
Meet Your Departmental Student Advisor!

Ben Leventer
East Asian Studies

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Hometown: Los Angeles

Majors: East Asian Studies and Economics

Study Abroad: India

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Anything chocolate

Best Adjective to Describe You: Amiable

In 10 words or less, why should someone want to be a part of this department?

To see the world through a different lens.

When did you know you wanted to study this area? What pathway led you to this department?

I studied in China during high school. After that experience, I felt very knowledgeable about Chinese culture. I did not think K's Chinese department would keep my interest. The in-depth classes really grabbed my attention and I learned more about East Asia than I thought I could.

What is the best way to get (and stay) connected to this department?

The best way to be part of this department is to start with the language classes and then build up to the cultural classes.

What would you miss the most if you were no longer a part of this department?

I would miss my relationship with the professors. I can always talk and be comfortable around them and they provoke interest and deeper understanding of whatever we discuss.

What are your career aspirations/next steps after K?

I am currently in the process of applying to the Peace Corps.

What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered at K?

How big and diverse Kalamazoo city is. There really is a great deal of activities and culture to be experienced.

How does your department connect to your other interests and activities?

The great thing about East Asian Studies is the many departments you can take classes in. Some of my most interesting classes I have taken have been in the history department.

What has been your favorite class at K? Why?

My favorite class at K has been Ancient Chinese literature taught by Yue Hong. Class discussions really opened up a portal into Chinese history and culture.

What is your SIP?

My SIP is on creating an international student program in a Chinese University in Henan province. I am in charge of the whole creational spectrum from designing curriculum to calculating costs.
