Colby

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Chair, *Associate Professor Hong Zhang*
Professors Kimberly Besio (Chinese), Tamae Prindle (Japanese), Nikky Singh (Religious Studies), and Ankeney Weitz (East Asian Studies and Art); Associate Professors Hideko Abe (Japanese), James Behuniak Jr. (Philosophy), Walter Hatch (Government), Steven Nuss (Music), and Hong Zhang (Chinese); Assistant Professor Elizabeth LaCouture (East Asian Studies and History); Visiting Assistant Professor Hwisang Cho (East Asian Studies and History); Teaching Assistants Risa Fujiwara (Japanese) and Ya-Han Chang (Chinese)

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 and 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

For students in the Class of 2013 and earlier *(who may elect to follow the requirements for the Class of 2014 and beyond)*: One introductory comparative course (East Asian Studies 151 or 152 or Art 173); a language and literature concentration consisting of three language courses beyond the all-college requirement (normally Japanese 128, 321, and 322 or Chinese 128, 321 and one 400-level Chinese course) and one literature course in the country of the language concentration; 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, music, or history course; one 200-level government, anthropology, economics, or sociology course; one 300-level course; one 400-level senior project or seminar; and two additional electives. Of these six courses a minimum of three must focus on the country of the language concentration; a minimum of two must focus on either the East Asian region as a whole or on an East Asian country different from that of the language concentration. Fourth-year language courses or one East Asian language course outside the language concentration may substitute for one or both of the elective courses. Students who start taking a Chinese or Japanese course from an upper level are expected to take at least four language courses probably including courses chosen from our 400-level language offerings and independent study 491 and 492. For the Class of 2013 and after: 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.

For students in the Class of 2014 and beyond:

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 Chinese 128, 321, and one 400-level Chinese course); one capstone course, East Asian Studies 493, taken only in 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 eight courses: one introductory comparative course (East Asian Studies 150, 151 or 152 or Art 173); four language courses 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 art, government, history, literature, 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 Survey of Asian Art
- 274 The Arts of Japan
- 275 The Arts of Korea
- 497 East Asian Art and Culture

Chinese

- All courses offered

East Asian Studies

- All courses offered

Economics

- 298 The Economic Rise and Future of China

Government

- 256 Conflict in East Asia
- 355 Winners and Losers in Chinese Politics
- 356 Winners and Losers in Japanese Politics

History

- 250 History of Modern China
- 350 Women and Gender in East Asia
- 298B Introduction to Korean History and Culture
- 397 Written Culture of East Asia

Japanese

- All courses offered

Music

- 254 Music of Meditation
- 255 Zen Theater: Acting, Dancing, Singing Japanese Noh

Philosophy

- 265 Chinese Philosophy
- 266 East Asian Buddhist Philosophy

Religious Studies

- 212 Religions of China, Japan, and Tibet

Course Offerings

EA150fs 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** CHO

[EA152] Introduction to East Asia from the 18th Century to Modern Times A survey of East Asia from the 18th century to the present in its global, regional, and local contexts, beginning with the empires of Qing China, Tokugawa Japan, and Choson Korea, examining the transformations that led to the rise of the modern nation-states of East Asia. Topics include cross-cultural encounters, the rise of imperialism and colonialism, the transformation of empires into nation-states, and the evolution of gender, ethnic, and status identities. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

EA173s Survey of Asian Art Listed as Art 173. *Four credit hours.* **A** WEITZ

[EA231] 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. *Four credit hours.* **L**

[EA240] Japanese Animation: Sensitivity to Differences Japanese animations (animé) are artistic and dramatic expressions of realistic situations, happenings, and apprehensions. This course studies twelve animé as artistic expressions as well as socio-cultural and moral messages. The period covered spans from the 15th century to the post-human cyber-culture era, drawing a socio-cultural contour of Japanese history. As it discusses the values and relationships among regional tribes, social classes, genders, and human versus post-human beings, it cultivates sensitivity towards Japanese culture at multiple levels. It also hones skills in writing and public speaking. Formerly offered as East Asian Studies 297A. *Three credit hours.* **A**

[EA250] History of Modern China Listed as History 250. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

EA251s Gender Politics in Chinese Drama and Film A historical survey of Chinese drama and film from the 13th century to the present with a focus on representations of gender and sexuality. Paired readings of major works from various genres that make up the Chinese dramatic tradition with viewing of modern and contemporary films are informed by reading secondary scholarship in order to place these works and their portrayals of gender and sexuality in their historical and cultural contexts. Students will hone analytical skills and improve their ability to communicate insights both orally and in writing. *Four credit hours.* **L, I** BESIO

[EA252] Hell on Earth? Chinese Writers on Modern Chinese Society An examination of how Chinese writers used literature and film to address the political and social crises their country faced during the 20th century. Through close readings of literary and cinematic works, students will reflect critically on the experiences of the Chinese people as they struggled to modernize and reform society. Students will reflect on what these experiences might teach us about our own society as well as contemporary China, and they will develop their ability to express insights both orally and in writing. *Three credit hours.* **L, I**

[EA254] China in Transition: An Anthropological Account Listed as Anthropology 264. *Four credit hours.* **S, I**

EA255s Zen Theater: Acting, Dancing, Singing Japanese Noh Listed as Music 255. *Four credit hours.* **A** NUSS

[EA257] From Communism to Consumerism An exploration of the fast-changing cultural scene in reform-era China. A wide range of popular cultural forms and newly-emerging consumption patterns (including films, popular music, avant-garde art, lifestyle magazines, hip-hop, and theme parks) are analyzed and discussed in the context of China's transition from a centrally controlled socialist state to a capitalist market economy and consumer-oriented society. Issues include the relationship between the masses and the state in cultural production and circulation; the political implications of late-socialist/postmodern forms of mass culture, and the social and historical contexts for the shaping of cultural sensibilities and commodities in urban "global" communities. *Four credit hours.* **S**

[EA261] Japanese Language and Culture (in English) An introductory course on Japan in which we explore a global perspective of how Japanese people interact and see the world through knowledge of their own culture and language. Examines cultural patterns of Japanese society by looking at various political, social, economic, and gender relations among people in current times. Analyzes the variety of ways in which culture is consumed, reconstructed, reproduced, and manipulated in various local contexts. All readings are in English, but students are expected to memorize Japanese terms that signify Japanese culture and language. *Four credit hours.* **S, I**

EA266f East Asian Buddhist Philosophy Listed as Philosophy 266. *Four credit hours.* **L** BEHUNIAK

EA268s Politics of Satire and Humor in Modern China Explores the evolving role of satire, jokes, and comics in modern China from the Republican Period (1912-48) to Maoist China (1949-78) and reform-era China (1978-present). Particular attention to new and historical forms and targets of Chinese political humor as a way to understand changing state-society relations. Should the proliferation of political humor on the Internet be seen as a sign of new political openness or a part of everyday forms of resistance under authoritarian rule in contemporary China? *Four credit hours.* **S, I** ZHANG

[EA273] The Arts of China Listed as Art 273. *Four credit hours.* **A**

[EA274] The Arts of Japan Listed as Art 274. *Four credit hours.* **A**

EA275f The Arts of Korea Listed as Art 275. *Four credit hours.* **A** WEITZ

EA276s Zen and the Arts in Asia Listed as Art 276. *Four credit hours.* **A, I** WEITZ

EA298s Introduction to Korean History and Culture Listed as History 298B. *Four credit hours.* **H** CHO

EA332s Masterpieces: Modern Japanese Novels An appreciation and examination of masterpiece novels and short stories written by 10 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 pry out covert meanings, verbally express those findings to an audience, and write a high-quality research paper. *Three or four credit hours.* **L, I** PRINDLE

[EA350] Women and Gender in East Asia Listed as History 350. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

[EA353] Globalization and Human Rights in China Globalization refers to a variety of political, economic, cultural, and social changes that are 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:* East Asian Studies 152 or Anthropology 112 or Government 131. *Four credit hours.* **S**

EA371f Japanese Language, Gender, and Sexuality An examination of the many aspects related to Japanese language and culture. The goals are to learn how cultural ideologies affect how we speak our language, how language plays a role in constructing our experience and understanding gender, and how gender and sexuality are negotiated through language. *Four credit hours.* **I** ABE

EA397f Written Culture of East Asia Listed as History 397. *Four credit hours.* **H** CHO

EA397Af Aging and Public Policy in East Asia Examines how family structure, fertility rate, female labor participation, and gender roles have changed in China, Japan and Korea as these countries have experienced rapid industrialization, urbanization, and population aging over recent decades. Using case studies from East Asian countries, we compare and analyze how each country responds to challenges of rapid population aging, and why and how public policy shifts regarding state and private responsibility for the social safety net and the wellbeing of the elderly. *Four credit hours.* ZHANG

EA483f, 484s 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 3.25 major average, and permission of a faculty mentor. *Three or four credit hours.* FACULTY

EA483Jj Honors Project *Noncredit.* WEITZ

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: East Asian Art and Culture Listed as Art 497. *Four credit hours.* WEITZ