

Introduction

The Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures offers undergraduate degree programs in the languages and literatures of China and Japan, Ph.D. programs in Chinese and Japanese literature, and language courses in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean from the elementary to advanced level. Our goal is to support the humanistic study of East Asian cultures through their languages and literary traditions, ancient and modern.

Our faculty

EALL has eight full-time professors, specializing in fields ranging from the earliest texts of pre-imperial China to contemporary film and manga. Our professors are scholars whose modes of inquiry embrace the traditional and the cutting-edge and are all deeply committed to teaching students in small, personalized contexts.



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*Department of East Asian
Languages and Literatures*

Yale University



Undergraduate Program

The major in East Asian Languages and Literatures provides an intellectually focused and rigorous immersion in Chinese and Japanese humanities, allowing students to study two of the world's greatest cultural traditions in depth. We offer courses that reflect the variety of East Asian textual traditions, pre-modern through modern, and including film and theater. The major is focused on the analysis of literature, culture, and thought, built upon a solid foundation of language study; many of our courses are taught in translation, but students also have opportunities to take many courses in which literary works are read in the original language. Majors select either the Chinese or Japanese track, but are encouraged to take courses on the other track and to become familiar with aspects of East Asian literary culture that transcend these geographic parameters.

All of our courses are also open to non-majors, and we welcome students who hope to study China and Japan with the critical rigor that characterizes humanistic study at Yale. Many students combine a major in EALL, and many study more than one East Asian language while at Yale. The EALL majors can be applied to a wide variety of academic and professional career goals, including law, public service, education and social science research, in addition to advanced study of Chinese or Japanese literature and/or film in many other fields.

Our Courses

Students who wish to major in East Asian Languages and Literatures should consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies by the beginning of their sophomore year. The department strongly encourages students to study abroad for at least one term.

The following courses welcome students of all backgrounds and were designed for Yale undergraduates who are interested in an introduction to East Asian humanistic traditions. All readings are in translation and no knowledge of the language required.

EALL 200, The Chinese Tradition:

An introduction to the literature, culture, and thought of premodern China, from the beginnings of the written record to the turn of the twentieth century. Close study of textual and visual primary sources, with attention to their historical and cultural backdrops.

EALL 211/511, Women & Lit in Traditional China:

A study of major women writers in traditional China, as well as representations of women by male authors. The power of women's writing; women and material culture; women in exile; courtesans; Taoist and Buddhist nuns; widow poets; cross-dressing women; the female body and its metaphors; footbinding; notions of love and death; the aesthetics of illness; women and revolution; poetry clubs; the function of memory in women's literature; problems of gender and genre. Some Chinese texts provided for students who read Chinese.

EALL 357/657, Meiji Literature & Visual Culture:

Introduction to the literature and visual culture of Meiji Japan (1868–1912), including novels, poetry, calligraphy, woodblock prints, painting, photography, and cinema. The relationship between theories and practices of fine art and literature; changes in word and image relations; transformations from woodblock to movable-type print culture; the invention of photography and early forms of cinematic practice.

Languages

We offer instruction in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language, from introductory-level to advanced courses in Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, and Korean and courses on the classical literary languages of China and Japan. Modern Chinese and Korean are taught in two tracks, one for true beginners and one for heritage learners (usually, students who have exposure to the language in a family setting or through time living abroad). See our website and course listings for details.

Many of our students enjoy fully-funded semesters or summers studying target languages in Asia, through the generosity of the Richard U. Light Foundation. Learn more about the Light Fellowships for the study of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, a program unique to Yale.

<http://www.yale.edu/lefp/light/>

The Office of Fellowship programs can provide information on a number of other opportunities to study abroad.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Many Yale students combine studies of Chinese, Japanese and/or Korean language and literatures with studies in anthropology, history, history of art, religious studies, economics, political science, sociology, linguistics, literature, humanities, film studies, and theater studies.