East Asian Studies

Professors: Chen, 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, 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 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 to develop both in-depth knowledge of one country 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 their first 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 through 203. The 8 units may include the SIP (if undertaken as an EAS, CHIN, or JAPN program SIP). 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

A. Language courses:

For Chinese: CHIN 201, 202, 203 (or demonstrated equivalent competence)
For Japanese: JAPN 201, 202, 203 (or demonstrated equivalent competence)

B. Non-language courses: (5 Units)

HIST 103 Introduction to East Asian Civilizations (offered only in Winter Term)

Three courses from among:

CHIN 225, 235, 245; JAPN 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 245, 250

C. Senior Seminar (1 unit)

EAST 490 East Asian Studies Senior Seminar (offered only in Fall Term)

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.) 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 director.

Literature: CHIN 225, 235; JAPN 236, 237, 238, 239
Culture: CHIN 222, 245; IAST 222; JAPN 240, 245, 250
Humanities: ANSO 288; HIST 280, 282, 283, 285, 288, 289, 397; RELG 250
Arts: THEA 290

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 25 2019.