East Asian Studies

Professors: Chamness, Chen, Frost (Director), Sugimori, Walker

East Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary major that introduces students to the region that includes China, Japan, and Korea. Home to some of the world's most ancient and complex cultures, East Asia continues to be a significant, though little understood region today. The East Asian Studies major requires at least two years of either Chinese or Japanese (or demonstrated equivalency) and at least six months of study aboard in China or Japan. In addition to language courses in Chinese or Japanese, students take courses taught in English on the literatures, histories, cultures, and societies of China, Japan, and Korea to develop both in-depth knowledge of one country (China or Japan) and broader familiarity with the region in general. The skills and cultural expertise that East Asian Studies majors acquire are applicable in a wide variety of career fields, including, but not limited to, education, business, government, law, and communications.

To maximize their experiences abroad, students are advised to begin their language study in the freshman year. Those who are particularly interested in languages are encouraged to consider supplementing their East Asian language with the other East Asian language offered on campus or another second language. Whether planning to attend graduate school or to seek employment in an East Asia-related occupation, students are encouraged to choose a SIP project that serves as a meaningful capstone to their work in the major.

Requirements for the Major

Number of Units

8 units, not including language courses. The 8 units may include the SIP (if undertaken as an EAS, CHIN, or JAPN program SIP). SIPs in EAS, or in the Japanese or Chinese programs should be undertaken in the spring in conjunction with the senior seminar.

Required Courses

A. Language courses:

For the China Track: CHIN 201, 202, 203 (or demonstrated equivalent competence)
For the Japan Track: JAPN 201, 202, 203 (or demonstrated equivalent competence)

B. Non-language courses: (4 Units)

HIST 103 Introduction to East Asian Civilizations
Three courses from among:

CHIN 225, 235; JAPN 236, 237, 238, 239;
CHIN 215, 220, 245; JAPN 215, 245, 250

Students are strongly encouraged to take a sophomore seminar related to East Asia.

C. Senior Seminar (1 unit)

EAST 490 East Asian Studies Senior Seminar

Electives (3 units)

Three, non-language courses from at least two different areas below. (With written permission, students may apply one course from a six-month study abroad program or two relevant courses from a nine-month program toward the elective requirement.) Students are strongly encouraged to take at least one course specifically about the country that is not their focus. Note: students who wish to count on-campus, one-time offering courses related to East Asia that are not on the list
below should consult the directors.

Literature: CHIN 225, 235; JAPN 236, 237, 238, 239
Culture: CHIN 215, 220, 245, 260; JAPN 215, 245, 250
Humanities: HIST 280, 282, 283, 285, 288, 289, 397, THEA 290, RELG 250

The Academic Catalog contains the most accurate information available at the time of publication. Statements contained therein are not contractual obligations, and verbal or other representations that are inconsistent with or not contained within the catalogues' offerings or policies are not binding. Kalamazoo College reserves the right to change, without specific notice, offerings, policies, procedures, qualifications, fees, and other conditions.

This content was last updated on October 16 2018.