

EAST ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE COURSE LIST FOR SPRING 2025



CEAS Provisional Course Listing as of January 10th, 2025

Some of the information contained here may have changed since the time of publication. Always check with the department under which the course is listed or on the official Yale Course Search website found at <https://courses.yale.edu/> to see whether the courses you are interested in are still being offered and that the times have not changed.

ANTHROPOLOGY

- ANTH 515b/EAST 515b** **Culture, History, Power, and Representation** Helen Siu
M 1.30-3.20
This seminar critically explores how anthropologists use contemporary social theories to formulate the junctures of meaning, interest, and power. It thus aims to integrate symbolic, economic, and political perspectives on culture and social process. If culture refers to the understandings and meanings by which people live, then it constitutes the conventions of social life that are themselves produced in the flux of social life, invented by human activity. Theories of culture must therefore illuminate this problematic of agency and structure. They must show how social action can both reproduce and transform the structures of meaning, the conventions of social life. Even as such a position becomes orthodox in anthropology, it raises serious questions about the possibilities for ethnographic practice and theoretical analysis. How, for example, are such conventions generated and transformed where there are wide differentials of power and unequal access to resources? What becomes of our notions of humans as active agents of culture when the possibilities for maneuver and the margin of action for many are overwhelmed by the constraints of a few? How do elites—ritual elders, Brahmanic priests, manorial lords, factory-managers—secure compliance to a normative order? How are expressions of submission and resistance woven together in a fabric of cultural understandings? How does a theory of culture enhance our analyses of the reconstitution of political authority from traditional kingship to modern nation-state, the encapsulation of pre-capitalist modes of production, and the attempts to convert “primordial sentiments” to “civic loyalties”? How do transnational fluidities and diasporic connections make instruments of nation-states contingent? These questions are some of the questions we immediately face when probing the intersections of culture, politics and representation, and they are the issues that lie behind this seminar. *Instructor permission required.*
- ANTH 575b/EAST 575b** **Hubs, Mobilities, and Global Cities** Helen Siu
T 1.30-3.20
Analysis of urban life in historical and contemporary societies. Topics include capitalist and postmodern transformations, class, gender, ethnicity, migration, and global landscapes of power and citizenship. *Instructor permission required.*
- ANTH 726b/ARCG 726b** **Ancient Civilizations of the Eurasian Steppes** William Honeychurch
F 3.30-5.20
Peoples of the steppe zone, stretching from Eastern Europe to Mongolia, have played a pivotal role in Old World prehistory, though much about their societies and lifeways is still shrouded in mystery. The archaeology of this macro-region has developed rapidly since the 1990s, and this course presents an overview of major topics and debates in the region based on what archaeologists currently know about Eurasian steppe societies of the past. *Instructor permission required.*
- ANTH 797b/ARCG 797b** **Archaeology of East Asia** Kirie Stromberg
T,Th 4.00-5.15
Introduction to the findings and practice of archaeology in China, Japan, Korea, and southeast Asia. Methods used by archaeologists to interpret social organization, economic organization, and ritual life. Attention to major transformations

such as the initial peopling of an area, establishment of farming villages, the development of cities, interregional interactions, and the nature of political authority.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

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COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

**CPLT 953b/EALL 823b/
EAST 623b** **Topics in Sinophone and Chinese Studies** Jing Tsu
T 1.30-3.20

This recurring graduate research seminar and symposium examines different areas, periods, genres, and conceptual frameworks in Chinese and Sinophone studies. The topic this year is 1950s–2020. *Prerequisite: reading fluency in modern and semi-classical Chinese. Enrollment is restricted; no auditors.*

DIVINITY SCHOOL

REL 940b **The Chinese Theologians** Chloe Starr
Th 1.30-3.20

This course examines select readings from Chinese church and academic theologians (including Hong Kong writers and diaspora voices) to explore the nature of Chinese Christian thought. The readings cover late imperial Roman Catholic writers, early republican Protestant thinkers, high communist-era church theologians, and contemporary Sino-Christian academic theologians. Students read primary materials in English, supplemented by background studies and lecture material to help make sense of the theological constructions that emerge. The course encourages reflection on the challenges for Christian theology and life in a communist context, on the tensions between church and state in the production of theologies, and on the challenges that Chinese Christianity poses for global Christian thought.

REL 941b **Chinese and Japanese Christian Literature** Chloe Starr
W 1.30-3.20

What effect did Christianity have on modern Chinese literature, and what sort of Christianity emerges from Chinese Christian literature? Is Endō Shūsakū the only Japanese Christian writer (and does Martin Scorsese's film do justice to Endō's novel *Silence*)? This course tackles such questions by tracing the development of a Christian literature in China and Japan from late Imperial times to the beginning of the twenty-first century, with particular focus on the heyday (in China) of the 1920s and '30s, and on the Japanese side, on Endō's postwar novels. Using texts available in English, the course examines how Christian ideas and metaphors permeated the literary—and revolutionary—imagination in East Asia. Though rarely clearly in evidence, the influence of Christianity on Chinese literature came directly through the Bible and church education and indirectly through translated European and Western literature. The course tests the

aesthetic visions and construction of the human being from texts set among Japanese samurai in Mexico to the revolutionary throes of modern China.

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

EALL 526b **The Fantastic in Premodern China** Xiaojing Miao
T 9.25-11.15

This course explores the “fantastic” in premodern Chinese literature from the first millennium BCE up until late imperial China. Chinese authors and readers have long been fascinated by the “fantastic,” including fantastical beasts, ghost stories, and bizarre occurrences. By engaging critically with a selection of masterpieces and examining the historical and cultural specificity of what constitutes the “fantastic,” students learn how fantastic texts problematize the definition of humanity, how the fantastic complicates our understanding of narrative, truth, and epistemology, and how premodern Chinese writers used the fantastic to approach and propose solutions to pressing social issues. The course takes a chronological approach, and within the chronology, each class focuses on a specific theme, such as shifting boundaries of human/non-human, representations of the foreign land, the aestheticization of female ghosts, and the use of fantastic as social criticism and allegory.

EALL 536b **Japanese Poetry and Poetics** Kurtis Hanlon
F 3.30-5.20

Core concepts and traditions of classical Japanese poetry explored through the medium of translation. Readings from anthologies and treatises of the ninth through early twentieth century. Attention to recent critical studies in transcultural poetic theory. Inspection and discussion of related artifacts in the Beinecke Library and the Yale Art Gallery.

EALL 548b **Modern Chinese Literature** Jing Tsu
T 7.00-8.50 PM

An introduction to modern Chinese literature. Topics include Sinophone studies, East Asian diaspora, theories of comparison, technologies of writing and new literacies, realism, translation, globalization, scientism, and culture. *Instructor permission required.*

EALL 570b **Postcolonial Japan** Paul McQuade
MW 1.00-2.15

This course introduces students to the lasting effects of the Japanese Empire, both on modern Japan and East Asia more broadly. We cover the emergence of the empire in relation to European colonialism, the effects of pan-Asianism within the empire, and the transition from empire to democracy under American occupation. Specific attention is paid to cultural artefacts such as literature, film, and media; the ways in which contemporary Japan is shaped by this history in terms of diaspora, migration, and cultural nationalism; and the productive connections between postcolonial East Asia and more established forms of postcolonial criticism.

EALL 571b/FILM 882b **Japanese Cinema after 1960** Aaron Gerow
MW 11.35-12.50

The development of Japanese cinema after the breakdown of the studio system, through the revival of the late 1990s, to the present.

EALL 574b **Gender and Sexuality in Korean Literature and Film** Kyunghee Eo
T 3.30-5.20

In this course, students explore how cultural representations of gender and sexuality in Korea and the Korean diaspora have changed over the course of the twentieth century. Primary sources include literary texts, narrative and documentary films, as well as scholarship on themes and historical context relevant to the materials. We begin by exploring how gendered selfhood in Korea was constructed in relation to the colonial modernization process in the first half of the twentieth century. We then move onto stories of how women and men survived the Cold War and developmentalist and dictatorial regimes of South Korea from 1945 to 1987. In the last segment of the course, we focus our attention to voices from the contemporary moment, to examine how present-day Koreans of various gender and sexual identities are

contending with the challenges of an increasingly neoliberalizing social order. *All class materials are in English translation, and no previous knowledge of Korean language is required.*

EALL 600b/EAST 640b **Sinological Methods** Pauline Lin
F 1.30-3.20

A research course in Chinese studies, designed for students with background in modern and literary Chinese. Explore and evaluate the wealth of primary sources and research tools available in China and in the West. For native speakers of Chinese, introduction to the secondary literature in English and instruction in writing professionally in English on topics about China. Topics include Chinese bibliographies; bibliophiles' notes; specialized dictionaries; maps and geographical gazetteers; textual editions, variations and reliability of texts; genealogies and biographical sources; archaeological and visual materials; and major Chinese encyclopedias, compendia, and databases.

EALL 602b/EAST 641b **Readings in Classical Chinese Prose** Xiaojing Miao
M 9.25-11.15

Close reading of classical Chinese texts (*wenyan*) primarily from late Imperial China. A selection of formal and informal prose, including memoirs, *sanwen* essays, classical tales, biographies, and autobiographies. Focus on cultural and historical contexts, with attention to reception in China and in some cases in Korea and Japan. Questions concerning readership and governmental censorship, function of literature, history and fictionality, memory and writing, and the aesthetics of *qing* (emotion). *Readings in Chinese; discussion in English. Prerequisite: CHNS 171 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Permission of instructor required.*

EALL 619b **The Vernacular Short Story in Early Modern China (*Huaben*)** Tina Lu
Th 1.30-3.20

This course introduces students to the genre often called *huaben*, or the vernacular short story. These stories are written in a version of spoken Chinese, and for texts dating from the 17th century are quite easy to read, while providing an unparalleled window onto everyday life. We will be reading a wide range of these stories, in significant volume, and the class will culminate in the student's writing a final paper.

EALL 711b **Ghostwriting in Premodern China** Xiaojing Miao
M 1.30-3.20

Daizuo 代作, which literally means "writing on behalf of another," or "ghostwriting," was a widespread practice in premodern China that involved people of various social statuses and connections. No later than the third century, it became typical for literati to compose writings in the name of contemporary figures known by the author. This practice took place across a variety of genres, such as poetry, letters, and memoranda. The people who sought out a helping hand included members of the royal family, officials of different statuses, courtesans, and monks. The course explores this hitherto underexamined socially and culturally significant practice. *The prerequisite for this course is one year of classical/literary Chinese (or kambun/kobun), either at Yale or elsewhere. Modern Chinese is not required, and students are not expected to know the pronunciation of the texts we read in Mandarin (i.e., Korean, Japanese, Cantonese, etc. pronunciation is fine). Students who have never taken literary Chinese but have reason to believe that they can handle the course readings (e.g. native speakers of Chinese or Japanese) should consult the instructor. Instructor permission required.*

**EALL 823b/CPLT 953b/
EAST 623b** **Topics in Sinophone and Chinese Studies** Jing Tsu
T 1.30-3.20

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**Courses in East Asian languages at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels are listed in
*Yale College Programs of Study.***

CHINESE

CHNS 571b

Introduction to Literary Chinese II

Pauline Lin

T,Th 11.35-12.50

Continuation of CHNS 570a. *After CHNS 570 or equivalent.*

JAPANESE

JAPN 571b

Readings in Literary Japanese

Kurtis Hanlon

T,Th 6.00-7.15 PM

Close analytical reading of a selection of texts from the Nara through Tokugawa period: prose, poetry, and various genres. Introduction of *kanbun*. *Prerequisite: JAPN 570 or equivalent.*

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

EAST 502b/MUSI 552b

Time, Timbre, and Love: A Study of Two K-Drama OSTs

W 1.30-3.20

Bo kyung Blenda Im

While a narrative of technologically driven advancement dominates the digital age, an accompanying cultural subcurrent of “newtro”—of throwbacks, remembrance, and nostalgic repurposing of bygone materials—marks neoliberal time in contemporary South Korea. This course engages with the OSTs (Original Soundtracks) of two K-dramas—Reply 1988 (tvN, 2015) and Reply 1997 (tvN, 2012). We critically examine their featured love songs’ entanglements with modern Korean temporality. In what ways do vocal, instrumental, and environmental timbres invoke nostalgia and historical memory? What global infrastructures form the conditions of possibility for the production and circulation of Korean love songs? How do love songs generate and orient desire? Can nostalgic gestures engender alternative relationships between present, past, and future? And if so, what possibilities and pitfalls emerge? The first and second halves of the course are each centered around a significant juncture in late twentieth-century South Korean history: 1988 and 1997. Reading across fields such as Korean studies, music studies, religious studies, and anthropology, this interdisciplinary graduate seminar interrogates how nostalgic sonic imaginations formulated in K-Dramas might prompt a reconfiguration of modern temporality itself. Juniors and seniors in the college are welcome.

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Culture, History, Power, and Representation

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- EAST 516b** **Advanced Readings in Tokugawa Documents** Masato Takenouchi
W 1.30-3.20
The holdings of the Yale University Library include numerous collections of invaluable pre-modern Japanese documents, including many, such as the “Kyoto Komonjo” collection, which make it possible to delve deep into the history of Tokugawa period (1600–1868) Japan. In the last two years, moreover, the Council on East Asian Studies has been able to acquire a variety of fascinating new collections of Tokugawa period documents to augment the library’s existing holdings. As a result, students at Yale now have the opportunity to use unpublished primary sources to study various aspects of Tokugawa period history in a way that is rarely possible outside of Japan. This course is intended to help graduate students and properly qualified undergraduates build the advanced skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to engage these kinds of materials independently and use them to pursue a variety of historical research topics. *Students participating in this course should have a high level of competency in Japanese. Prerequisite: HIST 304J, Japanese Historical Documents, or instructor's permission.*
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- EAST 900** **Master’s Thesis**
Directed reading and research on a topic approved by the DGS and advised by a faculty member (by arrangement) with expertise or specialized competence in the chosen field. Readings and research are done in preparation for the required master’s thesis.
- EAST 910** **Independent Study**
By arrangement with faculty and with approval of the DGS.

FILM STUDIES

FILM 882b/EALL 571b
MW 11.35-12.50

Japanese Cinema after 1960

Aaron Gerow

The development of Japanese cinema after the breakdown of the studio system, through the revival of the late 1990s, to the present.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS, JACKSON SCHOOL OF

GLBL 6121b/MGT 985b
W 3.30-5.20

Navigating Contradiction: International Organizations Operating in China

Elizabeth Knup

China is the most influential non-democratic country in the world that exerts political and economic impact across a wide range of sectors and geographies. Today, international work requires at least a basic understanding of how China works and how international organizations work effectively with and in the country. International scholars, businesspeople, civil society practitioners, and journalists seek to understand and explain, shape and influence, and benefit from China's rapidly developing economy and society. In so doing, these institutions and individuals encounter a political economy that defies traditional modernization theories that predict a high correlation between economic development and democratization. Rather, international actors encounter a system many scholars describe as "resilient authoritarianism," characterized by opacity *and* predictability, rigidity *and* adaptability, repression *and* lenience, top-down *and* bottom-up governance, and by rhetoric aimed at international actors that is both welcoming and defensive. Most recently, given changes in the geopolitical environment, the political atmosphere related to China in the home countries of many international organizations is also shifting, and hardening, requiring multifaceted risk analysis and risk mitigation strategies. What is the nature of the Chinese political system? How have international actors navigated the contradictions in the system over time? What is the trajectory of the Chinese political system? And what are the implications for international organizations working there? This course explores these questions through five cases studies in the fields of academic exchange, business, civil society, multilateral diplomacy, and journalism to analyze how organizations manage their operations in China to achieve their goals. The course is taught by a practitioner who managed academic exchange programs, international businesses, and global NGOs in China for twenty-five years.

HISTORY

HIST 870b
M 1.30-3.20

Social History of the Silk Road

Valerie Hansen

An introduction to the social history of the Silk Road from 200–1000 CE through close examination of six archaeological sites in China and one in Uzbekistan. Emphasis on excavated documents (as opposed to transmitted documents) and what they reveal about local society, trade relations, and religious change in the first millennium CE. *Those who read classical Chinese meet separately to read handwritten documents, but knowledge of classical Chinese is not required.*

LAW, SCHOOL OF

LAW 21681b
W 7.10-9.00 PM

U.S.-China Diplomacy: Policy, Law, Strategy Paul Gewirtz, Susan Thornton

This course focuses on U.S.-China diplomacy and how it addresses fundamental issues of policy and law that arise in the U.S.-China relationship. This class is based on experiential learning. One part of the course will be regular class meetings addressing the history of U.S.-China diplomacy and current major challenges in U.S.-China relations. A second part of the course will be a series of simulated diplomatic "Dialogues" between members of the class and students at Tsinghua University in Beijing supervised by a professor there who is one of China's leading experts on U.S.-China relations. Students will learn both basic policy and legal issues in the U.S.-China relationship and practical skills related to U.S. diplomacy. Weekly 2-page papers and an end-of-semester 10-page paper required.

MANAGEMENT, SCHOOL OF

MGT 985b/GLBL 6121b

W 3.30-5.20

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MUSIC

MUSI 552b/EAST 502b

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POLITICAL SCIENCE

PLSC 697b

T 9.25-11.15

Chinese Foreign Policy

Daniel Mattingly

Study of the international relations and foreign policy of contemporary China. Topics include war, diplomacy, grand strategy, the military, cyber security, finance, trade, domestic politics, nuclear weapons, and international crises. *There are no formal prerequisites, but some basic knowledge of China is assumed, so a background equivalent to having taken one of the introductory courses on China is recommended. Instructor permission required.*

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

RLST 574b

Chinese Buddhist Texts

Eric Greene

W 1.00-3.00

Close reading of selected Chinese Buddhist texts in the original. *Instructor permission required.*

