East Asian Studies

The major in East Asian studies is administered by the Asian Studies Committee: Professors Gabriel (economics; on leave Fall 2015), Hachiyangi (art), Hashmi (international relations), Khory (politics), I. Peterson (Indian literature, cultural history, and Hinduism; on leave Spring 2016), Nemoto (Japanese language and linguistics), Roth (anthropology), Sinha (art history), Wang (Chinese language and literature; on leave 2015-16); Associate Professors Chen (politics), Datla (history), Mrozik (religion; on leave Spring 2016), Steinfels (religion); Assistant Professor Babul (anthropology; on leave 2015-16); Lecturers Xu (Chinese) and Yan (Chinese); Teaching Associate Kao (Chinese); Five College Assistant Professor Sbaiti (history; on leave 2015-16); Five College Senior Lecturer Brown (Japanese); Five College Lecturers Arafah (Arabic), Massey (Korean), Park (Korean); Visiting Lecturer Lee (history).

Overview

One of four interdisciplinary majors within the Asian Studies program, East Asian studies allows students to specialize in the history, languages, cultures, and politics of East Asia. Complementing course work at Mount Holyoke are extracurricular activities and study abroad programs that broaden and deepen students’ understanding of Asia.

Language study is the core component of the major. We offer four levels of instruction in Chinese, three in Japanese, up to two in Korean, and a basic course in Sanskrit. Our students are expected to incorporate the humanities and the social sciences fully into their studies with classes at Mount Holyoke and the other colleges in the Five College Consortium.

On campus, our students experience regional culture at many levels, including language tables and clubs, guest lectures, performing and visual arts, film, festivals, and regional cuisine. These activities are often initiated by and benefit greatly from the diverse student population of Mount Holyoke and particularly the large numbers of students from Asian countries or with an Asian background.

Most of our students spend a semester or a summer in study abroad programs. Mount Holyoke College has affiliated programs or exchanges in China at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Beijing Language and Culture University (summer), and University of Hong Kong, China; in Japan at the Associated Kyoto Program (year) and the Japan Women’s University; and in South Korea at the Ewha Womans University and the Sookmyung Women’s University.

Asian studies majors and minors graduate to pursue careers in fields as varied as education, business, NGOs, journalism, the arts, government service, and graduate study.

Contact Info

Kristin McMillan, senior administrative assistant
Sohail Hashmi, chair
Website: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/asian/

Requirements for the Major

Credits

A minimum of 40 credits of course work on East Asia. Any course that devotes 50 percent or more of its substance to East Asian countries, peoples, or issues may be included in the major. One course on East Asian diasporas (e.g., Asian American studies) may count toward the major. Requirements for the major are:

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Courses

- Four courses (16 credits), equivalent to two years of college-level study of an East Asian language—Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. Japanese, Chinese, and Korean are taught at Mount Holyoke and elsewhere in the Five Colleges. A maximum of 16 lower-level language credits and a total of 24 language credits can be counted toward the major.
- History 137, Modern East Asia.
- At least three additional courses (12 credits), including at least one from each of the following two groups:
  - Group One: Humanities (literature, art, history, philosophy, and religion and interdisciplinary courses in these areas). Note: language courses are not included in this group. In order to count toward the major, studio art or performance courses must be supplemented with analytical written work.
  - Group Two: Social Sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, international relations, linguistics, politics, and sociology interdisciplinary courses in these areas).
- At least three courses (12 credits) must be 300-level courses. A course that is taught outside of Mount Holyoke must be approved by the chair of the Asian Studies Program to count as a 300-level course. One of the three 300-level courses must be a non-language course.

Requirements for the Minor

Minors in Chinese and Japanese are available; see their own sections of the catalog.

Related Courses

Most East Asian studies courses at Mount Holyoke are listed below, but students should also consult the catalogue entries or websites of other departments, including art history, history, international relations, politics, and religion. East Asian Studies majors should also plan to use the rich resources of the Five College Consortium in selecting their courses (listings are available through the Five College or individual college websites).

Please consult the chair of the Asian Studies Committee for guidelines regarding Asian languages not taught in the Five Colleges.

Courses Counting toward the Major, 2015-16

Anthropology
204 Anthropology of Modern Japan

Art History
261 Arts of China
262 Arts of Japan
360CG Seminar in Asian Art: ‘Curating Global Contemporary Art’

Art Studio
269 Japanese Papermaking

Asian Studies
110 First-Year Chinese I
111 First-Year Chinese II
120 First-Year Japanese I
160 First-Year Korean I
212 Second-Year Chinese I
213 Second-Year Chinese II
215 Androgyny and Gender Negotiation in Contemporary Chinese Women’s Theater
222 Second-Year Japanese I
262 Second-Year Korean I
264        Twentieth-Century Korea through Fiction and Film
310        Third-Year Chinese I
311        Third-Year Chinese II
312        Newspaper Reading and Journalistic Practice in China
313LW Advanced Chinese Reading: Literary Works and Social Issues
314        Learning Chinese through Film
340        Love, Gender-Crossing, and Women’s Supremacy: A Reading of The
Story of the Stone

Economics
202        East Asian Economic Development

English
334BG    Asian American Film and Visual Culture: ‘Beyond Geishas and Kung
Fu Masters’
374    Introduction to Asian American Literature

History
137    Modern East Asia 1600–2000
238    The Qing Empire
296CH    Women in History: ‘Women in Chinese History’
331CH    Asian History: ‘China’s Tumultuous Twentieth Century’
331PC    Asian History: ‘Popular Culture in East Asia’

Politics
208    Chinese Politics
228    East Asian Politics
359    Democratization and Civil Society in East Asia
373    Politics of Transformation in China and India

Religion
241    Women and Buddhism
263    Introduction to Buddhism
267    Buddhist Ethics

Russian and Eurasian Studies
312    Silk Roads: Ancient and Modern Highways across the Eurasian
       Continent

See Also

- Asian Studies
- Chinese
- Japanese