in East Asian Studies 483 and 484.

Attention is called to the minor in Chinese and the minor in Japanese. Requirements for these minors are listed under “Chinese” and “Japanese.”

Requirements for the Minor in East Asian Studies

The East Asian studies minor consists of six courses: one introductory comparative course (East Asian Studies 150); two language courses at or above the 126 level in either Chinese or Japanese; three non-language courses, one at the 200 level, one at or above the 200 level, and the third at the 300 level or above. Courses may be selected from offerings in anthropology, art, economics, government, history, literature, music, philosophy, and religious studies courses on East Asia. With the exception of one introductory comparative course, no content course at the 100 level will count toward the minor.

Courses Approved for the Major in East Asian Studies

Art
- 173 East Asian Art and Architecture to 1300
- 174 East Asian Art and Architecture, 1300 to the Present
- 276 Zen and the Arts in Asia
- 393 Museum Practicum (when appropriate)

Anthropology
Course Offerings

[EA120]  Made in China  Listed as History 120.  Four credit hours.  H, W1.

EA150f  Foundations in East Asian Studies  An exploration of the foundations of East Asian civilization, with a focus on reading the classical texts of ancient China, Korea, and Japan. Provides an introduction to East Asian studies as an interdisciplinary field of study, as we explore interpretations of these foundational texts from a number of perspectives (philosophical, historical, artistic, political, etc.). Students will also work on improving writing and research skills.  Four credit hours.  H, I.  WEITZ

EA212f  Religions of China, Japan, and Tibet  Listed as Religious Studies 212.  Four credit hours.  S.  SINGH

EA221s  Second Language Pedagogy  An introduction to current research and theory in the area of second language acquisition (SLA). Students will gain an understanding of theories of SLA; the similarities and differences across first and second language acquisition; and the role of individual differences in language learning (including age, first language, and aptitude, among others). Students will also become familiar with the implications for SLA of sociolinguistic differences for English across time and space in the United States. Intended for students who are interested in second language learning and teaching. Origins humanities lab.  Four credit hours.  WANG

EA231s  The Chinese Novel: Vignettes of Life in Imperial China  A critical examination of the development of classical Chinese literature of various genres such as poetry, popular songs, philosophical discourse, historical narrative, prose, fiction, tales of the supernatural and the fantastic, romance, and drama. All readings are in English translation. Prerequisite: W1 course.  Four credit hours.  L.  BESIO

[EA240]  Japanese Animation: Sensitivity to Differences  Study of the art forms and Japanese/human culture in six Japanese animé, spanning the time frame of WWII through the future cybernetic age. Students will be asked to pry out the meanings that are embedded in
Surveys the diverse experiences of Japanese womanhood. While the stereotypical image of Japanese women being humble and reserved persists, we will challenge these images by examining how Japanese women manipulate their gender roles to negotiate their power and status both within and outside the family system. We will also examine the complex factors that frame the phenomena of "cuteness" in Japan. By exploring the diversity of Japanese women's everyday lives, we will analyze how the notion of cuteness has been explored and/or rejected and how a broader band of girl culture extends to adult women and

EA278f Culture of Cuteness: Japanese Women Listed as Art 278. Four credit hours. A. WEITZ
their power as consumers. All readings are in English.  

Four credit hours.  

S, D, I.

[EA278]  
Language and Gender  
An examination of how the field of sociolinguistics has been developed and studied with a focus on the relationship between language and gender. Looks at specific linguistic practices that speakers of various languages (mainly Japanese, English, and Chinese) manipulate to negotiate their gender identities and power. Students cannot earn credit for both this course and East Asian Studies 371. All readings in English.  

Four credit hours.  

S, I.

[EA279]  
Economic Rise and Future of China  
Listed as Economics 279.  

Four credit hours.  

I.

EA332]  
Masterpieces: Modern Japanese Novels  
An appreciation and examination of masterpiece novels and short stories written by eight illustrious Japanese writers, including two Nobel Prize laureates. Cultivation of the students' sensitivities to the feelings and values questioned by Japanese novelists. Examination of the novels as works of literature, aided by published scholarship in the fields of literary philosophical, psychoanalytic, historical, and socio-anthropological studies in Japan and the West. Each student will verbally express those findings to an audience, and write a high-quality analysis paper.  

Three credit hours.  

L, I.  

PRINDLE

[EA339]  
Asian Pacific Modernities  
Listed as Anthropology 339.  

Four credit hours.

[EA352]  
Asian Migrations  
Listed as History 352.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.

EA353f  
Globalization and the Rise of China  
Globalization refers to a variety of political, economic, cultural, and social changes transforming our world. Countries are increasingly interconnected by flows of information and technology, capital and labor, ideas and culture. We will use China as a case study to address some major issues concerning globalization: its problems and prospects; terms of trade between and among nations; sweatshop labor; the role of states, markets, and global institutions; human rights and cultural preservation.  

Prerequisite:  
Anthropology 112 or East Asian Studies 150 or Government 131 or History 250.  

Four credit hours.  

S.  

ZHANG

[EA354]  
Skin-scapes: Beauty, Skin, and Cosmetics in East Asian History  
Listed as History 354.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.

EA355s  
Aging and Public Policy in East Asia  
Examines how the family system, household structure, and power relations have changed in East Asian societies as the region has experienced rapid industrialization, urbanization, mobility, and population aging in recent decades. Using ethnographic studies from Korea, Japan, and China, we will explore how changing demographic trends and broader societal transformations reshape the nature of family relationships, community involvement, the Confucian age-reverent tradition, public policy and debates on care-giving patterns, and aging experiences in each of these countries.  

Four credit hours.  

S, I.  

ZHANG

[EA356]  
Winners and Losers in Japanese Politics  
Listed as Government 356.  

Four credit hours.  

I.

[EA357]  
Winners and Losers in Chinese Politics  
Listed as Government 355.  

Four credit hours.  

I.

EA358s  
Political Economy of Regionalism  
Listed as Government 357.  

Four credit hours.  

HATCH

EA398s  
History of Chinese Feminism  
Listed as History 398B.  

Four credit hours.  

H, I.  

PARKER

EA483j  
Honors Project  
An interdisciplinary analysis of an aspect of East Asian culture employing diverse sources and methods. Independent study, extensive readings, consultations, and a thesis. Successful completion of the honors project and of the major will result in the degree being awarded with "Honors in East Asian Studies."  

Prerequisite:  
Senior standing, a 3.5 major average, and permission of a faculty mentor.  

Three or four credit hours.  

FACULTY

[EA483J]  
Honors Project  
Noncredit.

EA491f, 492s  
Independent Study  
Individual study of special problems in East Asian civilization, offered in the departments that participate in the program.  

Prerequisite:  
Permission of the instructor.  

One to four credit hours.  

FACULTY

EA493f  
Seminar: Advanced Research in East Asia  
An examination of methods for researching East Asia. Introduces students to the major debates that have come to define the field of East Asian studies, from John Fairbank's "response to the West" to Edward Said's "orientalism," and prepares them with the skills necessary to engage Asian sources for independent research. Students will develop an independent research project on East Asia in any area of the humanities or social sciences, which, with approval from the student's major
department, may be developed into a senior honors thesis. **Prerequisite:** East Asian Studies 150 or relevant course work in East Asia, and permission of the instructor.  

*Four credit hours.*  

BESIO