

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 more than twenty professional language instructors and seven full-time professors specializing in fields ranging from the earliest texts of pre-imperial China to Korean pop culture to Japanese film. All are scholars whose modes of inquiry and teaching approaches embrace the traditional and the cutting-edge and all are deeply committed to engaging with students in the lively pursuit of these areas of study.



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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, Japanese, and Korean humanities, allowing students to study three 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, theater, and dance. 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 specialize in one tradition but are encouraged to take courses on the other traditions as well so as to become familiar with aspects of East Asian culture that transcend modern political divisions.

All of our courses are also open to non-majors, and we welcome students who hope to study China, Korea, 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 major 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, Korean, or Japanese arts and culture.

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.

Our Courses

The following **sample** courses offered in 2023-2024 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. Note that most of these are cross-listed with other departments or programs. Please see the online course selection (OCS) for more courses and details.

Fall 2023

EALL 200: The Chinese Tradition (Lu)

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

EALL 308: Sages of the Ancient World (Hunter)

Comparative survey of ancient discourses about wisdom from China, India, the Near East, Greece, and Rome. Topics include teaching, scheming, and dying.

EALL 269: Modern Korean Literature (Eo)

Key works of Korean literature in English translation from the early twentieth century to the present day, including novels, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction.

Spring 2023

EALL 267: Japanese Lit after 1970 (Van Hensbergen)

An introduction to Japanese literature written in the last fifty years, with a focus on women writers, from the daily grind of contemporary Tokyo to dystopian futures, from 1970s suburbia to surreal dreamscapes.

EALL 281: Japanese Cinema and Its Others (Gerow)

Critical inquiry into the myth of a homogeneous Japan through analysis of how Japanese film and media historically represents "others" of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, and sexualities.

EALL 230: Poetry, Ethics, Imperial Collapse (Bender)

Close reading of the poetry of Du Fu, China's greatest poet. Exploration of the roles literature plays in interpreting human lives and the ways different traditional forms shape different ethical orientations.

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/ilefp/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.