EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CIVILIZATION (EALC)

EALC 001 Introduction to Chinese Civilization
Survey of the civilization of China from prehistoric times to the present.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Goldin, Atwood, Smith, Cheng
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 002 Introduction to Japanese Civilization
Survey of the civilization of Japan from prehistoric times to the present.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis

EALC 003 Introduction to Korean Civilization
This gateway course surveys the history of Korea from early times to the present. We will study the establishment of various sociopolitical orders and their characteristics alongside major cultural developments. Covered topics include: state formation and dissolution; the role of ideology and how it changes; religious beliefs and values; agriculture, commerce, and industry; changing family relations; responses to Western imperialism; and Korea’s increasing presence in the modern world as well as its future prospects. Students will also be introduced to various interpretive approaches in the historiography.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Park
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 098
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 007 East Asia: Past and Present
This course surveys the history of East Asia from early times to the present. We will study the establishment of various sociopolitical orders and their characteristics alongside major cultural developments. Covered topics include: state formation and dissolution; the role of ideology and how it changes; religious beliefs and values; agriculture, commerce, and industry; changing family relations; responses to imperialism; and East Asia’s growing stature in the modern world as well as future prospect. Although a main focus will be on understanding how the regions we now know as China, Japan, and Korea emerged with their respective identities, the course will also give attention to various groups that are rarely noticed in the contemporary world but nonetheless historically important, such as the Tibetans, Khitans, Jurchens, Mongols, and Manchus.
Taught by: Park
Also Offered As: HIST 005
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 008 East Asian Religions
This course will introduce students to the diverse beliefs, ideas, and practices of East Asia’s major religious traditions: Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto, Popular Religion, as well as Asian forms of Islam and Christianity. As religious identity in East Asia is often fluid and non-sectarian in nature, there religious traditions will not be investigated in isolation. Instead, the course will adopt a chronological and geographical approach, examining the spread of religious ideas and practices across East Asia and the ensuing results of these encounters. The course will be divided into three units. Unit one will cover the religions of China. We will begin by discussing early Chinese religion and its role in shaping the imperial state before turning to the arrival of Buddhism and its impact in the development of organized Daoism, as well as local religion. In the second unit, we will turn eastward into Korea and Japan. After examining the impact of Confucianism and Buddhism on the religious histories of these two regions, we will proceed to learn about the formation of new schools of Buddhism, as well as the rituals and beliefs associated with Japanese Shinto and Korean Shamanism. The third and final unit will focus on the modern and contemporary periods through an analysis of key themes such as religion and modernity, the global reception and interpretation of East Asian religions, and the relationship between religion and popular culture. The class will be conducted mainly in the form of a lecture, but some sessions will be partially devoted to a discussion of primary sources in translation. The course assignments are designed to evaluate the development of both of these areas. No previous knowledge of East Asian languages is necessary, and all readings will be available in English on the Canvas site in PDF form.
Taught by: Tavor
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: RELS 172
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 013 Art and Civilization in East Asia
Survey of the major artistic traditions of East Asia from Neolithic times through the 18th century. Will serve as an introduction to upper level lecture courses that deal with the arts and civilizations of China, Korea, and Japan. Students study and handle objects during weekly session in the Museum.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Davis, Steinhardt
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Also Offered As: ARTH 103, VLST 233
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 015 Introduction to Buddhism
This course seeks to introduce students to the diversity of doctrines held and practices performed by Buddhists in Asia. By focusing on how specific beliefs and practices are tied to particular locations and particular times, we will be able to explore in detail the religious institutions, artistic, architectural, and musical traditions, textual production and legal and doctrinal developments of Buddhism over time and within its socio-historical context. Religion is never divorced from its place and its time. Furthermore, by geographically and historically grounding the study of these religions we will be able to examine how their individual ethic, cosmological and soteriological systems effect local history, economics, politics, and material culture. We will concentrate first on the person of the Buddha, his many biographies and how he has been followed and worshipped in a variety of ways from Lhasa, Tibet to Phrae, Thailand. From there we touch on the foundational teachings of the Buddha with an eye to how they have evolved and transformed over time. Finally, we focus on the practice of Buddhist ritual, magic and ethics in monasteries and among lay communities in Asia and even in the West. This section will confront the way Buddhists have thought of issues such as ‘Just-War,’ Women’s Rights and Abortion. While no one quarter course could provide a detailed presentation of the teachings of the Buddha, his many biographies and how he has been followed and worshipped in a variety of ways from Lhasa, Tibet to Phrae, Thailand. From there we touch on the foundational teachings of the Buddha with an eye to how they have evolved and transformed over time. Finally, we focus on the practice of Buddhist ritual, magic and ethics in monasteries and among lay communities in Asia and even in the West. This section will confront the way Buddhists have thought of issues such as ‘Just-War,’ Women’s Rights and Abortion. While no one quarter course could provide a detailed presentation of the beliefs and practices of Buddhism, my hope is that we will be able to look closely at certain aspects of these religions by focusing on how they are practiced in places like Nara, Japan or Vietnam, Laos.
Taught by: McDaniel
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 173, SAST 142
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 022 Gods, Ghosts, and Monsters
This course seeks to be a broad introduction. It introduces students to the diversity of doctrines held and practices performed, and art produced about ‘the fantastic’ from earliest times to the present. The fantastic (the uncanny or supernatural) is a fundamental category in the scholarly study of religion, art, anthropology, and literature. This course will focus on the practice of Buddhist ritual, magic and ethics in monasteries and among lay communities in Asia and even in the West. This section will confront the way Buddhists have thought of issues such as ‘Just-War,’ Women’s Rights and Abortion. While no one quarter course could provide a detailed presentation of the beliefs and practices of Buddhism, my hope is that we will be able to look closely at certain aspects of these religions by focusing on how they are practiced in places like Nara, Japan or Vietnam, Laos.
Taught by: McDaniel
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: RELS 173, SAST 142
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 034 What is Taoism?
This course introduces a wide variety of ideas and practices that have at one time or another been labeled as Daoist (or ‘Taoist’ in the Wade-Giles Romanization), in order to sort out the different senses of the term, and consider whether these ideas and practices have had any common features. We will begin with the two most famous Daoist works—the Zhuangzi and the Daodejing (or Laozi). We will also survey other bio-spiritual practices, such as the meditational techniques of Inner Alchemy and the self-cultivation regimens known today as Qigong and Tai-chi, as well as the theological and ritual foundations of organized Daoist lineages, many of which are still alive across East Asia. We will conclude with a critical review of the twentieth-century reinvention of ‘Daoism;’ the scientization of Inner Alchemy, and the new classification of ‘religious’ versus ‘philosophical Daoism.’ While familiarizing ourselves with the key concepts, practices, and organizations developed in the history of Daoism, this course emphasizes the specific socio-political context of each of them. Throughout the course, we will think critically about the label of ‘Daoist’ (as well as ‘Confucian’ and ‘Buddhist’) in Chinese history and in modern scholarship. We will also question modern demarcations between the fields of philosophy, religion, and science.
Taught by: Cheng
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 184
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

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Taught by: Cheng
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: RELS 184
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 041 Late Imperial China
From an Eurasian empire ruled by Mongols to an ethnically defined Han Chinese Ming dynasty, then again to a multi-ethnic empire ruled by a minority group of Manchus, the disruptions and transformations in the very idea of 'China' in the past seven centuries defies our modern notion of China as a unitary nation with the world's longest continuous cultural tradition. How to understand the continuities and discontinuities of the last three imperial dynasties of China will be the central focus of our survey. How did these different ethnic groups adjust to each other's way of life? Did complicated cultural interaction prompt different visions of empires? How did the meaning of 'Chinese change over this time period? How did international politics shape the fate of Chinese empires? With no assumption of prior knowledge, lectures open with an overview of Chinese society before the eve of the Mongolian invasion, and then trace the changing visions of ethnic and social orders in the subsequent regimes ruled by three different ethnic groups (Mongolian, Han Chinese, and Manchurian). We will examine and compare bureaucratic operations, cultural ideals, domestic and international policies from above as well as the daily life experiences from below. The course will conclude with an analysis of the collapse of the imperial order at the beginning of the twentieth century, after it was severely challenged by a semi-Christian Utopian movement from within and global drug trade imperialist attacks from without.
Taught by: Fei
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 096
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 047 History of Modern China
From an empire to a republic, from communism to socialist-style capitalism, few countries have ever witnessed so much change in a hundred year period as China during the twentieth century. How are we to make sense out of this seeming chaos? This course will offer an overview of the upheavals that China has experienced from the late Qing to the Post-Mao era, interspersed with personal perspectives revealed in primary source readings such as memoirs, novels, and oral accounts. We will start with an analysis of the painful transition from the last empire, the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), to a modern nation state, followed by exploration of a century-long tale of incessant reform and revolution. The survey will focus on three main themes: 1) the repositioning of China in the new East Asian and world orders; 2) the emergence of a modern Chinese state and nationalistic identity shaped and reshaped by a series of cultural crises; and finally, 3) the development and transformation of Chinese modernity. Major historical developments include: the Opium War and drug trade in the age of imperialism, reform and revolution, the Nationalist regime, Mao's China, the Cultural Revolution, and the ongoing efforts of post-Mao China to move beyond Communism. We will conclude with a critical review of the concept of 'Greater China' that takes into account Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Chinese diaspora in order to attain a more comprehensive understanding of modern China, however defined, at the end of the last century.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Fei
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: HIST 097
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 055 Monsters of Japan
Godzilla! Mothra! Rodan! Totoro! Pikachu! If you know who they are, join us to discover the deeper meanings of monstrosity in Japan. If you don't know who they are, learn the literal, metaphorical, and cinematic implications of these giant (and not so giant) beasts. Watch Tokyo go down in flames, and discuss what that means for New York and Philadelphia! Explore the history, literature, and films of Japanese monsters in this undergraduate seminar.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 064 Sushi & Ramen: Making Japanese Food Global
Who defines Japanese food? Is it the chef at a top establishment in Tokyo, a home cook in Osaka, a tea master in Kyoto, the ancient capital? Or is it the midwestern American who thinks sushi means raw fish? Is it the person who scarfs cup noodles, or the devotee of artisan ramen stock? Perhaps it is the Japanese government, which in 2006 sent undercover agents abroad to guard against inferior Japanese food outlets. In this class we will consider how Japanese food came to be defined in distinction to Western and Chinese foods beginning in the nineteenth century, and how Japanese food became a global cuisine. Among our questions: What makes a dish Japanese? How did Portuguese or Spanish frying habits (tempura) and Chinese lamian (ramen) become hallmarks? How traditional is the diet of rice and fish, and in what ways does it interact with the environment? How did Buddhist vegetarians justify sukiyaki? What relationship does food have to the longevity of Japanese today? How does gender affect Japanese food cultures? What are the origins of Iron Chef and bento? We will survey the Philadelphia Japanese food scene and learn to make our own sushi. Some controversies we will discuss include the consumption of whale meat in Japan. We will also investigate Japanese government controls of food to combat obesity and to make food safe. after the Fukushima nuclear catastrophe. Materials include essays, films, novellas, menus, and cookbooks.
Taught by: Chance, L.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Freshman Seminar

EALC 069 Japanese Popular Culture
Today, Japanese manga, anime, J-pop, and film have a global audience. But these exports can only be truly understood in light of longstanding domestic anxieties about sex, violence, gender, and ‘the kids these days.’ More recent concerns about the country’s declining birthrate, weakening geopolitical position, and vulnerability to natural and anthropogenic disaster also deeply influence Japanese media products. This course explores some of these anxieties through critical examinations of manga, anime, video games, television, music, and fashion in Japan. Film screenings include work by directors Kon Satoshi, Otomo Katsuhiro, Takahata Isao, Miyazaki Hayao; Itami Juzo, and Takita Yojiro; manga excerpts include work by Tezuka Osamu, Urasawa Naoki, and Yazawa Ai. Secondary readings include scholarship in anthropology, history, sociology, literature, film studies and religious studies.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 071 Modern Japanese History
This course will survey the major political, economic, social and intellectual trends in the making of modern Japan. Special emphasis will be given to the turbulent relationship between state and society from 1800 to the present.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Taught by: Dickinson
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 091
Activity: Recitation
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 079 The Religion of Anime
Be it shrine maidens, gods of death, and bodhisattvas fighting for justice; apocalypse, the afterlife, and apotheosis... the popular Japanese illustrated media of manga and anime are replete with religious characters and religious ideas. This course uses popular illustrated media as a tool for tracing the long history of how media and religion have been deeply intertwined in Japan.
Taught by: Thomas
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: RELS 079
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 086 Korean Popular Culture
'Korean Wave' (Hallyu) is currently raging throughout non-Western parts of the world, especially Asia, and may be making its way to the West. From South Korean tele-dramas and K-pop music to their respective celebrity icons, these popular cultural forms from Korea are increasingly becoming part of the everyday landscape and vocabulary. We will attempt to understand and evaluate this cultural phenomenon-its promises and limitations as well as its popularity and backlash against it. More specifically, this course explores the ways in which television, music, manhwa (comic books), and the internet participate in the transnational production and circulation of culture, modernity, tradition, ideology, and politics. Some of the more specific topics covered may include: Korean emotions and melodramas; imitation versus innovation in K-pop; fictions of history in period dramas; the marketing of new masculinity; revival of folk culture; preservation of traditional values in postmodern times; repatriation of Korean American pop stars to Korea; and youth culture.
Requirements: outside viewing and listening.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 106 East Asian Cinema
This survey course introduces students to major trends, genres, directors, and issues in the cinemas of East Asian countries/regions, including Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Charting key developments over more than a hundred years from the early twentieth century to the present, this course examines films as aesthetic objects, asking questions about film form, narrative, and style. It also pays attention to the evolution of cinema as an institution (e.g. modes of production, circulation, and exhibition) in different cultural and political contexts. Weekly course materials will include both films (primary sources) and analytical readings (secondary sources). By the end of the course, students are expected to gain broad knowledge of East Asian cinema, develop skills of film analysis, and apply these skills to perform historically informed and culturally sensitive analysis of cinema. Prior knowledge of East Asian languages is NOT required.
Taught by: Zhou
Also Offered As: ARTH 291, CIMS 291, EALC 506
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 108 Sports in East Asia
This course will examine sports in East Asia from the nineteenth century to the present. Recently, East Asia plays an important role in transforming the global geopolitics of sport. The post-war East Asian Olympic Games-1964 Tokyo Olympics, 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympics, 1988 Seoul Olympics, 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, and 2008 Beijing Olympics-and the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan illustrate the fact that a new global sports order led by East Asia has emerged. East Asian nations will play hosts to other major sporting events, including the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Chinese, Japanese, and Korean athletes have been highly active in MLB, NBA, English Premier League, and PGA. The popularity of the various martial arts proves that East Asian sports seem to be everywhere these days. This class will focus on helping students understand how sports have affected and transformed East Asia exploring various issues: imperialism, colonialism, race, class, gender, foreign policy, nationalism, religion, economics, industrialization, tourism, and urbanization. Course contents include lecture, discussions, secondary readings, primary source readings, documentaries, and films.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 508
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 109 New Korean Cinema
In 2019, Bong Joon-ho's Parasite won the Palme d'Or at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival. This event marked the apex of South Korean cinematic renaissance, having steadily become a tour de force in the international film festival scene since 1997 onwards. This course explores the major auteurs, styles, themes, and currents of the so-called 'New Korean Cinema' that emerged in the mid-to-late 1990s to continue to this day. Drawing from texts on critical film and Korean studies, we will pay particular attention to how the selected works re-present, resist, and interweave the sociopolitical climate they concern and are born out of. Using cinema as a lens with which to see the society, we will touch upon major events of the twentieth century including national division, military dictatorship and democratization movements, IMF economic crisis, youth culture, hallyu (the Korean wave), and damunhwa (multiculturalism initiative). In so doing, we will closely examine how each cinematic medium addresses the societal power structure and the role of the 'Other' it represents in terms of class, race, gender, and sexuality in the construction of contemporary Korean society. We will also briefly survey the history of South Korean cinema that has evolved hand-in-hand with the history of modern Korea itself, walking through its five different phases (1945-Korean War era;1955-1972 'Golden Age'; 1973-1979 censorship era; 1980-1996 democratization era; and 1997 onwards). No prior experience of Korean studies courses necessary; all films will be screened with English subtitles. IMPORTANT: This class has TWELVE total Monday evening film screenings, of which you are required to attend AT LEAST SEVEN. Screening times are Mondays 5:20-7:30 PM, Williams Hall 440.
Taught by: Lee
Also Offered As: CIMS 109
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 110 East Asian Digital Humanities
'Are you interested in cutting-edge digital methods for the humanities in East Asia, but don't know where to start? This course covers a wide range of current and emerging digital projects and topics in East Asian studies. Students will engage with digital projects focused on East Asia (encompassing Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan) as well as research being done on Digital methodologies for the humanities in those areas. Coursework consists of project and research analysis, active discussion, and learning about the implementation of various digital projects. Example topics include text analysis, APIs, network analysis, digital literary studies, and mapping. No technical expertise is required but students must have reading knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean at the high-intermediate or advanced level. Class presentations, discussions, and all course readings will be in English, but midterm and final projects involve reading articles and/or critiquing projects. Prerequisite: Reading knowledge (intermediate or above) of East Asian language required.
Taught by: Des Jardin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 511
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 111 East Asian Digital Humanities
Survey of art and architecture created for Buddhist religious purposes in China, Japan, and to a lesser extent Korea, Tibet, and Central Asia. The course will include a brief overview of Buddhist monuments in South Asia, study of the iconography of Buddhist images in graphic and sculptural media, and analysis of a variety of Buddhist styles in painting, sculpture, and architecture.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 515, RELS 175
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 115 Buddhist Arts of East Asia: Sources, Iconography and Styles
Survey of art and architecture created for Buddhist religious purposes in China, Japan, and to a lesser extent Korea, Tibet, and Central Asia. The course will include a brief overview of Buddhist monuments in South Asia, study of the iconography of Buddhist images in graphic and sculptural media, and analysis of a variety of Buddhist styles in painting, sculpture, and architecture.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 515, RELS 175
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 116 East Asian Gardens
Explore the beauty of gardens (and associated buildings) in Japan, China, and Korea from ancient times to the present. Lectures will be illustrated by photographs from dozens of sites in East Asia, and by a field trip to the Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park. The main body of the course will be a historical survey of the evolution of East Asian garden art forms from the sixth century to the present. Discussion will touch on geographic and climatic parameters, spiritual and aesthetic principles, practical limitations and creative innovations of East Asian gardens.
There will be an additional fee for the Japanese House visit, and possibly other field trips.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 516
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
**EALC 119 East Asian Ceramics**
History of ceramic forms, techniques, and aesthetic principles in China, Korea, and Japan from neolithic times to the present century, illustrated by slides and examples, augmented by readings, field trips, and student presentations. Aimed at students with general interest in Japan and/or ceramics history; particularly but not exclusively those majoring in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, East Asian Area Studies or History of Art; also art majors interested in ceramics.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 519
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

**EALC 121 Chinese Poetry & Prose: In translation**
A wide variety of poetic & prose genres from the earliest times to the 19th century is introduced through English translation. A few selections will also be studied in Chinese characters with romanized transcriptions. There are no prerequisites for this course.
Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 521
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**EALC 122 Chinese Fiction and Drama in Translation**
This course offers a study of the artistic techniques, characteristics and development of drama of the Ming and Qing periods. The course investigates topics such as features, forms and art of Ming-Qing zaju drama, selected readings in Ming-Qing zaju drama, features, forms and art of chuanqi drama, selected readings in chuanqi drama, etc. The course requirement includes two exams, terms papers, pop quiz, and some possible additional assignments.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Lin
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 522
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

**EALC 123 Love in China**
We all know that love is not easy. But what makes it so complicated? This course examines how the notion of 'love' in Chinese culture offers a key for us to understand Chinese emotions, family structure, gender and sexuality, consumer economy, as well as the formation of political identity. Is 'love' always defined in light of romantic or intimate relationships? Where can we posit the Chinese ideas of 'love' in the English lexicons of passion, desire, and romance? What were considered the (im)proper expressions and behaviors of 'love' between sovereigns and subjects, parents and children, husbands and wives? Why did metaphors of 'love' often go hand in hand with the aspiration for political engagement and the appreciation of literary talents? How did the concepts of 'love' challenge Confucian social and moral hierarchies by bonding individuals as equals, which marked the advent of the modern era? And lastly, in what ways can the transformation of 'love' over the two millennia of Chinese cultural history broaden our contemporary perceptions of selfhood, partnership, and community? We will probe into these issues through some of the most essential Chinese literary and cultural texts from the 8th century B.C.E. to the 20th century, examining a variety of genres including poetry, plays, memoirs, and fictional narratives. We will also discuss contemporary media adaptations and visit the Penn Museum, exploring different perspectives to approach textual sources. This course is organized both chronologically and thematically: in each week, we read representative works from a specific historical period. They together illuminate both the paradigm of 'love' at a given historical time and the transformation of 'love' in Chinese culture in the longue duree. The format of the course contains a mixture of lecture and discussion, with a special focus on developing students' skills of close reading.
Taught by: He
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

**EALC 125 Cultural Chinas: 20th Century Chinese Literature and Film**
This course serves as a thematic introduction to modern Chinese literature and cinema in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other transnational Chinese communities in the twentieth century. By discussing a wide range of key literary and filmic texts, this class looks into major issues and discourses in China's century of modernization: enlightenment and revolution, politics and aesthetics, sentimental education and nationalism, historical trauma and violence, gender and sexuality, social hygiene and body politics, diaspora and displacement, youth sub-culture and urban imagination.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 525
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 126 Seminar in Modern Chinese Literature
Modern Chinese writers are known for their efforts in creating a literary revolution that sought to reformulate the paradigm of Chinese writing. However, these Chinese writers also endeavored to learn from other cultures such as the European and Indian civilizations. For example, Tagore was invited to visit China in 1923 and was considered a cultural model by many Chinese cultural elites. Hu Shi, a leading Chinese intellectual, wrote The Indianization of China: A Case Study in Cultural Borrowing and India Our Great Teacher, to emphasize the Indian elements in Chinese culture. Other Chinese writers also sought to compare the European with Chinese cultures in different occasions in order to find a path for the rise of modern China. This course explores the ways in which foreign cultures were introduced and how they influence the way Chinese see themselves in their search for a cultural identity free from the constraints of classical tradition. We will read a variety of writers from the Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Malaysia, in order to examine how modern Chinese literature thrives on cross-cultural elements. All readings will be in English. No prior knowledge is required. Those who are proficient in Chinese are invited to read some of the texts in Chinese.

Taught by: Lin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 526
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 127 Arts of China
A broad survey of Chinese architecture, sculpture, and painting from the Neolithic age through the nineteenth century. Topics include excavated material from China’s Bronze Age, Chinese funerary arts, Buddhist caves and sculpture (including works in the University Museum), the Chinese city, the Chinese garden, and major masterpieces of Chinese painting.
Prerequisite: Graduate students may take this course as EALC 527 and should see the instructor to discuss additional requirements for graduate credit.

Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 214, ARTH 614, EALC 527
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

Notes: Graduate students may take this course as EALC 527 and should see the instructor to discuss additional requirements for graduate credit.

EALC 131 Introduction to Classical Chinese Thought
This course is intended as an introduction to the foundational thinkers of Chinese civilization, who flourished from the fifth to the second centuries B.C. No knowledge of Chinese is presumed, and there are no prerequisites, although EALC 001 (Introduction to Chinese Civilization) is recommended. Graduate students may take this course as EALC 531 and should see the instructor to discuss requirements for graduate credit.
(undergraduates must enroll in the courses as EALC 131.)
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector

Taught by: Goldin
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: EALC 531
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 139 Religion in Modern China
This course focuses on the history and role of religion in the Chinese cultural sphere (Mainland China, Taiwan, and the Diaspora) from the mid-19th century to the present day, focusing on the relationship between religious institutions and the state during the imperial, republican, and communist regimes. We will learn about the impact of religious ideas, practices, and organizations on social, political and economic processes and inspect the role of religion in the consolidation of individual, communal, and national identity. Adopting a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, we will attempt to ascertain the impact of the various Chinese religious traditions: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and popular sects, as well as global religions such as Islam and Christianity, on the internal sociopolitical structure of the Chinese state and their role in shaping power relations on a transregional, national, and local level. Special emphasis will be given to the role and use of the grand narratives of secularism and modernity in the shaping of the Chinese nation-state, as well as the value of using these frameworks in the study of modern China. The class is discussion based, supplemented by lectures, student presentations, and documentary films.
No knowledge of Chinese is presumed. All readings will be in English.

Taught by: Tavor
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 539, RELS 139
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 140 Oracle bones to the Chinese Classics: beginnings of writing in East Asia
China is one of several world regions where writing and literacy emerged independently. This course looks at the evidence for the beginnings and first 1000 years of writing in China, from the earliest records of divinations and gift-giving by the Shang kings, through to the establishment during the Han dynasty of the core of China's literary tradition - the ‘classical’ texts that all subsequent educated East Asians knew. Although no prior knowledge of Chinese language is required, we will look at the functioning and early evolution of the Chinese script, and learn to read simple inscriptions. Longer texts will be read in English translation. These will include commemorative inscriptions on bronzes, and varieties of early specialist or technical writings that were buried in tombs with their owners: literature on medicine, handbooks for lawyers, and models for philosophical debate. The course emphasizes the materiality of these writings - their history as physical objects, and the tombs, buildings, and other archaeological contexts in which they are found - and a comparative perspective that sets early literacy in East Asia together with similar and contrasting histories of early literacy in other part of the Ancient World.

Taught by: Smith
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 141 Topics in Asian History
Topics Vary

Taught by: Fei
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: AFRC 234, ARTH 369, GSWS 233, HIST 233, LALS 233
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 145 20th Century China: Ideas, Politics, States
Since 1900 four types of states have ruled China: dynastic, elective parliamentary, authoritarian nationalist, and communist. We will trace each from its intellectual origins to conclusion. By doing so we will present a solid and wide-ranging narrative of China’s past century, introducing newly discovered material, some controversial. Above all we will dig into the issues raised by the century’s mixture of regimes. Right now China is a dictatorship but once it was an imperfect democracy. Does this prove that Chinese are somehow incapable of creating democracy? That sadly it is just not in their DNA? Or only that the task is very difficult in a country nearly forty times the size of England and developing rapidly? That without dictatorship the Chinese almost inevitably collapse into chaos? Or only that blood and iron have been used regularly with harsh effectiveness? You will be given a solid grounding in events, and also in how they are interpreted, right up to the present. Readings will be mostly by Chinese authors (translated), everything from primary sources to narrative to fiction. We will also use wartime documentary films. Two lectures per week, regular mid-term and final exams, and a paper on a topic of your own choice. No prerequisites.
Taught by: Waldron
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: HIST 393
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Two lectures per week, regular mid-term and final exams, and a paper on a topic of your choice.

EALC 151 Contemporary Fiction & Film in Japan
This course will explore fiction and film in contemporary Japan, from 1945 to the present. Topics will include literary and cinematic representation of Japan’s war experience and post-war reconstruction, negotiation with Japanese classics, confrontation with the state, and changing ideas of gender and sexuality. We will explore these and other questions by analyzing texts of various genres, including film and film scripts, novels, short stories, manga, and academic essays. Class sessions will combine lectures, discussion, audio-visual materials, and creative as well as analytical writing exercises. The course is taught in English, although Japanese materials will be made available upon request. No prior coursework in Japanese literature, culture, or film is required or expected; additional secondary materials will be available for students taking the course at the 600 level. Writers and film directors examined may include: Kawabata Yasunari, Hayashi Fumiko, Abe Kobo, Mishima Yukio, Oe Kenzaburo, Yoshimoto Banana, Ozu Yasujiro, Naruse Mikio, Kurosawa Akira, Imamura Shohei, Koreeda Hirokazu, and Beat Takeshi.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIMS 151, COML 256, EALC 551, GSWS 257
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Fulfills Cross-Cultural Analysis

EALC 152 Love and Loss in Japanese Literary Traditions: In Translation
How do people make sense of the multiple experiences that the simple words ‘love’ and ‘loss’ imply? How do they express their thoughts and feelings to one another? In this course, we will explore some means Japanese culture has found to grapple with these events and sensations. We will also see how these culturally sanctioned frameworks have shaped the ways Japanese view love and loss. Our materials will sample the literary tradition of Japan from earliest times to the early modern and even modern periods. Close readings of a diverse group of texts, including poetry, narrative, theater, and the related arts of calligraphy, painting, and music will structure our inquiry. The class will take an expedition to nearby Woodlands Cemetery to experience poetry in nature. By the end of the course, you should be able to appreciate texts that differ slightly in their value systems, linguistic expressions, and aesthetic sensibilities from those that you may already know. Among the available project work that you may select, if you have basic Japanese, is learning to read a literary manga. All shared class material is in English translation.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Taught by: Chance
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 552, GSWS 152
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 153 Loyal Warriors in Japanese Literature
From the earliest literature to the latest think piece on Japanese society, the roles of the ‘warrior’ and of ‘loyalty’ in Japanese culture have fascinated those both inside and outside of Japan. In this course we will trace the development of paragons of loyalty and warrior prowess from the earliest literary works, through the epic Tales of the Heike, and on to the ‘Treasury of Loyal Retainers,’ theater, and film. We will read in the philosophy of fidelity and samurai codes to track the growing dedication to ideals of loyalty, exploring evidence of behavior less than loyal as we seek the real influence of these notions. Related topics include the extremes of vengeance and fanaticism.
Taught by: Chance
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 154 Topics in Japanese Art
Topics vary from semester to semester. For the Fall 2020 semester, the topic will be: From Edo to Tokyo. How did a fishing village with a ramshackle castle become an early modern megalopolis over the course of a century? How did that city modernize rapidly, rebuild, and rebuild again to become one of the most technologically advanced urban environments in the world? In this course we will study the development of the city of Edo and its transformation into Tokyo through its urban planning, architecture, and visual arts. Starting with the formation of the shogun's city, Edo, we will look at castles, mausolea, paintings, and other works to track the uses of architecture and art in the service of political power. At the same time, the long-time imperial capital of Kyoto (Miyako) and other regions actively expanded artistic modes, making this one of the most dynamic eras in Japanese art history, and a new urban population supported other forms of architecture and visual arts, including gardens, paintings, ceramics, and prints. In the final weeks of the course, we will consider how Edo became Tokyo, and how the city was rebuilt through modernization and land reclamation as well as after the 1923 earthquake and the Allied firebombing of WWII. And how did the postwar boom once more transform Tokyo, while also retaining traces and spaces of this earlier part of the city? Finally, we'll think about the ways in which the Olympics in 1964 and 2020 put the city on display.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 315, EALC 554
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 155 Modern Japanese Literature
This course surveys Japanese literature (novels, short stories, poetry, drama, essays) from 1868 to World War II. The purpose is not only to read some of the most important and interesting literary texts of this period, but also to reflect on the ways we read and study literature, and how we draw connections between literature, self, and society. The reading material will be entirely in English.
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 555
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 156 Post War Japanese Cinema
Mizoguchi Kenji, Ozu Yasujiro, and Kurosawa Akira are recognized today as three of the most important and influential directors in Japanese cinema. In their films of the late 1940s and 1950s, these directors focused upon issues surrounding the human condition and the perception of truth, history, beauty, death, and other issues of the postwar period. This course places their films in period context, and pays particular attention to the connections to other visual media, and to how ‘art’ and ‘history’ are being defined in the cinematic context. How other directors also took up these issues, and referred to the ‘big three’ is also be discussed.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 290, ARTH 690, CIMS 223, EALC 556
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 157 Arts of Japan
This course introduces the major artistic traditions of Japan, from the Neolithic period to the present, and teaches the fundamental methods of the discipline of art history. Special attention will be given to the places of Shinto, the impact of Buddhism, and their related architectures and sculptures; the principles of narrative illustration; the changing roles of aristocratic, monastic, shogunal and merchant patronage; the formation of the concept of the artist over time; and the transformation of tradition in the modern age.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 213, ARTH 613, EALC 557
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Graduate students may take this course as EALC 527 and should see the instructor to discuss additional requirements for graduate credit.

EALC 162 City & Citizenship: Samurai Politics and Commoner Culture in Early Modern Japan
In the early modern period (1600-1867), Japan underwent a staggering urban transformation. Edo, the shogunal capital, grew in barely a century from a new settlement to a sprawling metropolis of over a million. Indeed, most of Japan's current urban centers descend directly from the castle towns built by regional warlords in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries in an effort keep the peace after over a hundred years of civil war. As a result, Japanese cities in the early modern period became a central component of what historians have called a 're-feudalization' of society, and retained strong vestiges of their military origins. At the same time the samurai-centered space of the new cities created opportunities for the development of alternative cultural practices and values by urban commoners. The juxtaposition of the regimented, honor-driven society designed and longed for by samurai and the fluid, money-driven society that grew out of the burgeoning cities' commoner quarters is one of the animating forces of the early modern period. Through study of scholarship and contemporary sources (laws and sumptuary regulations, codes of conducts, but also diaries, novels, plays), this course will explore the many facets of early modern urban society, its medieval antecedents, and its legacies in contemporary Japan.
Taught by: Spafford
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 562
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 165 Environment, Climate, and Culture in Japan
This course explores how Japanese literature, cinema, and popular culture have engaged with questions of environment, ecology, pollution, and climate change from the wake of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945 to the ongoing Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster in the present. Environmental disasters and the slow violence of their aftermath have had an enormous impact on Japanese cultural production, and we examine how these cultural forms seek to negotiate and work through questions of representing the unrepresentable, victimhood and survival, trauma and national memory, uneven development and discrimination, the human and the nonhuman, and climate change's impact on imagining the future. Special attention is given to the possibilities and limitations of different forms—the novel, poetry, film, manga, anime—that Japanese writers and artists have to think about humans’ relationship with the environment.
Taught by: Poland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 565, ENVS 165
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 171 Knights with Katanas: Medieval Japan and Europe Compared
This course aims to provide an overview of some of the main themes and problems in the history and historiography of medieval Japan by drawing on comparisons with European counterparts and interpretive models. To this end, each week's readings on Japan are paired with one or more works on medieval Europe dealing with a similar theme. The primary purpose is not only to draw comparisons between the two civilizations and their development but also to use the great riches of scholarship on the European Middle Ages to shed light on possible new avenues of inquiry and perspectives on Japan.
Taught by: Spafford
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 571, HIST 090
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 176 Japan: The Age of the Samurai
Who (or what) were the samurai? What does it mean to say that Japan had an 'Age of the Samurai'? In popular imagination, pre-modern Japan has long been associated with its hereditary warrior class. Countless movies have explored the character and martial prowess of these men. Yet warriors constituted but a tiny portion of the societies they inhabited and ruled, and historians researching medieval Japanese have turned their attentions to a great range of subjects and to other classes (elite and commoner alike). This class is designed to acquaint students with the complex and diverse centuries that have been called the 'Age of the Samurai'-roughly, the years between ca. 1110 and 1850. In the course of the semester, we will explore the central themes in the historiography of warrior society, while introducing some of the defining texts that have shaped our imagination of this age (from laws to epic poems, from codes of conduct to autobiographies).
Taught by: Spafford
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 576, HIST 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 183 Readings in Korean History
This course introduces students to English-language scholarship on social history of Korea from the founding of the Choson dynasty (1392-1910) to the mid-nineteenth century. Conducted as a reading seminar, the course will examine status and gender in early modern Korean society by considering, among others, descent, kinship, marriage, education, and economy. A reading list of noteworthy studies is intended to help the students map some critical questions and debates that have shaped the historiography. Everyone must participate actively in discussions, provide oral presentations as a discussion leader, and submit two review essays. No knowledge of Korean language or culture is presumed. This course satisfies Cross Cultural Analysis requirement.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 583
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 184 Two Koreas: The Politics of Division
In today's world, the inter-Korean border or DMZ (demilitarized zone) is widely regarded as one of the most impermeable and conflictual frontiers. The purpose of this course is to explore the dynamics of its formation between, and impact within, the two Koreas. The course therefore proposes to analyze how the division of the Korean peninsula not only came into being but also how it has shaped the socio-political trajectories of both the North and the South since 1945. The course also aims at introducing students to conceptual frameworks and comparative debates relevant to understanding the Korean case(s) from a social science perspective.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 584
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 190 Silk Road: From the Mediterranean to the Pacific
A journey along the overland and sea routes that connected China, India, Iran, and Rome from 200-1000 CE and served as conduits for cultural exchange. Precursor and successor routes will also be taken into consideration. The lives of merchants, envoys, pilgrims, and travelers interacting in cosmopolitan communities will be examined. Exploration of long-known and newly discovered archaeological ruins, along with primary sources in translation, will be studied.
Taught by: Mair
Also Offered As: EALC 590, SAST 190, SAST 590
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 192 Arts of Korea
The goal of this course is understanding the development of visual, performing, and literary arts in Korea and the historical, religious, and social contexts in which they flourished. It serves as an introduction to the arts of Korea, with emphasis on painting, sculpture, ceramics, and architecture and additional consideration of dance, drama, poetry, and culinary arts. Covers the whole history of Korea, from prehistoric times to the twenty-first century.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 592
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 211 Life and Death in Han China
Using maps, city-panning, architecture, wall painting, sculpture, and minor arts as evidence, the course will examine the attitudes toward life and death in Han (206 BCE-AD 220) China.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 611
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 216 Chinese Art Under the Mongols
The Yuan Dynasty (1257-1368), the period of Mongolian rule, was the only time in Chinese history when China was part of a larger empire that spanned the Asian continent. Using architecture, sculpture, painting, and excavated evidence, this course examines the unique results of an international Asian world centered in China.
Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 616
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 220 Tang China and Nara Japan
This is a seminar about Tang China and Nara Japan, and Early Heian Japan, Unified Silla Korea, Northeast Asia under Parhae, and Uyghur Inner Asia through their cities, palaces, monasteries, Buddhist art, and painting. We begin by studying material remains of the two best-documented civilizations of East Asian in the seventh-nineth centuries. Using painting, sculpture, ceramics, and architecture of Tang China and Nara Japan, we investigate the validity of the frequent assessment of an international Tang through material remains in China and Japan. We then move to Korea, Mongolia, and Central Asia. Students will have a wide range of topics to work on. They will be encouraged to find comparative topics. This seminar is an opportunity for students to use Chinese, Japanese, or Korean in research papers. There are no exams. Readings will be assigned to the whole group and to individual students for short presentations every week. Undergraduates will write one short and write and present one long paper.
Taught by: Steinhardt
Also Offered As: EALC 620
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 221 First Year Classical Chinese I
Introduction to the classical written language, beginning with Shadick, First Course in Literary Chinese. Students with a background in Japanese, Korean, Cantonese, Taiwanese, and other East Asian languages are welcome; it is not necessary to know Mandarin. The course begins from scratch, and swiftly but rigorously develops the ability to read a wide variety of classical and semi-classical styles. Original texts from the 6th century BC to the 20th century AD are studied. This course is taught in English and there are no prerequisites.
Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: CHIN 491, EALC 621
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 222 1st Year Classical Chin II
Continuation of CHIN491 EALC221/621, which is the only prerequisite for this course. Upon completion of Shadick, readings in a wide selection of texts with Chinese commentaries may be taken up. These readings are in part chosen to reflect student interest. This is the second half of a year-long course. Those who enroll must take both semesters.
Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CHIN 492, EALC 622
Prerequisite: EALC 221
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 223 Language, Script and Society in China
The Chinese writing system is the only major surviving script in the world that is partially picto-ideographic, Egyptian hieroglyphic and Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform having passed out of use about two millennia ago. Partly because it is so unique, a tremendous number of myths have grown up around the Chinese script. In an attempt to understand how they really function, this seminar will examine the nature of the sinographs and their relationship to spoken Sinitic languages, as well as their implications for society and culture. We will also discuss the artistic and technological aspects of the Chinese characters and the ongoing efforts to reform and simplify them. The use of sinographs in other East Asian countries than China will be taken into account. There are no prerequisites for this class.
Taught by: Mair
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 623
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 226 East Asian Funerary Arts
Study of tombs and tomb decoration of emperors and officials in China, Korea, and Japan from the pre-Buddhist era through the 19th century.
Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 626
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 227 Chinese Painting
Study of Chinese painting and practice from the earliest pictorial representation through the late twentieth century. Painting styles are analyzed, but themes such as landscape and narrative are considered with regard to larger social, cultural, and historical issues. The class will pay particular attention to the construction of the concepts of the ‘artist’ and ‘art criticism’ and their impact on the field into the present. Visits to study paintings at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and Philadelphia Museum of Art.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 217, ARTH 617, EALC 627
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 229 Chinese Architecture
Survey of Chinese buildings and building technology from the formative period in the second millennium BCE through the twentieth century. The course will deal with well-known monuments such as the Buddhist monasteries of Wutai, imperial palaces in Chang’an and Beijing, the Ming tombs and the Temple of Heaven, and less frequently studied buildings. Also covered will be the theory and principles of Chinese construction. Graduate-level option requires a 20-page paper and permission of the instructor.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 629
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Graduate-level option requires a 20-page paper and permission of the instructor

EALC 230 Gender, Religion, and China
This course examines the interrelationship among ‘gender,’ ‘religion,’ and ‘China’ as conceptual and historical categories. We ask, for example, how gender plays critical and constitutive roles in Chinese religious traditions, how religion can be used both to reinforce and to challenge gender norms, how religious women impact Chinese society and culture, and what the construction of ‘China’ as a cultural identity and as a nation-state has to do with women, gender, and religion. We will also think about what assumptions we have when speaking of gender, religion, and China, and the infinite possibilities when we strive to think beyond. We will read three kinds of materials: (1) scholarship on gender and religion in historical and contemporary China as well as the Chinese-speaking world, (2) scholarship concerning theories and methodology of gender and religious studies not necessarily focused on China, and (3) historical record of religious women in English translation.
Taught by: Cheng
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 630, GSWS 234, GSWS 630, RELS 237, RELS 630
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 233 Chinese Aesthetics
This seminar investigates classical Chinese conceptions of art and beauty as exemplified in philosophy, literature, music, painting, calligraphy, and architecture. All readings will be in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed. Graduate students should see the instructor to discuss requirements for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 633
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 234 Daoist Traditions
This course examines the history of various intellectual and religious traditions that came to be known as Daoist (or Taoist in the Wade-Giles Romanization). We will begin with a critical review of the twentieth-century reinvention of Daoism and the new classification of religious versus philosophical Daoism, before tracing chronologically the textual, institutional, and social history of Daoist traditions from the fourth century B.C.E. While familiarizing students with the key concepts, practices, and organizations developed in the history of Daoism, this class emphasizes the specific socio-political context of each of them. Throughout the course, we will think critically about the labeling of Daoist (as well as Confucian and Buddhist) in Chinese history and in modern scholarship. We will also question modern demarcations between philosophy, religion, and science, as well as that between the spiritual and the physical.
Taught by: Cheng
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 634, RELS 233, RELS 634
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 239 Sex and Society in Ancient China
Ancient Chinese writers considered sexual activity to be an essential component of humanity, and the study of human sexuality to be essential to the study of human history. Sexuality constituted a fundamental source of imagery and categories that informed the classical Chinese conception of social, political, and military relationships. This course will survey the major sources dealing with sex and society in ancient China. There are no prerequisites, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 639
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 240 Early Chinese History
This seminar covers the span of Chinese history from the Bronze Age to the end of the Han dynasty in A.D. 220. No knowledge of Chinese is presumed, but EALC 001 (Introduction to Chinese Civilization) is a prerequisite. Graduate students who wish to enroll should meet with the instructor to discuss additional requirements for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 640
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 241 Law in Pre-Modern China
This course, intended for graduate students and advanced undergraduates, offers a survey of the sources and research problems of pre-modern Chinese law. For reasons to be examined in the course, traditional Sinological education has neglected law as a legitimate field of inquiry; consequently, the secondary literature is surprisingly meager. Our readings will take us from the Warring States Period to the Qing dynasty—an interval of over two millennia—and will cover several varieties of legal documents, including statutes, handbooks, court records, and theoretical treatises. All the readings will be in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed. Graduate students should see the instructor to discuss requirement for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 641
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 242 Medicine and Healing in China
This course explores Chinese medicine and healing culture, its diversity, and its change over time. We will discuss topics including the establishment of canonical medicine, Daoist approaches to healing and longevity, diverse views of the body and disease, the emergence of treatments for women, medical construction of sex difference and imagination of female sexuality, the thriving and decline of female healers, the identity of scholar physicians, the transmission of medical knowledge, domestic and cross-regional drug market, healer-patient relations, and new visions of traditional Chinese medicine in modern China.
Taught by: Cheng,H
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 642
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 243 Pastoralism & Mobility
'Pastoralism and Mobility' will examine the society and history of mobile pastoralists (nomads) in Inner Asia from earliest times to the present. Peoples covered will include Mongols, Tibetans, Turkic nomads (such as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen), and their ancestors and predecessors. The class will focus on questions such as: Is there a distinctive form of Inner Asian pastoralist society? At the grass roots level? At the elite level? How have states (native and foreign) influenced Inner Asian pastoralist society in pre-modern and modern contexts? How have Inner Asian pastoralists influenced neighboring states? What role does kinship play in governing group formation, property, and status in Inner Asian pastoralist society? Does this role vary over time, space, or ethnic background? If so, how? What purposes does mobility serve in Inner Asian societies? How have various forms of livestock lease-holding changed and shaped wealth in Inner Asian pastoralist society? How did class differentiation emerge & function in pre-modern pastoralist societies? What happens when pastoralists become farmers? How have modern schemes of social improvement and productivity, especially collectivization and decollectivization, shaped pastoral lives?
Taught by: Atwood
Course offered fall; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: EALC 643
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 244 The Politics of Shinto
Shinto-derived images and ideas frequently appear in Japanese anime and film, and journalists and academics frequently mobilize the term Shinto as a way of explaining Japan's past or envisioning its future. The environmentalist left champions a green Shinto while Shinto-derived ideas serve as red meat for politicians pandering to Japan's nationalist right. While the influential position Shinto occupies in Japanese sociopolitical life is therefore clear, the term Shinto itself is actually not. Depending on who one asks, Shinto is either the venerable indigenous religion of the Japanese archipelago, the irreducible core of Japanese culture, a tiny subset of Japanese Buddhism, an environmentalist ethic, or some combination of these. This course investigates the multifarious types of Shinto envisioned by these competing interest groups.
Taught by: Jolyon Thomas
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 653, RELS 271, RELS 671
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 250 Law in Pre-Modern China
This course, intended for graduate students and advanced undergraduates, offers a survey of the sources and research problems of pre-modern Chinese law. For reasons to be examined in the course, traditional Sinological education has neglected law as a legitimate field of inquiry; consequently, the secondary literature is surprisingly meager. Our readings will take us from the Warring States Period to the Qing dynasty—an interval of over two millennia—and will cover several varieties of legal documents, including statutes, handbooks, court records, and theoretical treatises. All the readings will be in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed. Graduate students should see the instructor to discuss requirement for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 641
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 251 Readings in Classical Japanese I
Readings in classical texts drawn from the Heian, Kamakura, Muromachi, and Edo periods. Introduction to the different styles of classical Japanese, and to classical Japanese as a whole.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Chance
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 651, JPAN 491
Prerequisite: JPAN 212
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 253 The Politics of Shinto
Shinto-derived images and ideas frequently appear in Japanese anime and film, and journalists and academics frequently mobilize the term Shinto as a way of explaining Japan's past or envisioning its future. The environmentalist left champions a green Shinto while Shinto-derived ideas serve as red meat for politicians pandering to Japan's nationalist right. While the influential position Shinto occupies in Japanese sociopolitical life is therefore clear, the term Shinto itself is actually not. Depending on who one asks, Shinto is either the venerable indigenous religion of the Japanese archipelago, the irreducible core of Japanese culture, a tiny subset of Japanese Buddhism, an environmentalist ethic, or some combination of these. This course investigates the multifarious types of Shinto envisioned by these competing interest groups.
Taught by: Jolyon Thomas
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 653, RELS 271, RELS 671
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 254 War and Literature in Japan: Tales of the Heike
Our subject is Tale of the Heike, a multifaceted narrative of the twelfth-century battles that brought the Taira clan down and led to the establishment of Japan's first military government. We will read the Heike tales with an eye toward how they fictionalize history and idealize certain types, most notably loyal women and warriors; the development of the warrior tale genre; central aspects of the Japanese ethos; and later works of literature based on episodes and characters from the Tale of the Heike. All material is in English translation. (Students of Japanese language may learn to read a famous section in the original.) There are no pre-requisites.
Taught by: Chance, L
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 654
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 255 Japanese Theater
Japan has one of the richest and most varied theatrical traditions in the world. In this course, we will examine Japanese theater in historical and comparative contexts. The readings and discussions will cover all areas of the theatrical experience (script, acting, stage design, costumes, music, and audience). Audio-visual material will be used whenever appropriate and possible. The class will be conducted in English, with all English materials.
Taught by: Kano
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 385, EALC 655, FOLK 485, THAR 485
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 256 The Tale of Genji
'Crowning masterpiece of Japanese literature,' 'the world's first novel,' 'fountainhead of Japanese literary and aesthetic culture,' 'a great soap opera in the vein of Jacqueline Susann.' Readers over the centuries have praised the Tale of Genji, the monumental prose tale finished just after the year 1000, in a variety of ways. In this course we will read the latest English translation of Murasaki Shikibu's work. We will watch as Genji loses his mother at a tender age, is cast out of the royal family, and begins a quest to fill the void she left. Along the way, Genji’s loyalty to all the women he encounters forges his reputation as the ideal lover. We will consider gender issues in the female author's portrayal of this rake, and question the changing audience, from bored court women to censorious monks, from adoring nationalists to comic book adaptors. Study of the tale requires consideration of poetry, imagery, costume, music, history, religion, theater, political and material culture, all of which will be components of the course. We will also trace the effect of the tale's many motifs, from flora and fauna to murderously jealous spirits, on later literature and conceptions of human emotions. All material is in English translation. There are no prerequisites.
Taught by: Chance, L.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 656
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 259 Gender and Sexuality in Japan
If you have ever wondered about the following questions, then this is the right course for you: Is Japan a hyper-feminine nation of smiling geisha and obedient wives? Is it a hyper-masculine nation of samurai and economic warriors? Is it true that Japanese wives control the household? Is it true that Japanese men suffer from over-dependence on their mothers? What do young Japanese women and young men worry about? What does the government think about the future of Japanese women and men? Assuming that expressions of gender and sexuality are deeply influenced by cultural and social factors, and that they also show profound differences regionally and historically, this course examines a variety of texts—historical, biographical, autobiographical, fictional, non-fictional, visual, cinematic, analytical, theoretical—in order to better understand the complexity of any attempts to answer the above questions.
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 659, GSWS 259
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 260 History of the Book in East Asia
Spring 2018: From handscrolls to manga, books play a vital role in East Asian societies. In this course we will introduce the spread of book cultures across East Asia and reconsider the role and impact of material texts on societies in China, Korea, and Japan. Among the questions we’ll engage are: What is a book, an author, or an edition? How do readers affect books? How do publishers decide when to use illustrations, woodblock printing, or movable type? How has the history of books differed in China, Japan, and Korea from the history of the book in the West? We will consider various media (bamboo, paper, silk, and the digital), formats (scrolls, folded books, bound books, small to oversize), and the tensions between handwritten manuscript and printed pages. Hands-on sessions may include paper-making, bookbinding, and printing. This is an Objects-Based Learning course, using materials from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and the Penn Museum, with visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Requires no knowledge of any Asian language.
Taught by: Davis, Chance
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 517, EALC 661
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 261 Japanese Science Fiction and Fantasy
This course will provide an overview of the major tropes, themes, and interpretations of contemporary Japanese science fiction and fantasy. As we establish a foundational knowledge of the history and structural formulations of genre fiction in Japan, we will cover topics such as folklore, high fantasy, apocalypse, dystopia, magical realism, posthumanism, video games, and transnational media franchises and cross-cultural marketing. By the end of the semester, students will possess a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role that science fiction and fantasy play in shaping contemporary media cultures in Japan and around the world.
Taught by: Hemmann
Also Offered As: EALC 662
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 264 Lawlessness and Violence in Pre-Modern Japan
This course will be an exploration of premodern Japanese history through the lens of violence. The centuries under consideration (roughly, the eighth through nineteenth) were characterized by greatly varying levels of violence, both of the state-sanctioned variety (war, punishments for lawbreakers and political losers) and of the non-sanctioned variety (piracy, banditry, warrior and peasant rebellions). Examining a wide variety of translated sources, from diaries to chronicles, from legal codes to fiction, we shall examine the changing social, political, economic, and cultural contexts of violence, in order to interrogate not only why certain periods were remarkably peaceful while others were not, but also why violence took different forms in relation to different circumstances. We shall consider how contemporaries made sense of the violence that surrounded them (or didn't) and how they divided the acceptable use of force from the wanton and society-threatening abuse of it. The course will feature presentations and severl (very short) papers.
Taught by: Spafford, D.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 664
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 268 Japanese Cinema
This course is a survey of Japanese cinema from the silent period to the present. Students will learn about different Japanese film genres and histories, including (but not limited to) the benshi tradition, jidaigeki (period films), yakuza films, Pink Film, experimental/arthouse, J-horror, and anime. Although the course will introduce several key Japanese auteurs (Mizoguchi, Ozu, Kurosawa, Oshima, Suzuki, etc), it will emphasize lesser known directors and movements in the history of Japanese film, especially in the experimental, arthouse, and documentary productions of the 1960s and 1970s. Finally, in addition to providing background knowledge in the history of Japanese cinema, one of the central goals of the course will be to interrogate the concept of ‘national’ cinema, and to place Japanese film history within a international context. Taught by: Alekseyeva
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: CIMS 304, ENGL 304
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 270 From Shamans to Shoguns: The Texts that Made Pre-Modern Japanese History
This course tackles about a millennium of pre-modern Japanese political, social, and cultural history (roughly, 700-1700). Instead of attempting to cover the period chronologically, as an introductory survey might, this class is structured as a series of case studies. Each of these will take a primary source as its point of departure and explore one or more facets of Japanese history and writing. In the course of each case study, lectures and discussions will branch out from the main source to examine its historical context as well as the (political, cultural, textual) traditions that informed that source’s composition. In general, students will read the entire texts of the main sources (or significant portions of them), along with scholarly articles and shorter excerpts from other sources, composed at the same time or in the same vein/genre. During lectures and discussions alike, students will be asked to engage the readings, so as to grasp the specifics of Japanese history and practice the analytical skills required of historical discourse. Taught by: Spafford, D.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 670, HIST 277
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 291 Archaeology of Central Asia
A site by site investigation of Buddhist and non-Buddhist ruins in Central Asia. Included are Nisa, Khwarezm, Pyandzhikent, Khalchayan, Ay-Khanum, Bamiyan, Miran, Tumshuk, Kizil, Kucha, Khotan, Adzhina-Tepe, Khocho, Karha-Khoto, and Bezeklik. Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 691
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 293 Introduction to Classical Mongolian
In this class students who already know some modern Mongolian in the Cyrillic script will learn how to transfer that knowledge to the reading of first post-classical, and then classical texts written in the vertical or Uyghur-Mongolian script. Topics covered will include the Mongolian alphabetic script, dealing with ambiguous readings, scholarly transcription, vowel harmony and syllable structure, post-classical and classical forms of major declensions, converbs, verbal nouns, and finite verbs, syntax, pronunciation and scribal readings. Readings will be adjusted to interests, but as a rule will include selections from short stories, diaries, chronicles, Buddhist translations, government documents, popular didactic poetry, ritual texts, and traditional narratives. Students will also be introduced to the most important reference works helpful in reading classical and post-classical Mongolian. One year of modern Mongolian or equivalent required to enroll. Taught by: Tseveendulam
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 693
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 301 Major Seminar on China
This is a seminar required for all Chinese majors in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization. Topic varies year to year. Prerequisite: No language required for undergraduates. Taught by: Mair
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: EALC 001
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 302 Major Seminar on Japan
This is a seminar required for all Japanese majors in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization. Topic varies year to year. Prerequisite: No language required for undergraduates. Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: EALC 002
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 303 Major Seminar on Korea
This is a seminar required for all Korean majors in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization. Topic varies year to year. Taught by: Park
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 442 Topics in World History
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: HIST 412
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 501 Chinese History and Civilization
This seminar offers a thematic overview of the academic study of Chinese history from the Neolithic period to the 21st century. Over the course of the semester, students will be introduced to different scholarly approaches to the study of history through a close reading and analysis of the work of leading scholars in the field of Sinology. We will learn about the various subfields in the study of history, such as cultural history, social history, administrative and legal history, intellectual history, history of religion, literary history, history of gender, world history, and historiography, examine their different methodological frameworks and tools, and draw on them in order to problematize and enrich our understanding of Chinese culture. In addition, this seminar will provide incoming students with the relevant tools to produce original graduate-level research on all aspects of Chinese history, society, and culture and present it in a clear and persuasive fashion orally and in written form. While original-language research for the final project is encouraged, all course materials will be in English. Prerequisite: Course intended for first year MA and PhD students. Undergraduates need permission. Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 502 Japanese History and Civilization
This seminar introduces students to the graduate-level study of Japan. In addition to getting a broad overview of Japanese culture, students in the course will develop familiarity with major debates in the history of the field of Japanese studies. The course also provides basic training in using primary and secondary sources in Japanese, Japanese bibliographic conventions, and other skills necessary for pursuing advanced research or a teaching career in the field. Open to all graduate students and to undergraduates with permission from the instructor. Familiarity with Japanese language is a plus but is not required.
Taught by: Thomas J
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Undergraduates need permission from instructor.

EALC 503 Korean History & Civilization
This graduate-level seminar focuses on the political, social, and cultural history of the Korean Peninsula and the vicinity from early times to the contemporary era. Readings will consist of primary and secondary sources, including influential modern studies of Korean history and civilization. All course materials are in English and no knowledge of Korean is presumed.
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 504 Introduction to Inner Asian Civilizations
This class is intended for new graduate students and upper-division undergraduates with some prerequisites who wish to get a solid grounding in the study of Inner Asia. The class will introduce Inner Asia as a coherent civilizational network, focusing on: 1) the steppe-imperial tradition; 2) the Tibetan-rite Buddhist commonwealth that developed from the Tibetan and Mongol empires; and 3) the increasing integration of these two Inner Asian civilizational patterns with that of imperial China. There will also be some consideration of the Islamic Turkic-Mongolian synthesis that developed in the post-Mongol period. Regionally, the class introduce: 1) core Inner Asia (the Mongolian plateau, the Tarim Basin, the Tibetan plateau, the Manchuria) and 2) the main dynasties of China that formed in the Mongolia and Manchuria (Liao, Jin, Yuan and Qing). There will also be some consideration of historically Inner Asian populations in Hexi (Gansu-Qinghai), and the North China plains and the Shaanxi-Shanxi-Rehe uplands. Chronologically, the class will touch on prehistory and the contemporary period, but will mostly cover the period from the emergence of historical records on the Mongolian plateau and the Tarim basin to roughly 1950. Prehistory and the contemporary period will be give less detailed coverage.
Taught by: Atwood
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Graduate Seminar

EALC 505 East Asian Diplomacy
This course will survey recent scholarship on East Asian diplomacy from the sixteenth century to the present. We will engage several fundamental debates about the relationship between China, Japan, Korea and the outer world and introduce not only orthodox diplomatic analyses but also newer approaches to modern China, Japan and Korea by international and global historians.
Taught by: Dickinson
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 105, HIST 395
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 506 Easts Asian Cinema
This survey course introduces students to major trends, genres, directors, and issues in the cinemas of East Asian countries/regions, including Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Charting key developments over more than a hundred years from the early twentieth century to the present, this course examines films as aesthetic objects, asking questions about film form, narrative, and style. It also pays attention to the evolution of cinema as an institution (e.g. modes of production, circulation, and exhibition) in different cultural and political contexts. Weekly course materials will include both films (primary sources) and analytical readings (secondary sources). By the end of the course, students are expected to gain broad knowledge of East Asian cinema, develop skills of film analysis, and apply these skills to perform historically informed and culturally sensitive analysis of cinema. Prior knowledge of East Asian languages is NOT required.
Taught by: Zhou
Also Offered As: ARTH 291, CIMS 291, EALC 106
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 511 East Asian Digital Humanities

Are you interested in cutting-edge digital methods for the humanities in East Asia, but don’t know where to start? This course covers a wide range of current and emerging digital projects and topics in East Asian studies. Students will engage with digital projects focused on East Asia (encompassing Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan) as well as research being done on digital methodologies for the humanities in those areas. Coursework consists of project and research analysis, active discussion, and learning about the implementation of various digital projects. Example topics include text analysis, APIs, network analysis, digital literary studies, and mapping. Notational expertise is required but students must have reading knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean at the high-intermediate or advanced level. Class presentations, discussions, and all course readings will be in English, but mid-term and final projects involve reading articles and mid-term and final projects involve reading articles and/or critiquing projects is? Reading knowledge (intermediate or above) of East Asian language required.

Taught by: Des Jardin
Also Offered As: EALC 111
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 515 Buddhist Arts of East Asia: Sources, Iconography and Styles

Survey of art and architecture created for Buddhist religious purposes in China, Japan, and to a lesser extent Korea, Tibet, and Central Asia. The course will include a brief overview of Buddhist monuments in South Asia, study of the iconography of Buddhist images in graphic and sculptural media, and analysis of a variety of Buddhist styles in painting, sculpture, and architecture. Research in an East Asian language required for graduate credit.

Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 115, RELS 175
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 516 East Asian Gardens

Explore the beauty of gardens (and associated buildings) in Japan, China, and Korea from ancient times to the present. Lectures will be illustrated by photographs from dozens of sites in East Asia, and by a field trip to the Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park. The main body of the course will be a historical survey of the evolution of East Asian garden art forms from the sixth century to the present. Discussion will touch on geographic and climatic parameters, spiritual and aesthetic principles, practical limitations and creative innovations of East Asian gardens. There will be an additional fee for the Japanese House visit, and possibly for other field trips.

Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 116
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 519 East Asian Ceramics

History of ceramic forms, techniques, and aesthetic principles in China, Korea, and Japan from neolithic times to the present century, illustrated by slides and examples, augmented by readings, field trips, and student presentations. Aimed at students with general interest in Japan and/or ceramics history; particularly but not exclusively those majoring in East Asian Languages & Civs, East Asian Area Studies or History of Art; also art majors interested in ceramics.

Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 119
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 521 Chinese Poetry & Prose: In translation

A wide variety of poetic & prose genres from the earliest times to the 19th century is introduced through English translation. A few selections will also be studied in Chinese characters with romanized transcriptions. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 121
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 522 Chinese Fiction and Drama in Translation

This course explores Romance of Three Kingdoms, the most popular classical novel in East Asia and an important source for understanding Chinese culture, politics, history, and military strategy. We propose to read this work not only as a textbook of Chinese literature and culture, but also as a guidebook for career development and risk assessment. Why didn’t Pang Tong have a career as successful as Zhuge Liang? Why did Ma Su volunteer in a project that he is not good at? If Cao Cao, Liu Bei, Sun Quan run for presidency in the U.S., who would you vote for and why? These are some of the questions that we will explore alongside our inquiry into the historical development of various genres of Chinese fiction. In addition to Romance of Three Kingdoms, this course introduces Sun Tzu’s The Art of War and other classical Chinese novels such as Dream of the Red Chamber and Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio, as well as classical literary criticism such as Cao Pi’s On the Standard of Literature (Dian lun), Lu Ji’s Essays on Literature (Wen lun), and Liu Xie’s The Literary Mind and the Carving of Dragons.

Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 122
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 525 Cultural Chinas: 20th Century Chinese Literature and Film

This course serves as a thematic introduction to modern Chinese literature and cinema in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other transnational Chinese communities in the twentieth century. By discussing a wide range of key literary and filmic texts, this class looks into major issues and discourses in China’s century of modernization: enlightenment and revolution, politics and aesthetics, sentimental education and nationalism, historical trauma and violence, gender and sexuality, social hygiene and body politics, diaspora and displacement, youth sub-culture and urban imagination. 

Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 125
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 526 Seminar in Modern Chinese Literature
Modern Chinese writers are known for their efforts in creating a literary revolution that sought to reformulate the paradigm of Chinese writing. However, these Chinese writers also endeavored to learn from other cultures such as the European and Indian civilizations. For example, Tagore was invited to visit China in 1923 and was considered a cultural model by many Chinese cultural elites. Hu Shi, a leading Chinese intellectual, wrote *The Indianization of China: A Case Study in Cultural Borrowing and India Our Great Teacher*, to emphasize the Indian elements in Chinese culture. Other Chinese writers also sought to compare the European with Chinese cultures in different occasions in order to find a path for the rise of modern China. This course explores the ways in which foreign cultures were introduced and how they influence the way Chinese see themselves in their search for a cultural identity free from the constraints of classical tradition. We will read a variety of writers from the Peoples Republic of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Malaysia, in order to examine how modern Chinese literature thrives on cross-cultural elements. All readings will be in English. No prior knowledge is required. Those who are proficient in Chinese are invited to read some of the texts in Chinese.

Taught by: Lin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 126
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 527 Arts of China
A broad survey of Chinese architecture, sculpture, and painting from the Neolithic age through the nineteenth century. Topics include excavated material from China’s Bronze Age, Chinese funerary arts, Buddhist caves and sculpture (including works in the University Museum), the Chinese city, the Chinese garden, and major masterpieces of Chinese painting.

Taught by: Steinhardt, Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 214, ARTH 614, EALC 127
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 530 Mongol Century
This course deals with the empire built by the Mongols in the 13th century - the largest land empire in the world. Most readings will be from translated primary sources of the 13th and 14th centuries, written by the Mongols themselves and also by Persians, Chinese, Eastern Christians, Europeans, and other peoples that fought, surrendered to, or traded with the Mongol conquerors. The course will explore the Mongols, the most spectacular example of the nomadic conquerors who played such a large role in all Eurasian history, and survey how their empire affected themselves and the peoples they conquered. By using primary sources, the course will also provide a survey of civilizations in Eurasia in the 13th and 14th centuries, and give a hands-on example of how historians build historical knowledge from varied sources. Graduate students will receive training in more advanced source critical methodologies for dealing with these sources and for beginning research in this topic.

Taught by: Atwood
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 531 Introduction to Classical Chinese Thought
This course is intended as an introduction to the foundational thinkers of Chinese civilization, who flourished from the fifth to the second centuries B.C. No knowledge of Chinese is presumed, and there are no prerequisites, although EALC 001 (Introduction to Chinese Civilization) is recommended. Graduate students may take this course as EALC 531 and should see the instructor to discuss requirements for graduate credit.

(Undergraduates must enroll in the course as EALC 131.)

Taught by: Goldin
Course offered spring; odd-numbered years
Also Offered As: EALC 131
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 536 Chinese Martial Arts
This course offers a thematic introduction to the history of martial arts in China. Throughout the semester, we will explore the social, political, and cultural contexts of martial arts practice, from the classical period to the 21st century. The course will take an interdisciplinary approach to situating martial arts practices in history through an examination of religious, literary, and visual sources, against the backdrop of theoretical approaches from across gender studies, anthropology, and cultural theory. The course will be divided into three units. The first unit will focus on the cultural background that led to the emergence of martial arts practices in the pre-modern period. We will examine classical discourses on the human body and its cultivation and the role of medical practices and religious institutions, such as the Shaolin Temple, in the development of martial arts regimens. In the second unit, we will discuss the spread and popularization of martial arts practices in late imperial and modern Chinese society through a close reading of literary sources, such as wuxia novels and other works of fiction. In addition, we will explore the modernization and re-invention of martial arts in the late 19th and early 20th century, when China attempts to re-establish itself as a modern nation. The third and final unit will be devoted to the global impact of Chinese martial arts in contemporary popular culture. Through a discussion and analysis of Kung Fu films, as well as video games, we will explore the role of martial arts narratives and practices in the construction of gender, cultural, and national identity and the various ways in which they are used by the current Chinese regime to assert its influence in the global arena. No knowledge of Chinese is presumed, and all readings will be available in English on the Canvas website in PDF form. Graduate students may take this course as EALC536 and should see the instructor to discuss requirements for graduate credit.

Taught by: Tavor
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 136
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 551 Contemporary Fiction & Film in Japan
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CIM 151, COML 256, EALC 151, GSWS 257
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 552 Love and Loss in Japanese Literary Traditions: In Translation
How do people make sense of the multiple experiences that the simple words 'love' and 'loss' imply? How do they express their thoughts and feelings to one another? In this course, we will explore some means Japanese culture has found to grapple with these events and sensations. We will also see how these culturally sanctioned frameworks have shaped the ways Japanese view love and loss. Our materials will sample the literary tradition of Japan from earliest times to the early modern and even modern periods. Close readings of a diverse range of texts, including poetry, narrative, theater, and the related arts of calligraphy, painting, and music will structure our inquiry. The class will take an expedition to nearby Woodlands Cemetery to experience poetry in nature. By the end of the course, you should be able to appreciate texts that differ slightly in their value systems, linguistic expressions, and aesthetic sensibilities from those that you may already know. Among the available project work that you may select, if you have basic Japanese, is learning to read a literary manga. All shared class material is in English translation. Research in an East Asian language required for graduate credit.
Taught by: Chance
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 152, GSWS 152
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 553 Ukiyo-e: Beyond the Great Wave
In this seminar we will take a closer look at the prints, paintings, and illustrated books produced in the genre known as 'ukiyo-e,' the 'pictures of the floating world.' We'll begin by asking how the 'Great Wave' became a global icon and we'll bust the myth of prints being used as wrapping paper. As we learn the history of the genre, from 1600 to ca. 1850, we'll also make critical interventions into that narrative, asking how 'ukiyo-e' became a genre within a larger artistic sphere; how publishers collaborated with designers to construct artistic personae; how illustrated books contributed to knowledge formations; and how concepts of authenticity and authorship remain critical to its understanding. Taught online, this course will also consider how internet resources affect our understanding of the work of art. Students need not have any Japanese language skills, but should have taken related courses in art history or East Asian Studies. Advanced undergraduates and graduate students preferred.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 213, ARTH 613, EALC 157
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 555 Modern Japanese Literature
This course surveys Japanese literature (novels, short stories, poetry, drama, essays) from 1868 to World War II. The purpose is not only to read some of the most important and interesting literary texts of this period, but also to reflect on the ways we read and study literature, and how we draw connections between literature, self, and society. The reading material will be entirely in English.
Taught by: Kano
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 155
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 556 Post War Japanese Cinema
Mizoguchi Kenji, Ozu Yasujiro, and Kurosawa Akira are recognized today as three of the most important and influential directors in Japanese cinema. In their films of the late 1940s and 1950s, these directors focused upon issues surrounding the human condition and the perception of truth, history, beauty, death, and other issues of the postwar period. This course places their films in period context, and pays particular attention to the connections to other visual media, and to how 'art' and 'history' are being defined in the cinematic context. How other directors also took up these issues, and referred to the 'big three' is also be discussed.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 290, ARTH 690, CIMS 223, EALC 156
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 557 Arts of Japan
This course introduces the major artistic traditions of Japan, from the Neolithic period to the present, and teaches the fundamental methods of the discipline of art history. Special attention will be given to the places of Shinto, the impact of Buddhism, and their related architectures and sculptures; the principles of narrative illustration; the changing roles of aristocratic, monastic, shogunal and merchant patronage; the formation of the concept of the artist over time; and the transformation of tradition in the modern age.
Taught by: Davis
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 213, ARTH 613, EALC 157
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 559 Topics in Japanese Art
Topic varies. Fall 2018: This course will consider Japanese woodblock prints, illustrated books, and paintings from the seventeenth through the twentieth century. Topics include: the formation of 'ukiyo-e' or 'the pictures of the floating world' as a genre; the development of the publishing system and its audience; specific artists and their works; the reception of Japanese prints in Europe and America; the modern reinvention of the woodblock print; and others. We will also make extensive use of the collections held in the Kislak Center, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and in other local collections. Assignments may include: close study of a single work; web page development; research paper; regular participation in discussions.
Taught by: Davis
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 515
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 565 Environment, Climate, and Culture in Japan
This course explores how Japanese literature, cinema, and popular culture have engaged with questions of environment, ecology, pollution, and climate change from the wake of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945 to the ongoing Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster in the present. Environmental disasters and the slow violence of their aftermath have had an enormous impact on Japanese cultural production, and we examine how these cultural forms seek to negotiate and work through questions of representing the unrepresentable, victimhood and survival, but also to use the great riches of scholarship on the European Middle Ages to shed light on possible new avenues of inquiry and perspectives on Japan.
Taught by: Poland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 165, ENV 165
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 571 Knights with Katanas: Medieval Japan and Europe Compared
This course aims to provide an overview of some of the main themes and problems in the history and historiography of medieval Japan by drawing comparisons with European counterparts and interpretive models. To this end, each week's readings on Japan are paired with one or more works on medieval Europe dealing with a similar theme. The primary purpose is not only to draw comparisons between the two civilizations and their development but also to use the great riches of scholarship on the European Middle Ages to shed light on possible new avenues of inquiry and perspectives on Japan.
Taught by: Spafford
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 171, HIST 090
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 576 Japan: The Age of the Samurai
This course deals with the samurai in Japanese history and culture and will focus on the period of samurai political dominance from 1185 to 1868, but it will in fact range over the whole of Japanese history from the development of early forms of warfare to the disappearance of the samurai after the Meiji Restoration of the 19th century. The course will conclude with a discussion of the legacy of the samurai in modern Japanese culture and the image of the samurai in foreign perceptions of Japan.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 176, HIST 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 583 Readings in Korean History
Topic varies.
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 183
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 584 Two Koreas: The Politics of Division
In today's world, the inter-Korean border or DMZ (demilitarized zone) is widely regarded as one of the most impermeable and conflictual frontiers. The purpose of this course is to explore the dynamics of its formation between, and impact within, the two Koreas. The course therefore proposes to analyze how the division of the Korean peninsula not only came into being but also how it has shaped the socio-political trajectories of both the North and the South since 1945. The course also aims at introducing students to conceptual frameworks and comparative debates relevant to understanding the Korean case(s) from a social science perspective.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 184
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 590 Silk Road: From the Mediterranean to the Pacific
A journey along the overland and sea routes that connected China, India, Iran, and Rome from 200-1000 CE and served as conduits for cultural exchange. Precursor and successor routes will also be taken into consideration. The lives of merchants, envoys, pilgrims, and travelers interacting in cosmopolitan communities will be examined. Exploration of long-known and newly discovered archaeological ruins, along with primary sources in translation, will be studied.
Taught by: Mair
Also Offered As: EALC 190, SAST 190, SAST 590
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 592 Arts of Korea
The goal of this course is understanding the development of visual, performing, and literary arts in Korea and the historical, religious, and social contexts in which they flourished. It serves as an introduction to the arts of Korea, with emphasis on painting, sculpture, ceramics, and architecture and additional consideration of dance, drama, poetry, and culinary arts. Covers the whole history of Korea, from prehistoric times to the twenty-first century. Students enrolled in this graduate number are expected to do research in an East Asian language.
Taught by: Chance, F
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 176, HIST 276
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 611 Life and Death in Han China
Using wall painting, sculpture, and minor arts as evidence, the course will examine the attitudes toward life and beliefs and death in Han (206 B.C.-A.D.220) China.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 211
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 616 Chinese Arts Under the Mongols
The Yuan Dynasty (1257-1368), the period of Mongolian rule, was the only time in Chinese history when China was part of a larger empire that spanned the Asian continent. Using architecture, sculpture, painting, and excavated evidence, this course examines the unique results of an international Asian world centered in China.
Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 221
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 620 Tang China and Nara Japan
This is a seminar about Tang China and Nara Japan, and Early Heian Japan, Unified Silla Korea, Northeast Asia under Parhae, and Uyghur Inner Asia through their cities, palaces, monasteries, Buddhist art, and painting. We begin by studying material remains of the two best-documented civilizations of East Asian in the seventh-ninth centuries. Using painting, sculpture, ceramics, and architecture of Tang China and Nara Japan, we investigate the validity of the frequent assessment of an international Tang through material remains in China and Japan. We then move to Korea, Mongolia, and Central Asia. Students will have a wide range of topics to work on. They will be encouraged to find comparative topics. This seminar is an opportunity for students to use Chinese, Japanese, or Korean in research papers. There are no exams. Readings will be assigned to the whole group and to individual students for short presentations every week. Graduate students will write and present research papers.
Taught by: Steinhardt
Also Offered As: EALC 220
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 621 First Year Classical Chinese I
Introduction to the classical written language, beginning with Shadick, First Course in Literary Chinese. Students with a background in Japanese, Korean, Cantonese, Taiwanese, and other East Asian languages are welcome; it is not necessary to know Mandarin. The course begins from scratch, and swiftly but rigorously develops the ability to read a wide variety of classical and semi-classical styles. Original texts from the 6th century BC to the 20th century AD are studied. This course is taught in English and there are no prerequisites.
Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: CHIN 491, EALC 221
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 622 1st Year Classical Chin II
Continuation of CHIN491 EALC221/621, which is the only prerequisite for this course. Upon completion of Shadick, readings in a wide selection of texts with Chinese commentaries may be taken up. These readings are in part chosen to reflect student interest. This is the second half of a year-long course. Those who enroll must take both semesters.
Taught by: Mair
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: CHIN 492, EALC 222
Prerequisite: EALC 621
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 623 Language, Script and Society in China
The Chinese writing system is the only major surviving script in the world that is partially picto-ideographic, Egyptian hieroglyphic and Sumero-Akkadian cuneiform having passed out of use about two millennia ago. Partly because it is so unique, a tremendous number of myths have grown up around the Chinese script. In an attempt to understand how they really function, this seminar will examine the nature of the sinographs and their relationship to spoken Sinitic languages, as well as their implications for society and culture. We will also discuss the artistic and technological aspects of the Chinese characters and the ongoing efforts to reform and simplify them. The use of sinographs in other East Asian countries than China will be taken into account. There are no prerequisites for this class.
Taught by: Mair
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 223
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 626 East Asian Funerary Arts
Study of tombs and tomb decoration of emperors and officials in China, Korea, and Japan from the pre-Buddhist era through the 19th century. 
Taught by: Steinhardt
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 226
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 627 Chinese Painting
Study of Chinese painting and practice from the earliest pictorial representation through the late twentieth century. Painting styles are analyzed, but themes such as landscape and narrative are considered with regard to larger social, cultural, and historical issues. The class will pay particular attention to the construction of the concepts of the ‘artist’ and ‘art criticism’ and their impact on the field into the present. Visits to study paintings at the University of Pennsylvania Museum and Philadelphia Museum of Art.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: ARTH 217, ARTH 617, EALC 227
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 629 Chinese Architecture
Survey of Chinese buildings and building technology from the formative period in the second millennium BCE through the twentieth century. The course will deal with well-known monuments such as the Buddhist monasteries of Wutai, imperial palaces in Chang’an and Beijing, the Ming tombs and the Temple of Heaven, and less frequently studied buildings. Also covered will be the theory and principles of Chinese construction.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 229
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 630 Gender, Religion, and China
This course examines gender in Chinese religious culture from ancient to contemporary times. We will explore topics including the Buddhist accommodation of Chinese family system, Chinese transformation of the bodhisattva Guanyin, female deities in Daoist and popular religious pantheons, writings about religious women, female ghosts and fox spirits in literary imagination and folk tales, and the significance of yin force in Chinese medicine and Daoist alchemy. Through the case of China, we will look at how gender plays critical and constitutive roles in religious traditions, and how religion can be used both to reinforce and to challenge gender norms.
Taught by: Cheng, H
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 230, GSWS 234, GSWS 630, RELS 237, RELS 630
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 633 Chinese Aesthetics
This seminar investigates classical Chinese conceptions of art and beauty as exemplified in philosophy, literature, music, painting, calligraphy, and architecture. All readings will be in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed. Graduate students should see the instructor to discuss requirements for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 233
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 634 Daoist Traditions
This course examines the history of various intellectual and religious traditions that came to be known as Daoist (or Taoist in the Wade-Giles Romanization). We will begin with a critical review of the twentieth-century reinvention of Daoism and the new classification of religious versus philosophical Daoism, before tracing chronologically the textual, institutional, and social history of Daoist traditions from the fourth century B.C.E. While familiarizing students with the key concepts, practices, and organizations developed in the history of Daoism, this class emphasizes the specific socio-political context of each of them. Throughout the course, we will think critically about the labeling of Daoist (as well as Confucian and Buddhist) in Chinese history and in modern scholarship. We will also question modern demarcations between philosophy, religion, and science, as well as that between the spiritual and the physical.
Taught by: Wang
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 234, RELS 233, RELS 634
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 639 Sex and Society in Ancient China
Ancient Chinese writers considered sexual activity to be an essential component of humanity, and that study of human sexuality to be essential to the study of human history. Sexuality constituted a fundamental source of imagery and categories that informed the classical Chinese conception of social, political, and military relationships. This course will survey the major sources dealing with sex and society in ancient China. There are no pre-requisites, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 239
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 640 Early Chinese History
This seminar covers the span of Chinese history from the Bronze Age to the establishment of the empire in 221 B.C. No knowledge of Chinese is presumed, but EALC 001 (Introduction to Chinese Civilization) is a prerequisite. Graduate students who wish to enroll should meet with the instructor to discuss additional requirements for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 240
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 641 Law in Pre-Modern China
This course, intended for graduate students and advanced undergraduates, offers a survey of the sources and research problems of pre-modern Chinese law. For reasons to be examined in the course, traditional Sinological education has neglected law as a legitimate field of inquiry; consequently, the secondary literature is surprisingly meager. Our readings will take us from the Warring States Period to the Qing dynasty—an interval of over two millennia—and will cover several varieties of legal documents, including statutes, handbooks, court records, and theoretical treatises. All the readings will be in English, and no knowledge of Chinese is presumed. Graduate students should see the instructor to discuss requirement for graduate credit.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 241
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 642 Medicine and Healing in China
This course explores Chinese medicine and healing culture, its diversity, and its change over time. We will discuss topics including the establishment of canonical medicine, Daoist approaches to healing and longevity, diverse views of the body and disease, the emergence of treatments for women, medical construction of sex difference and imagination of female sexuality, the thriving and decline of female healers, the identity of scholar physicians, the transmission of medical knowledge, domestic and cross-regional drug market, healer-patient relations, and new visions of traditional Chinese medicine in modern China.
Taught by: Cheng,H
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 242
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 643 Pastoralism & Mobility

'Pastoralism and Mobility' will examine the society and history of mobile pastoralists (nomads) in Inner Asia from earliest times to the present. Peoples covered will include Mongols, Tibetans, Turkic nomads (such as Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen), and their ancestors and predecessors. The class will focus on questions such as: Is there a distinctive form of Inner Asian pastoralist society? At the grass roots level? At the elite level? How have states (native and foreign) influenced Inner Asian pastoralist society in pre-modern and modern contexts? How have Inner Asian pastoralists influenced neighboring states? What role does kinship play in governing group formation, property, and status in Inner Asian pastoralist society? Does this role vary over time, space, or ethnic background? If so, how? What purposes does mobility serve in Inner Asian societies? How have various forms of livestock lease-holding changed and shaped wealth in Inner Asian pastoralist society? How did class differentiation emerge & function in pre-modern pastoralist societies? What happens when pastoralists become farmers? How have modern schemes of social improvement and productivity, especially collectivization and decollectivization, shaped pastoralist lives?

Taught by: Atwood
Course offered fall; odd-numbered years

Also Offered As: EALC 243
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 651 Readings in Classical Japanese I

Readings in classical texts drawn from the Heian, Kamakura, Muromachi, and Edo periods. Introduction to the different styles of classical Japanese, and to classical Japanese as a whole.

For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 251, JPAN 491
Prerequisite: JPAN 212
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 653 The Politics of Shinto

Shinto-derived images and ideas frequently appear in Japanese anime and film, and journalists and academics frequently mobilize the term Shinto as a way of explaining Japan's past or envisioning its future. The environmentalist left champions a green Shinto while Shinto-derived ideas serve as red meat for politicians pandering to Japan's nationalist right. While the influential position Shinto occupies in Japanese sociopolitical life is therefore clear, the term Shinto itself is actually not. Depending on who one asks, Shinto is either the venerable indigenous religion of the Japanese archipelago, the irreducible core of Japanese culture, a tiny subset of Japanese Buddhism, an oppressive political ideology linked to the emperor system, an environmentalist ethic, or some combination of these. This course investigates the multifarious types of Shinto envisioned by these competing interest groups.

Taught by: Thomas, J.
Course usually offered in spring term
Also Offered As: EALC 253, RELS 271, RELS 671
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 654 Tales of the Heike

Our subject is Tale of the Heike, a multifaceted narrative of the twelfth-century battles that brought the Taira clan down and led to the establishment of Japan's first military government. We will read the Heike tales with an eye toward how they fictionalize history and idealize certain types, most notably loyal women and warriors; the development of the warrior tale genre; central aspects of the Japanese ethos; and later works of literature based on episodes and characters from the Tale of the Heike. All material is in English translation. (Students of Japanese language may learn to read a famous section in the original.) There are no prerequisites. Research in an East Asian language required for graduate credit.

Taught by: Chance, L
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 254
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 655 Japanese Theater

Japan has one of the richest and most varied theatrical traditions in the world. In this course, we will examine Japanese theater in historical and comparative contexts. The readings and discussions will cover all areas of the theatrical experience (script, acting, stage design, costumes, music, audience). Audio-visual material will be used whenever appropriate and possible. The class will be conducted in English, with all English materials.

Taught by: Kano
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: COML 385, EALC 255, FOLK 485, THAR 485
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 656 The Tale of Genji

'Crowning masterpiece of Japanese literature,' 'the world's first novel,' 'fountainhead of Japanese literary and aesthetic culture,' 'a great soap opera in the vein of Jacqueline Susann.' Readers over the centuries have praised the Tale of Genji, the monumental prose tale finished just after the year 1000, in a variety of ways. In this course we will read the latest English translation of Murasaki Shikibu's work. We will watch as Genji loses his mother at a tender age, is cast out of the royal family, and begins a quest to fill the void she left. Along the way, Genji's loyalty to all the women he encounters forges his reputation as the ideal lover. We will consider gender issues in the female author's portrayal of this rake, and question the changing audience, from bored court women to censorious monks, from adoring nationalists to comic book adaptors. Study of the tale requires consideration of poetry, imagery, costume, music, history, religion, theater, political and material culture, all of which will be components of the course. We will also trace the effect of the tale's many motifs, from flora and fauna to murderously jealous spirits, on later literature and conceptions of human emotions. All material is in English translation. There are no prerequisites. Research in an East Asian language required for graduate credit.

Taught by: Chance, L
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 256
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 657 Asian Religions in the Global Imagination
This seminar critically examines the missionary impulses, colonial exploits, and translation endeavors that contributed to the rise of Asian studies and the emergence of the scholarly notion of 'Asian religions.' It shows the crucial roles played by Asian agents and their European counterparts in the formation of modern conceptions of 'religion'; it also engages reflexive questions regarding theory, method, and the geopolitical underpinnings of both Asian studies and the non-confessional academic study of religion. Students will conduct sustained research projects on the country or region of their choice.
Taught by: Thomas
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 257, RELS 258, RELS 658
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 659 Gender and Sexuality in Japan
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 259, GSWS 259
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 661 History of the Book in East Asia
Spring 2018: From handscrolls to manga, books play a vital role in East Asian societies. In this course we will introduce the spread of book cultures across East Asia and reconsider the role and impact of material texts on societies in China, Korea, and Japan. Among the questions we’ll engage are: What is a book, an author, or an edition? How do readers affect books? How do publishers decide when to use illustrations, woodblock printing, or movable type? How has the history of books differed in China, Japan, and Korea from the history of the book in the West? We will consider various media (bamboo, paper, silk, and the digital), formats (scrolls, folded books, bound books, small to oversize), and the tensions between handwritten manuscript and printed pages. Hands-on sessions may include paper-making, bookbinding, and printing. This is an Objects-Based Learning course, using materials from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and the Penn Museum, with visits to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Requires no knowledge of any Asian language.
Taught by: Davis, Chance
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: ARTH 517, EALC 260
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 662 Japanese Science Fiction and Fantasy
This course will provide an overview of the major tropes, themes, and interpretations of contemporary Japanese science fiction and fantasy. As we establish a foundational knowledge of the history and structural formulations of genre fiction in Japan, we will cover topics such as folklore, high fantasy, apocalyptic, dystopia, magical realism, posthumanism, video games, and transnational media franchises and cross-cultural marketing. By the end of the semester, students will possess a deeper understanding and appreciation of the role that science fiction and fantasy play in shaping contemporary media cultures in Japan and around the world.
Taught by: Hemmann
Also Offered As: EALC 261
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 664 Lawlessness and Violence in Pre-Modern Japan
This course will be an exploration of premodern Japanese history through the lens of violence. The centuries under consideration (roughly, the eighth through nineteenth) were characterized by greatly varying levels of violence, both of the state-sanctioned variety (war, punishments for lawbreakers and political losers) and of the non-sanctioned variety (piracy, banditry, warrior and peasant rebellions). Examining a wide variety of translated sources, from diaries to chronicles, from legal codes to fiction, we shall examine the changing social, political, economic, and cultural contexts of violence, in order to interrogate not only why certain periods were remarkably peaceful while others were not, but also why violence took different forms in relation to different circumstances. We shall consider how contemporaries made sense of the violence that surrounded them (or didn’t) and how they divided the acceptable use of force from the wanton and society-threatening abuse of it. The course will feature presentations and several (very short) papers.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 264
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 667 From Shamans to Shoguns: The Texts that Made Pre-Modern Japanese History
This course tackles about a millennium of pre-modern Japanese political, social, and cultural history (roughly, 700-1700). Instead of attempting to cover the period chronologically, as an introductory survey might, this class is structured as a series of case studies. Each of these will take a primary source as its point of departure and explore one or more facets of Japanese history and writing. In the course of each case study, lectures and discussions will branch out from the main source to examine its historical context as well as the (political, cultural, textual) traditions that informed that source's composition. In general, students will read the entire texts of the main sources (or significant portions of them), along with scholarly articles and shorter excerpts from other sources, composed at the same time or in the same vein/genre. During lectures and discussions alike, students will be asked to engage the readings, so as to grasp the specifics of Japanese history and practice the analytical skills required of historical discourse.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: EALC 270, HIST 277
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 691 Archaeology of Central Asia
A site by site investigation of Buddhist and non-Buddhist ruins in Central Asia. Included are Nisa, Khwarezm, Pyandzhikent, Khalchayan, Ay-Khanum, Bamiyan, Miran, Tumshuk, Kizil, Kucha, Khotan, Adzhina-Tepe, Khoko, Khara-Khoto, and Bezeklik.
Taught by: Steinhardt
One-term course offered either term
Also Offered As: EALC 291
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 693 Introduction to Classical Mongolian
In this class students who already know some modern Mongolian in the Cyrillic script will learn how to transfer that knowledge to the reading of first post-classical, and then classical texts written in the vertical or Uyghur-Mongolian script. Topics covered will include the Mongolian alphabetic script, dealing with ambiguous readings, scholarly transcription, vowel harmony and syllable structure, post-classical and classical forms of major declensions, converbs, verbal nouns, and finite verbs, syntax, pronunciation and scribal readings. Readings will be adjusted to interests, but as a rule will include selections from short stories, diaries, chronicles, Buddhist translations, government documents, popular didactic poetry, ritual texts, and traditional narratives. Students will also be introduced to the most important reference works helpful in reading classical and post-classical Mongolian. One year of modern Mongolian or equivalent required to enroll.
Taught by: Tseveendulam
Course usually offered in fall term
Also Offered As: EALC 293
Prerequisite: One year of modern Mongolia or equivalent
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 711 Theory and East Asia
'Theory' can be exciting and seductive to some scholars, but intimidating or pretentious to others. Unfortunately, this difference in feeling about theoretical scholarship and discussion has a tendency to produce a divide in academia between those who 'do theory' and those who do not. This graduate seminar pursues the question of how theory can be engaged in the context of East Asian cultural studies, with the goal of collectively working through texts to understand how theoretical reflection opens up possibilities for productive conversations across disciplinary boundaries. Many critiques have been made of the way 'traveling theory' serves as a Euro-American universal applied to the 'raw material' of East Asian texts, or a transdisciplinary common language in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Instead, we will take such critiques as a starting point to pragmatically and creatively explore the intersections and interactions of 'theory' and 'East Asia,' emphasizing the archival, historical, political, and institutional contexts that motivate theorization. In that spirit, special attention will be given to discussing what problems we find in our own work that require theoretical consideration, and how such considerations might contribute to, challenge, or transform theory originating outside of East Asia. Readings will primarily be in English, but may also include Japanese, Chinese, or Korean depending on student interest and language abilities.
Taught by: Poland
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 711
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 715 Approaches to Literary Texts
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CLST 636, COML 616, ENGL 616, REES 616, ROML 616
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 720 Topics in Chinese Studies
Topics vary semester to semester
Taught by: Mair
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: CHIN 491 AND CHIN 492
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 722 Adv Classical Chinese II
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: CHIN 722
Prerequisite: EALC 721
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 725 Topics in East Asian Art
Seminar in East Asian Art: High-level, research-oriented seminar whose subject changes. Students must be fluent readers of at least one East Asian language.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 731 Tang-Song Religious and Medical Texts
This seminar aims at developing the skill in reading religious and medical texts of a range of different genres from the Tang-Song period, including treatises in medical theory, no sological texts, recipe compilations, material medical, macrobiotic texts, Buddhist and Daoist meditation and ritual instructions, as well as case histories in anecdotal forms. There are a variety of topics we can choose to focus on the studying those texts, and the choice will be made on the students' research interests. Each week we will look at one type of texts, consider its edition, textual history, chapter organization and genre (sometimes with background readings), read line-by-line a sample text assigned in advance, as well as sight-read short samples that students bring to class. Prerequisite: At least one year Classical Chinese is required.
Taught by: Cheng, H
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: CHIN 491 AND CHIN 492
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 733 Song Dynasty Texts
The goal of this course is to gain a practical ability in doing research concerning the Song dynasty by utilizing Chinese primary sources. Each session we will take a type of source, look at examples of it in the library, consider indexes and other reference aids, consider historiographical uses and limitations, and do some communal reading of a sample text distributed in advance, as well as sight-reading of short samples students bring to class, prepared to translate for the class. We will cover sources including standard histories (Song shi, Liao shi, Jin shi), narrative history (Xu zizhi tongjian changbian), biographical accounts (epitaphs, index of Song biographies), diaries, letters, inscriptions, anecdotes, regional histories/gazetteers, and government documents (Song hui yao).
Course not offered every year
Prerequisite: CHIN 491 AND CHIN 492
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 738 Religion & Ethnicity in Inner Asia
'Religion and Ethnicity in Inner Asia' will examine these two phenomena and their interaction in Inner Asia from earliest times to the present. The class will cover Mongolia, Tibet, Kazakhstan, and Turkic and Mongolian peoples of Russia and China. Religions addressed primarily include Buddhism, Islam, shamanism, and secularism. Why 'ethnicity and religion'? In practice the scholarly research and literature on these two topics in Inner Asia have been closely related. In addition to theoretical works on ethnicity, nationalism, religion and identity, the class will focus on issues such as ethnicity and religious conversions, place-based ethnic and religious identities, ethnicity and the Chinese and Russian states, nationalism, nationality policy, reformist and atheist secularisms, revivalist and apocalyptic movements, and the intersection of ethnicity, race, sexuality, and international networks.
Taught by: Vivier
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 740 Sinological Methods
This seminar is designed to acquaint graduate students with the basic methods and resources of Sino logical research. The course will begin with an overview of essential reference works and aids to study, such as dictionaries and concordances, and continue with a survey of the major primary sources for the study of traditional Chinese history. Students are required to demonstrate the use of the methods learned in the course in a research paper, to be presented to the class in the form of a brief lecture at the end of the semester. Only graduate students may enroll in this course. The prerequisites are reading knowledge of modern Chinese and two years of the classical language. Familiarity with Japanese, though not required, would prove helpful.
Taught by: Goldin
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 745 Topics Song Dynasty Hist
'This seminar will introduce graduate students to current scholarship on the Song dynasty (960-1276) by surveying both classic and recent work in the field. Students will gain a foundation in how historians have interpreted the Song period and learn the major debates within the field. Readings will be principally in English, and no background in Chinese studies is required.' This seminar will introduce graduate students to current scholarship on the Song dynasty (960-1276) by surveying both classic and recent work in the field. Students will gain a foundation in how historians have interpreted the Song period and learn the major debates within the field. Readings will be principally in English, and no background in Chinese studies is required.
Taught by: Vivier
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 747 Chinese Economic History
This seminar will introduce graduate students to current scholarship and major scholarly debates in the field of Chinese economic history, focusing on the imperial period up to 1900. The course will proceed chronologically, combining a survey of the historiography of the Chinese economy (principally in English) with extended discussion of the most significant disagreements within the field. No background in Chinese studies is required.
Taught by: Vivier
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 749 Japanese for Sinologists
An accelerated course in scholarly Japanese for Sinologists and others with a knowledge of Chinese characters. Prerequisite: Knowledge of Chinese characters.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Taught by: Chance, L
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisite: JPAN112
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 750 Japanese Literature: Research Methods in the Classical Tradition
Introduction to bibliographic tools for research in pre-modern literature. Emphasis on hands-on library work, including how to use libraries in Japan. Covers history and terminology of bibliography. Students may attend lectures in EALC 152/552 simultaneously, when offered. Final project will use reference tools for substantive research in individual student's area of interest. Prerequisite: Advanced Japanese language reading skills required. Requires Japanese Language.
Taught by: Chance
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
Notes: Requires Japanese Language

EALC 751 Topics in Early Modern Japanese History
Topic varies year to year for this seminar.
Taught by: Spafford
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 755 Literary Criticism and Theory in Japanese Literature
While the focus of this seminar will shift from year to year, the aim is to enable students to gain 1) a basic understanding of various theoretical approaches to literature, 2) familiarity with the histories and conventions of criticism, literary and otherwise, in Japan; 3) a few theoretical tools to think in complex ways about some of the most interesting and controversial issues of today, such as nationalism, imperialism, colonialism, postmodernism, and feminism, with particular focus on Japan's position in the world. The course is primarily intended for graduate students but is also open to advanced undergraduates with permission of the instructor. The course is taught in English, and all of the readings will be available in English translation. An optional discussion section may be arranged for those students who are able and willing to read and discuss materials in Japanese.
Taught by: Kano
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: COML 685
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit
EALC 760 Japanese Religions
A broad survey of Japanese religions from ancient times to the present. Topics include kami worship, Buddhism, Shinto, Shugendo, Onmyodo, new religions', and Japanese variants of Christianity and Islam. Students will make weekly presentations on reading material in class and will have two major written assignments. This course serves as preparation for a comprehensive exam in Japanese religions or for dissertation research on some aspect of Japanese religions.
Taught by: Thomas, J
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 771 Current Japanology
Major trends in scholarship as reflected in important recent publications, especially formative books and periodical literatures. The trajectory within certain disciplines as well as the interaction among them will be critically evaluated in terms of gains and losses. Implications of these theses in the planning of graduate and postgraduate research.
Prerequisite: Knowledge of reading Japanese.
Course not offered every year
Also Offered As: GSWS 771
Activity: Lecture
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 777 Readings in Premodern Japanese History: War & Peace, 1000-1850
This seminar is an introduction to the most recent historiography on premodern Japan, with a special attention to work focused on the medieval and early modern periods (twelfth through nineteenth centuries). The course will range broadly from religious history to social history, from new takes on biography and material culture to new approaches to think of Japanese’s relation to the other, within the archipelago and beyond. Each week will feature a monograph published in the last decade or so, alone or (when possible) in conversation with earlier pieces on similar subjects. Students will be expected to take turns presenting on readings, to write three short book reviews during the course of the semester and a longer seminar paper at the end of the semester (to be submitted by 12/15). The short papers should be handed in no more than three weeks after the book was discussed in class.
Taught by: Spafford
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 785 Sources in Korean Studies
Topic varies. Reading knowledge of Korean required; knowledge of Hanmun desirable but not required. Or permission of the instructor.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 790 Korean Studies: Methods
Topic varies. Knowledge of Korean helpful but not required.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1.0 Course Unit

EALC 990 Masters Thesis
Registration for MA students who have finished coursework and are writing their MA thesis or research papers.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Masters Thesis
1.0 Course Unit