East Asian Studies

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

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, today East Asia remains a powerful locus of global trade, finance, and popular culture, as well as a region of significant geopolitical interest. East Asian Studies majors at Kalamazoo College combine required courses, study abroad experiences, and elective classes to develop extensive knowledge of a specific country (China, Japan, or Korea) and broader familiarity with the region as a whole. The major requires at least six units of either Chinese or Japanese (or demonstrated equivalency) and at least a long-term (six-unit) study abroad in China, Japan, or Korea. 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. East Asian Studies faculty members work with students to craft plans of study that suit their interests and goals. The skills and cross-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.

Students interested in the major are strongly advised to begin language study as early as possible in order to maximize their experiences abroad. Students should also consult with East Asian Studies faculty early in their time at Kalamazoo College to craft appropriate plans of study. Whether planning to attend graduate school or to seek employment in an East Asia-related occupation, students are also encouraged to pursue coursework in another specific disciplinary area in order to enrich their qualifications.

Requirements for the Major

Number of Units

8 units; not including SIP or language classes through CHIN 203 or JAPN 203. Students interested in completing SIPS in EAS, or in the Japanese or Chinese programs are encouraged to undertake them in the Fall Term in conjunction with the senior seminar and should consult with potential advisors as early as possible.

Required Courses

Required courses develop language skills and expertise related to specific countries and familiarize students with the history and culture of the region as a whole. With approval of the director, courses with relevant East Asian content not currently listed here (e.g., one-time offerings by visiting faculty) can be applied to the relevant categories.

1. Language courses (Note: these courses do not count toward the 8-unit total)

   CHIN 201, 202, 203 (or demonstrated equivalent competence at CHIN 203 or higher)

   OR

   JAPN 201, 202, 203 (or demonstrated equivalent competence at JAPN 203 or higher)

1. HIST 103 Introduction to East Asian Civilizations (1 unit)

   1. One history course taken on campus (1 unit)

   From among HIST 280, HIST 282, HIST 283, HIST 285

   1. One literature course taken on campus (1 unit)
From among CHIN 225, CHIN 235, JAPN 236, JAPN 237, JAPN 238, or JAPN 239

1. One culture and society course taken on campus (1 unit)

From among CHIN 222, CHIN 245, CHIN 260, JAPN 240, JAPN 245, JAPN 250

1. Senior Seminar (1 unit)

EAST 490 East Asian Studies Senior Seminar

Electives (3 units)

Elective courses offer students the opportunity to explore East Asia through a variety of disciplinary approaches. Majors will take three courses from at least two categories listed below. Students who wish to count on-campus courses related to East Asia that are not on the list below should consult the director. With approval of the director, students may count as an elective one non-language course from a long-term (six-unit) study abroad program or two non-language courses from an extended term (nine-unit) program.

Advanced Language: CHIN 300, JAPN 301, JAPN 302, JAPN 401
Literature: CHIN 225, CHIN 235, JAPN 236, JAPN 237, JAPN 238, JAPN 239
Culture and Society: CHIN 222, CHIN 245, CHIN 260, JAPN 240, JAPN 245, JAPN 250
History: HIST 280, HIST 282, HIST 283, HIST 285, HIST 288, HIST 289, HIST 397
Religion: RELG 273
Theater: THEA 397

Social Sciences: ANSO 288

Study Abroad:

Students must complete at least a long-term (six-unit) study abroad in China, Japan, or Korea.

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