East Asian Studies (EAST)

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The civilizations of East Asia offer a wealth of human experience of inestimable import to every academic discipline. Unbroken cultural lines of great antiquity lead to modern East Asian cultures of ever-increasing global significance. Whether we look first to the past, the present, or the future, in studying East Asia we study ourselves and our world.

A traditional liberal education, limited to the study of “Western” civilization, is no longer a liberal education. The department of East Asian studies, therefore, offers courses for all Bucknell students, as well as for the special interests of students choosing either the East Asian studies major or one of the department’s three minors: in East Asian studies, Chinese, or Japanese.

The major, requiring an emphasis on either China or Japan, entails a program of study (created in consultation with a department adviser) that requires a minimum of 10 courses: six language courses in the language of one’s emphasis (Chinese or Japanese) and four cultural courses, of which one must be outside one’s emphasis (on China or Japan), and one – to provide a broad historical introduction to East Asian civilizations – must be chosen from the following:

For the China emphasis: EAST 111, EAST 233, EAST 234, EAST 267
For the Japan emphasis: EAST 111, EAST 254, EAST 255, EAST 256

The department offers three minors. A minor in East Asian studies consists of a coherent group of five courses offered or crosslisted by the department, one of which must be chosen from EAST 111, EAST 233, EAST 234, EAST 254, EAST 255. A minor in Chinese or Japanese consists of six department courses, of which four must be in the respective language.

All students majoring or minoring in the East Asian studies department are strongly encouraged to seek opportunities for summer, semester, or preferably, full-year study in China or Japan. Bucknell is a member of the Associated Kyoto Program, under which students may, if accepted, spend their junior year at Doshisha University. Many other opportunities to study in East Asia also are available.

111. East Asian Civilization (I; 3, 1)
The development of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese civilizations highlighting their political, cultural, philosophical, and religious aspects from earliest times to the present.

115. Introduction to Asian Religions (I or II; 3, 1)
A comparative study of the basic teachings and practices of Asian religions through lectures, discussions, readings, and films; inquiry into similarities and differences and views of nature. Prerequisite: first-year or sophomore standing. Others by permission of the instructor. Crosslisted as RELI 115.

120. Introduction to Chinese Culture (I; 3, 0)
Chinese culture from antiquity to the middle of the 20th century; transformation of major traditions in philosophy, religion, calligraphy, poetry, painting, music, fiction, and traditional theater.

130. Business Japanese: Language and Culture (II; 3, 0)
Basic Japanese business conversation, basic writing skills, and accepted conventions in the Japanese business world. No prerequisite.

211. Premodern Japanese Literature in Translation (AI or AII; 3, 0)
The beginnings of Japanese literary traditions: works written before the close of the 19th century – before Western influence is seen. Taught in English.

212. Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (I; 3, 0)

213. Traditional Chinese Literature in Translation (I or II; 3, 0)
Great works of Chinese prose and poetry from The Book of Odes to The Dream of the Red Chamber.

215. Haiku Poetry: From Basho to the Beats (II; 3, 0)
Study of the history and techniques of haiku poetry focusing on interpreting poems via close reading and applying poetic principles to composing verse.

220. Japanese Warrior in Literature (I; 3, 0)
Traces the literary (re)construction of the ‘warrior’ in Japanese literature, from the samurai of the 12th century to the Imperial soldier of the mid-20th century. Taught in English.
222. Passion/Perversion: Japan Film (II; 3, 3)
A discussion class in which numerous modern Japanese films are used to explore the representation of desire, both passionate and perverse. WARNING: explicit sexual content.

223. Japanese Ghosts and Monsters (II; 3, 0)
Survey of the supernatural in materials ranging from myths to films with emphasis on the relationships of transformations in society and culture to evoking depictions of the paranormal.

224. Asian Art (I or II; 3, 0)
China and Japan – highlighting issues of the artist, political and cultural identities, tradition/change – explored through diverse resources (Bucknell’s Samek Art Gallery included) and methodologies.

225. Tears and Laughter: Asian Theatre (II; 3, 0)
An introduction to Asian theatre in the context of national cultures and historical periods.

226. East Asian Politics (II; 3, 0)
This course surveys political history, political institutions, economy, and society of major countries in East Asia, with focus on the continuity and changes in politics and policies in China, Japan, and Korea. Crosslisted as IREL 226 and POLS 226.

232. Romance in Chinese Literature and Art (I; 3, 0)
An introduction to Chinese literature and art through examinations of love stories in fairy tales, poetry, fiction, drama, theatre, film, and music.

233. China from Ancient Times to the 18th Century (I; 3, 0)
Chinese history and culture from their beginnings to the middle of the Qing Dynasty, before that dynasty and China were challenged by the West. Crosslisted as HIST 293.

234. China Since 1800 (II; 3, 0)
China from the eve of its modern confrontation with the West to the present through years of traumatic challenge and change. Crosslisted as HIST 294.

235. Drama and Theatre in China (II; 3, 0)
Survey course on the history of Chinese drama and theatre as social and cultural institutions.

239. Tradition and Transformation (S; 3, 0)
A summer trip to China to study past and present in five historical capitals. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

244. Religions of East Asia (I; 3, 0)
Focused study on one or more East Asian religious traditions. This course centers on religions and on topics that may include, but will not be limited to: Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Shinto, and new East Asian religious movements. Crosslisted as RELI 244.

245. Consumption and Material Culture (I; 3, 0)
Anthropological studies of consumption of material goods in their cultural contexts, American and Japanese studies from fast food to shopping habits. Crosslisted as ANTH 245.

246. Japanese Culture and Society (I; 3, 0)
Anthropological perspectives and contemporary Japan; cultural origins, variations within Japanese culture; aspects of social organization, culture, and personality. Crosslisted as ANTH 246.

247. Japanese Film as Anthropology (I; 3, 0)
The use of Japanese film as a key to understanding both the intricacies of Japanese culture and society, and the perspective of anthropology. Crosslisted as ANTH 247.

248. International Relations in East Asia (II; 3, 0)
This course offers an overview of international relations in East Asia with focus on political, economic, and social interactions among major states in the region. Crosslisted as IREL 283 and POLS 283.

249. Inside the Japanese Corporation (I or II; 3, 0)
Ethnographic approaches to the study of the Japanese corporation. A critical examination of industrial familialism, the lifetime employment system, and the work ethic. Crosslisted as ANTH 249.

251. Buddhism (II; 3, 1)
An interdisciplinary introduction to Buddhism, including basic teachings of liberation from suffering, impermanence, no-self, ethics, and meditation. Also explores the historical development of various streams of Buddhism in Asia and the West, with attention to the effect of Buddhism on society, politics, and material culture. Crosslisted as RELI 200.

252. Religions of China (I; 3, 0)
An introduction to the religious traditions of China through study of their origins, basic beliefs, practices and values, historical development, as well as their interaction and involvement with politics, culture, society and each other. Focus on the three major traditions – Confucianism, Daoism, and Chinese Buddhism. Crosslisted as RELI 245.

253. Religions of Japan (II; 3, 0)
An introduction to the religious traditions of Japan through study of their origins, basic beliefs, practices and values, historical development, as well as their interaction and involvement with politics, culture, society and each other. Focus on Shinto and the various forms of Japanese Buddhism. Crosslisted as RELI 246.

254. From Shinto to Shogun: Pre-modern Japan (I or II; 3, 0)
The course will examine the cultural and institutional developments which constitute the Japanese heritage, with emphasis on classical Heian and early medieval court culture and late medieval samurai society. Crosslisted as HIST 295.

255. Modern Japanese History (II; 3,0)
Japanese economy, society, politics, war, and diplomacy from 1868 to World War II; successes, crises, and conflicts in building a modern nation-state. Crosslisted as HIST 296.

256. Contemporary Japanese History (II; 3, 1)
Political and cultural history of post-World War II Japan using various sources including film, anime, art, political cartoon, popular song. May be crosslisted as HIST 299.

continued
266. Chinese Philosophy (I; 3, 0)
Major philosophical schools of the classical age, Buddhist philosophy, Neo-Confucianism. Crosslisted as PHIL 266.

267. The People’s Republic of China (II; 3, 0)
A historical look at life in China under the rule of the Communist Party. Unprecedented triumphs and tribulations. Crosslisted as HIST 297.

268. Intellectual Conflict in Modern China (II; 3, 0)
China's traumatic intellectual confrontation with the West. Scorn, fear, wonder, excitement, and terrible dissension. From the first 19th-century challenges to the rejection of the Thought of Mao Zedong. Crosslisted as HIST 264.

269. Chinese Politics (I or II; 3, 0)
This course examines China’s rich political history, its dynamic economic and social changes, its lasting political culture, its enduring struggle for modernization, and its evolving relations with the rest of the world. Crosslisted as IREL 225 and POLS 225.

274. The Greater Chinese Economy (I; 3, 0)
Coverage of topics essential to understanding the ongoing process of economic transition in China, while emphasizing China’s role in the Asian and world economies. Prerequisite: ECON 103. Crosslisted as ECON 274.

277. Social Darwinism East and West (AII; 3, 0)
Darwin’s evolution revolution on the rampage, in the religious, philosophical, social, and political thought of England, the United States, and China. Crosslisted as HIST 269.

278. Asian Economic Development (I; 3, 0)
Analysis of contemporary economic development in Asia, focusing on the role of public policy, international trade and investment, and on prospects for future growth. Prerequisite: ECON 103. Crosslisted as ECON 278.

295. Topics in East Asian Studies (I or II; R; 3, 0)
Topics vary.

296. Art and Politics in China (II; 3, 0)
An examination of the interactions between art and politics in the People’s Republic of China since 1949. Crosslisted as ART 296.

Seminars and Independent Study
321 and 322. Independent Study (I or II; R; 3, 0)
Open to East Asian studies majors who wish to pursue individual programs of reading, research, or writing. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

339. China and the World Economy (I; 3, 0)
An analysis of economic transition and development in China, with emphasis on its role in the Asian-Pacific and world economies. Prerequisites: ECON 256 and ECON 257, or permission of the instructor. Crosslisted as ECON 339.

340. Comparative Pacific Basin Economics (II; 3, 0)
Contemporary developmental issues facing selected Pacific Basin economies, emphasizing international trade, foreign investment, and public policies. Prerequisite: ECON 256, ECON 257, or permission of the instructor. Crosslisted as ECON 340.

369 and 370. Seminar in East Asian History and Culture (I and II; R; 3, 0)
A multidisciplinary Capstone Seminar for Japanese and East Asian studies majors: I. bibliography, sources, and disciplinary approaches to East Asia; II. individual and group studies of selected topics.

380. U.S.-China Relations (II; 3, 0)
Through tracing the evolution of U.S.-China relations from the 19th century to the 21st century, this course discusses major issues and challenges between the two countries today. Future trends of the bilateral relationship also will be explored. May be crosslisted as IREL 380 and POLS 380.

Chinese Language (CHIN)
101 and 102. Chinese I (I and II; 5, 0)
Intensive introduction to spoken and written “Mandarin” Chinese, the putonghuah (common language) of modern China. CHIN 101 is a prerequisite for CHIN 102.

103 and 104. Chinese II (I and II; 5, 0)
Continued rigorous study of spoken and written “Mandarin” Chinese now called putonghuah (the common language). Prerequisite: CHIN 102 or equivalent for CHIN 103. CHIN 103 or equivalent for CHIN 104.

201 and 202. Chinese III (I and II; 3, 0)
Continued study of modern “Mandarin.” Contemporary essays, movie scripts, short stories, and newspaper articles. Equal emphasis on reading and speaking. Conducted in Chinese. Prerequisite: CHIN 104 or equivalent for CHIN 201. CHIN 201 or equivalent for CHIN 202.

203 and 204. Chinese IV (I and II; 3, 0)
Reading and discussion of selected modern Chinese texts: newspaper and magazine articles, essays, short stories, and film scripts. Conducted in Chinese. Prerequisite: CHIN 202 or equivalent for CHIN 203. CHIN 203 or equivalent for CHIN 204.

210. Business Chinese (I or II; 3, 0)
An advanced-level Chinese language course that aims to teach students how to read and write business-related texts with vocabulary and phrases specialized for business related reports. Course materials include case studies of global corporations that have established themselves in China as well as historical background about the Economic Reform and the Open Door Policy which started in 1978. Prerequisites: CHIN 201 and permission of the instructor.

301 and 302. Chinese V (I and II; 4, 0)
Study of Chinese films and film scripts and an introduction to Classical Chinese. Besides reading and speaking, interpreting and writing essays are emphasized. Prerequisite: CHIN 204 or equivalent for CHIN 301. CHIN 301 or equivalent for CHIN 302.

continued
310. Advanced Seminar in Chinese Studies (I and II; 3, 0)
Selected topics in Chinese studies. In Chinese. Course topic varies. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

319 and 320. Independent Studies in Chinese (I and II; 3, 0)
Independent projects conducted in Chinese in the student’s area of special interest. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Japanese Language (JAPN)
101 and 102. Japanese I (I and II; 5, 2)
Beginning language skills. Training in speaking and comprehension the basic sentence patterns of modern Japanese. Introduction to reading and writing. Prerequisite: JAPN 101 is prerequisite for JAPN 102.

103 and 104. Japanese II (I and II; 5, 2)
Continued training in the four language skills. Review of basic and introduction to complex sentence patterns. Reading of texts in basic Japanese. Prerequisite: JAPN 102 or the equivalent for 103. JAPN 103 is prerequisite for JAPN 104.

201 and 202. Japanese III (I and II; 5, 1)
Application of the four language skills. Reading of texts written in standard Japanese and exercises in content-controlled conversation. Prerequisite: JAPN 104 or equivalent for JAPN 201. JAPN 201 is prerequisite for JAPN 202.

203 and 204. Japanese IV (I and II; 4, 0)
Continued application of the four language skills. Reading and guided discussion of texts related to a variety of topics. Prerequisite: JAPN 202 or the equivalent for JAPN 203. JAPN 203 is prerequisite for JAPN 204.

301 and 302. Japanese V (I and II; R; 4, 0)
Reading and discussion of selected materials. Exercises in the research skills of writing and presenting reports in Japanese. Prerequisite: JAPN 204 or the equivalent for JAPN 301. JAPN 301 is prerequisite for JAPN 302.

319 and 320. Independent Studies in Japanese (I and II; R; 3, 0)
Independent projects conducted in Japanese in the student’s area of special interest. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

Courses offered occasionally: 262 Sources of Asian Tradition