East Asian Languages and Cultures

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) offers a major and minor that allows cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of East Asia. Students can choose either to focus in one of our three linguistic and cultural traditions — Chinese, Japanese, and Korean — or to explore different traditions and societies by taking courses in multiple regions. Our major opens up career opportunities in diplomacy, business, law, journalism, and higher education, in addition to providing preparation for further study in the relevant languages and cultures. The major entails advanced training in the chosen language and a sound background in the respective literature and culture. Students are encouraged to enhance their cultural knowledge by enrolling in relevant courses offered through other departments and programs such as Anthropology, Art History, Film and Media Studies, History, Global Studies, Performing Arts, and Religious Studies.

The major requires the completion of 24 upper-level units. Specific requirements include one 200-level foundational course, at least two years of language study, and two or more courses in the relevant literary tradition. In addition, prime majors are required to fulfill the EALC capstone requirement and to participate in the EALC Senior Symposium.

The minor requires the completion of 18 units, 9 of which must be at the 300 level or above. Specific requirements include the equivalent of one year of language study and two courses in the relevant literary tradition.

Language Placement: Placement tests are required for all students entering our language programs, with the exception of those students who have had no previous exposure to the language and wish to enroll in the first semester of the first year of instruction. Students who test into second-year Chinese/ Japanese/Korean and satisfactorily complete (with a grade of B- or better) at least one semester of language study may petition for 3 units of retroactive credit; students who test into third year or above and satisfactorily complete (with a grade of B- or better) at least one semester of language study may petition for 6 units of retroactive credit. Credit is limited to 3 units for those testing into second year and 6 units for those testing into third year or above. Please note that students with native language proficiency as determined by the language section, as well as students who enroll in courses below their placement level, are ineligible for retroactive credit units. Students who misrepresent their language proficiency so as to gain entrance into a course at the elementary or intermediate level will be dropped from that course.

Faculty
Chair
Lingchei Letty Chen (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/lingchei-letty-chen/)  
PhD, Columbia University

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PhD, University of Michigan

Associate Professors
Ji-Eun Lee (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/ji-eun-lee/)  
PhD, Harvard University
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MA, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota
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Senior Lecturers

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MA, National Taiwan Normal University

Ke Nie (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/ke-nie/)
MA, Capital Normal University

Wei Wang (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/wei-wang/)
MA, University of Minnesota, Beijing Language and Culture University

Lecturers

Hea-Young Chun (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/hea-young-chun/)
MA, Seoul National University

Taewoong Kim (http://ealc.wustl.edu/people/taewoong-kim/)
PhD, The University of Oklahoma

Zihan Qin (http://ealc.wustl.edu/people/zihan-qin/)
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MA, Capital Normal University

Professors Emeriti

Beata Grant (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/beata-grant/)
PhD, Stanford University

Robert Hegel (https://ealc.wustl.edu/people/robert-e-hegel/)
PhD, Columbia University

James C. Shih
PhD, University of California, Berkeley

Betty Pei-shan Yue
MA, Washington University

Majors

The Major in East Asian Languages and Cultures

Units required: Eight courses for a minimum of 24 upper-level (300-level or above) units

Prerequisites:

• First and second levels of the chosen language: Modern Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (or the equivalent)
• One Civilization course: Chinese 227C Chinese Civilization, Japan 226C Japanese Civilization, or Korean 223C Korean Civilization

Requirements:

Eight courses for a minimum of 24 advanced (300-level or above) units, including the following:

1. One 300-level Topics course: EALC Seminar (e.g., EALC 3900 Kitchen, Studio, Factory: Making in East Asia)
2. Two courses focusing on the premodern era: one course to be chosen from Chinese 341 Early and Imperial Chinese Literature, Japan 332C Japanese Literature: Beginnings to 19th Century, or Korean 370 When Tigers Smoke: Songs and Stories from Traditional Korea
3. Two courses focusing on the modern era: one course to be chosen from Chinese 342 Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature, Japan 333C The Modern Voice in Japanese Literature, or Korean 352 Literature of Modern and Contemporary Korea
4. One approved 400-level Capstone course (prime majors)
5. Senior Capstone Experience (prime majors): Students may satisfy the capstone requirement in one of two ways, both of which require a presentation at the EALC Senior Symposium, which is held in the spring:
   a. Successful completion of a senior honors thesis. This option, which also entitles the student to Latin Honors, requires a minimum of a 3.65 grade-point average. The thesis is researched and written over two semesters, for a total of 6 units; this is in addition to the 24 upper-level units required for the major.
   b. Successful completion of the approved 400-level Capstone seminar course (to be taken during the senior year). This course may be included among the required upper-level courses for the major. The Capstone course must be an EALC home-based course within the student's area of focus. Writing-intensive courses and language courses cannot fulfill the Capstone requirement.

Additional Notes:

• With adviser approval, students may include two courses in a related area offered outside of the department among the 24 advanced units. (For example, a student may take one course in Film and Media Studies or Art History that focuses on East Asia.)
• At least a B- grade in the language courses is required to continue to the next level. Students must also maintain a B-average in all required courses for the major. Those who do not meet this requirement may either repeat the course(s) in question or earn at least a B- in an approved equivalent course or courses (either during the summer or in a study abroad program).
• Courses for the major and minor may not be taken credit/no credit.
• Up to 6 units of credit may be applied toward the major from one semester abroad, and up to 12 units of credit may be applied from two semesters abroad.
• No more than 3 units of independent study may be counted toward the required upper-level 24 units.
• The 300-level EALC Seminar course and the 400-level Capstone course may also fulfill the premodern or modern requirement.

Minors

The Minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures

Units required: 18 units

Requirements:

• Two semesters of one of the chosen languages: Chinese, Japanese, or Korean
• One Civilization course: Chinese 227C Chinese Civilization, Japan 226C Japanese Civilization, or Korean 223C Korean Civilization
• One 300-level Topics course: EALC Seminar (e.g., EALC 3900 Kitchen, Studio, Factory: Making in East Asia)
• One course focusing on the premodern era to be chosen from Chinese 341 Early and Imperial Chinese Literature, Japan 332C Japanese Literature: Beginnings to 19th Century, or Korean 370 When Tigers Smoke: Songs and Stories from Traditional Korea
• One course focusing on the modern era to be chosen from Chinese 342 Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature, Japan 333C The Modern Voice in Japanese Literature, or Korean 352 Literature of Modern and Contemporary Korea
• At least 9 units must be from 300-level courses or above

Additional Notes:

• Students must earn at least a B- or above in language courses to continue to the next level. They must also maintain at least a B- average in all courses taken to fulfill the minor requirements. Students who do not meet this requirement may either repeat the course(s) in question or earn at least a B- in an approved equivalent course or courses (either during the summer or in a study abroad program).
• Courses for the minor may not be taken credit/no credit.
• No more than 3 units of transfer or study abroad non-language courses may be applied to the minor.
• The 300-level EALC Seminar course may also fulfill the premodern or modern requirement.

Courses

• For Chinese courses, visit the Chinese Courses page (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/chinese/#courses) of this Bulletin.
• For Japanese courses, visit the Japanese Courses page (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/japanese/#courses) of this Bulletin.
• For Korean courses, visit the Korean Courses page (http://bulletin.wustl.edu/undergrad/artsci/korean/#courses) of this Bulletin.


L81 EALC 223 Korean Civilization
A comprehensive introduction to the study of Korea. Following a historical survey, the course examines key cultural themes and social institutions and explores aspects of Korea's relationship with its East Asian neighbors. Attention is also paid to contemporary issues, social problems, and cultural trends. Same as L51 Korean 223C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L81 EALC 226 Japanese Civilization
The development of Japanese culture from antiquity to the present: an overview of Japanese cultural history, focusing on the interplay of crucial aspects of contemporary Japanese society and Japanese social psychology. Same as L05 Japan 226C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L81 EALC 227 Chinese Civilization
An introduction to Chinese culture through selected topics that link various periods in China's past with the present. Ongoing concerns are social stratification, political organization, and the arts, gender relationships and the rationales for individual behavior, and the conceptions through which Chinese have identified their cultural heritage. Our readings include literary, philosophical, and historical documents as well as cultural histories. Regular short writing assignments: take-home final. No prerequisites. Same as L04 Chinese 227C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS BA, IS EN: H

L81 EALC 332 Japanese Literature: Beginnings to 19th Century
This survey of Japanese literature covers antiquity to the early 19th century. Emphasis on the ideological and cultural contexts for the emergence of a variety of traditions, including poetry, diaries, narrative, and theater. Required of all Japanese majors and recommended for all Chinese majors. No knowledge of Japanese language is required. Sophomore standing and above recommended. Same as L05 Japan 332C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM EN: H

L81 EALC 333 The Modern Voice in Japanese Literature
This survey explores the emerging modern voice in Japanese literature, with emphasis on prose fiction. After a brief introduction to earlier centuries, we focus on the short stories and novels of the 20th century. Among the authors considered are Natsume Soseki, Nagai Kafu, Tanizaki Jun’ichiro, and Nobel laureates Kawabata Yasunari and Oe Kenzaburo. Discussions center on issues of modernity, gender, and literary self-representation. Required of all Japanese majors and recommended for all Chinese majors. No knowledge of Japanese language required.
Same as L05 Japan 333C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L81 EALC 341 Early and Imperial Chinese Literature
An introduction to important genres and themes of Chinese literature through the study of major writers. Brief lectures on the writers’ personal, social, intellectual, and historical contexts; most class time is devoted to student discussions of masterworks as an avenue for understanding Chinese culture during selected historical periods. Required for all Chinese majors, and recommended for all Japanese and East Asian Studies majors. No prerequisites; all readings available in English translation.
Same as L04 Chinese 341
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L81 EALC 342 Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature
This course provides an introduction to the major writers and works of Chinese literature from the turn of the 20th century to the present, including fiction, poetry and film. We look at these works in their relevant literary, sociopolitical, and cultural contexts (including Western influences). This course is required for all Chinese majors, and it is recommended for all Japanese and East Asian Studies majors. All readings in English translation.
Same as L04 Chinese 342
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H

L81 EALC 346 Japanese Literature in Translation: Mystery Fiction
In this course we explore the tantalizing, thrilling, and sometimes macabre genre of mystery fiction in Japan. Emerging in the late 19th century, largely in response to the disruptions of industrialization, the mystery genre offered writers a way to make sense of a chaotic, unfamiliar world. The genre has also allowed a means of social critique and radical experimentation. We consider the works of Edogawa Ramo, Matsumoto Seicho, Miyabe Miyuki, Kirino Natsuo, and others. All readings in English. No prior knowledge of Japanese required.
Same as L05 Japan 346
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H UColl: CD

L81 EALC 350 U.S.-China Relations from 1949 to the Present
The United States and China are the two most important global powers today, and the relationship between them is one of the most comprehensive, complex, and consequential major-power relations in the world. The tangled relationship is at times turbulent, and its future remains uncertain. This course studies the bilateral relationship from the Chinese Civil War to the rise of China as a major political and economic power in the 21st century. It invites students to explore the following questions: What have China and the U.S. done to confront or accommodate each other in global politics? How has foreign policy in both countries balanced the often competing goals of state security, economic stability, domestic political order, and international influence? What are the impacts of a rising China on geopolitics in the Asia-Pacific region and on the U.S.’s global leadership in the 21st century? By drawing on scholarship in political and social history and area studies, this course helps students better understand both the historical context and current developments of U.S.-China relations.
Same as L04 Chinese 350
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH, IS EN: H

L81 EALC 352 Literature of Modern and Contemporary Korea
This undergraduate course surveys the major writers and works of 20th century Korean literature. During the 20th century Korea went through a radical process of modernization. From its colonization by Japan, to its suffering of a civil war within the cold war order, to its growth into a cultural and economic powerhouse, Korea’s historical experience is at once unique and typical of that of a third-world nation. By immersing ourselves in the most distinctive literary voices from Korea, we examine how the Korean experience of modernization was filtered through its cultural production. In class discussion, we pay special attention to the writers’ construction of the self and the nation. How do social categories such as ethnicity, class, gender, and race figure in the varying images of the self? And how do these images relate to the literary vision of the nation? Along the way, we observe the prominent ideas, themes, and genres of Korean literature. This class combines discussion with lecture with students strongly encouraged to participate. All literary texts are in English translation and no previous knowledge of Korean is required.
Same as L51 Korean 352
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD BU: BA EN: H UColl: CD

L81 EALC 355 Topics in Korean Literature and Culture
Topics course on Korean literature and culture. Subject matter varies by semester; consult current semester listings for topic.
Same as L51 Korean 355
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD BU: BA EN: H UColl: CD

L81 EALC 370 When Tigers Smoke: Songs and Stories from Traditional Korea
This course has two purposes: (1) to introduce major works and topics in Korean classical literature and the cultural world in which they were produced and (2) to explore modern reimagining of these historical works and events and wider context through contemporary literature and film. The former involves a journey through various genres, including foundation myths, songs, biographies, essays, poetry, fictions, memoirs, letters and oral performance, all produced before
the 20th century. For a modern perspective, we turn to films, dramas, cartoons and short stories, which serve as our basis for discussing the modern recreations of historical events, characters, and Korean culture more broadly. In addition to details of the works themselves, topics will include Korea’s place in the context of a Sino-centric world order; the significance of two writing systems, hanmun (literary Chinese) and han’gul (Korean vernacular writing); gender and literary practice; and the dynamic relationship between tradition and creativity. No knowledge of Korean history or language is required. All readings in English.

Same as L51 Korean 370
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H

L81 EALC 3900 Kitchen, Studio, Factory: Making in East Asia
How do artisans approach the task of making? If different cultures of making exist, what forms do they take and why?
In this course, we will explore these and other questions concerning the central human activity that is the production of material objects. From a Korean rice wine brewer to a Japanese clockmaker and to the Shanzhai cellphone manufacturers, makers in East Asia have distinguished themselves as skillful practitioners throughout history. The aim of this course is to understand their ways of production -- and how these, in turn, evolved alongside broader changes in society and culture. We begin by appreciating the challenges of studying making cultures and the importance of material, hands-on research, which involves, for instance, cooking with historical recipes. We then investigate the history of artisanship in relation to social structures and statecraft and the many ways in which it unfolded in Korea, Japan, and China and across various artifacts, from kimchi and porcelain to steam engines and Van Gogh paintings. For the term project, students have the option of reworking a historical recipe or artifact from East Asia before the modern era. During this process, their will learn by doing and explore the tacit knowledge involved in the creation and maintenance of craft practices. This course is primarily for sophomores and juniors with a major or minor in the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures. Other students may enroll with permission. No prior knowledge of East Asia is required.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H

L81 EALC 4242 Culture and Politics in the People’s Republic of China: New Approaches
This course inquires into the political, ideological, and social frameworks that shaped the cultural production and consumption in the People’s Republic of China (PRC). In the realm of literature, film, architecture, and material culture and everyday life, this course pays a close attention to the contestation and negotiation between policy makers, cultural producers, censors, and consumers. Understanding the specific contour of how this process unfolded in China allows us to trace the interplay between culture and politics in the formative years of revolutionary China (1949-1966), high socialism (1966-1978), the reform era (1978-1992), and post-socialist China (1992 to present). The course examines new scholarship in fields of social and cultural history, literary studies, and gender studies; and it explores the ways in which new empirical sources, theoretical frameworks, and research methods reinvestigate and challenge conventional knowledge of the PRC that have been shaped by the rise and fall of Cold War politics, the development of area studies in the U.S., and the evolving U.S.-China relations. Prerequisites: Advanced undergraduate students must have taken no fewer than two China-related courses at the 300-level or higher. Graduate students should be proficient in scholarly Chinese, as they are expected to read scholarly publications and primary materials in Chinese.
Same as L04 Chinese 4242
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L81 EALC 445 Japanese Fiction: Images of Demonic Women (Writing-Intensive Seminar)
Demonic goddesses, bird-women, sexy shamans, and snaky sorceresses have slipped and slithered their way through the pages of Japanese myth, history, and narrative from time immemorial. Their presence in modern Japanese fiction has largely been treated as either suggestive of an author’s nostalgia for a mythic past or an aberrant fantasy. In this WRITING INTENSIVE course we will examine the way the trope of the demonic woman has been used as a discrete literary strategy to either bolster or defy the modern national subject. Among the authors considered will be Izumi Kyoka, Kawabata Yasunari, Enchi Fumiko, and Oba Minako. All readings will be in English translation. Knowledge of Japanese language or literature is not required, though some familiarity will naturally prove helpful.
PREREQUISITES: JUNIOR STANDING OR ABOVE, AND SOME BACKGROUND IN LITERATURE OR JAPANESE STUDIES.
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