

East Asian Studies Graduate Course List for 2025-2026 as of 4/09/2025

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.

Please note that course numbers listed with an "a" are offered in the 2025 fall term and those with a "b" are offered in the 2026 spring term.

ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ANTH 5824a **Politics of Memory** Yukiko Koga
M 9.25-11.15

This course explores the role of memory as a social, cultural, and political force in contemporary society. How societies remember difficult pasts has become a contested site for negotiating the present. Through the lens of memory, we examine complex roles that our relationships to difficult pasts play in navigating issues we face today. The course explores the politics of memory that takes place in the realm of popular culture and public space. It asks such questions as: How do you represent difficult and contested pasts? What does it mean to enable long-silenced victims' voices to be heard? What are the consequences of re-narrating the past by highlighting past injuries and trauma? Does memory work heal or open wounds of a society and a nation? Through examples drawn from the Holocaust, the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, the Vietnam War, genocide in Indonesia, and massacres in Lebanon, to debates on confederacy statues, slavery, and lynching in the United States, the course approaches these questions through an anthropological exploration of concepts such as memory, trauma, mourning, silence, voice, testimony, and victimhood. *Instructor permission required.*

ANTH 7259b/ARCG 7259b **Social Complexity in Ancient China** Anne Underhill
W 9.25-11.15

This seminar explores the variety of archaeological methods and theoretical approaches that have been employed to investigate the development and nature of social complexity in ancient China. The session meetings focus on the later prehistoric and early historic periods, and several geographic regions are included. They also consider how developments in ancient China compare to other areas of the world. Most of the readings emphasize archaeological remains, although relevant information from early historical texts is considered.

ANTH 7297a/ARCG 7297a **Archaeology of East Asia**
T 9.25-11.15

This interdisciplinary seminar explores the ways early East Asian cultures represented the human face and form. Elite individuals and deities are rarely represented in East Asian visual culture before the entrance of Buddhism into China at the end of the first millennium BCE. The fact that the earliest cultures of China, Korea, and Japan did not prioritize realistic representation of elite human bodies remains a major point of contrast vis-à-vis other early civilizations. Focusing on excavated materials, this seminar covers ways in which these cultures portrayed the human (or human-like) face and body, primarily from Paleolithic through late Bronze Age contexts, highlighting how the entrance of Buddhist iconographic traditions radically shifted local contexts in the second half of the course. In addition to challenging students to reevaluate their preconceptions of what kinds of objects should center art historical canons, this course provides firm grounding in the formation of social complexity and other themes foundational to anthropological study of the pre- and early history of China, Korea, and Japan. All core readings are in English, but students with proficiency in East Asian languages are provided with relevant resources.

DIVINITY SCHOOL

REL 983a **China Mission** Chloë Starr
Th 1.30-3.20

The Day Missions Collection at YDS is one of the strongest mission collections in the world, comprising about one third of the Divinity Library's 600,000 volumes—and it is also the central repository in the United States for China-related mission papers. This course offers students the opportunity to complete an original research project in the library relating to mission in China, utilizing

manuscript, microform, and monograph materials from the collections. For the first six weeks, we read intensively in mission history, theory, and practice, schematized through mission narratives. The next four weeks are “library lab” time: supervised reading time in special collection and archive materials within the library; and reading into and developing projects while help is on hand for deciphering handwriting, providing reference tools, etc. The final two weeks are dedicated to research presentations and evaluation, with each student offering findings to the class in their chosen media.

EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

EALL 5670a

HTBA

Japan's Global Modernisms: 1880–1980

Rosa van Hensbergen

This course is an introduction to Japanese literature from the 1880s to 1980s. Our reading is guided by a different “ism” each week, from 19th-century eroticism and exoticism, through mid-century cosmopolitanism and colonialism, to second-wave feminism and existentialism in the wake of World War II. These distinct moments in the development of Japanese modernism (*modanizumu*) are shaped by encounters with foreign cultures and by the importing of foreign ideas and vogues. All the same, we question—along with modernist writer Yū Ryūtanji—the “critique that says *modanizumu* is nothing more than the latest display of imported cosmetics” (1930). We seek to develop a correspondingly nuanced picture of the specific and changing ways in which Japan understood and figured its relationship to the rest of the world through the course of a century. Creative and comparative perspectives are especially welcome, and assignments can accommodate a range of media and presentation formats to suit. *There are no prerequisites for this course, beyond an enthusiasm for reading literature. All readings are in translation, however there is an opportunity to read short stories in the original language.*

EALL 6000a/EAST 6222a

F 9.25-11.15

Sinological Methods

Pauline Lin

A research course in Chinese studies, designed for students with background in modern and literary Chinese. Students 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 7330a

F 1.30-3.20

Zhuangzi

Mick Hunter

An in-depth examination of one of the great masterworks of ancient philosophy. Topics vary according to student interest but include: the interpretation of the text, its formation and history, its reception in the commentarial and scholarly literature, and its role in the modern construction of classical Chinese philosophy. This seminar is designed primarily for students who can read classical Chinese but is also open to students reading the text in translation. In that event, we hold separate sessions for students working in the original language. *Proficiency in classical Chinese is preferred but not absolutely necessary.*

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

CHINESE

CHNS 5700a

T,Th 11.35-12.50

Introduction to Literary Chinese I

Pauline Lin

Reading and interpretation of texts in various styles of literary Chinese (*wenyan*), with attention to basic problems of syntax and literary style. *After CHNS 1510, 1530 or equivalent.*

CHNS 5710b

HTBA

Introduction to Literary Chinese II

Continuation of CHNS 5700a. *After CHNS 5700 or equivalent.*

JAPANESE

JAPN 5700a

T,Th 9.00-10.15

Introduction to Literary Japanese

Introduction to the grammar and style of the pre-modern literary language (*bungotai*) through a variety of texts. *Prerequisite: JAPN 1510 or equivalent.*

JAPN 5710b

HTBA

Readings in Literary Japanese

Close analytical reading of a selection of texts from the Nara through Tokugawa period: prose, poetry, and various genres. Introduction of *kanbun*. *Prerequisite: JAPN 5700 or equivalent.*

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

EAST 5520b/PLSC 6850b

HTBA

Chinese Thinking on International Relations

Feng Zhang

How have the Chinese thought about international relations and their country's role in the world? How has such thinking influenced China's foreign relations past and present? This advanced seminar canvasses Chinese thinking on international relations from the imperial epoch to the present, focusing on the post-1949 era of the People's Republic of China. It is structured around three core engagements: the historical background of Chinese thinking; policy thinking of the successive PRC leaderships; and new strands of thinking at present. It examines both the evolutionary process of thinking and a body of prominent ideas and doctrines. Throughout the course, students have the opportunity to place China's foreign policy in a broader and deeper intellectual context than is often the case. *Instructor permission required.*

EAST 5521a/PLSC 6840a

T 3.30-5.20

China's International Relations

Feng Zhang

This course examines China's international relations with a focus on both historical context and contemporary developments. Beginning with imperial China's traditional foreign relations and the "century of humiliation," the course traces the evolution of Chinese foreign policy through the Cold War period to the present day. Students analyze China's relationships with major powers and regions, including the United States, Russia, Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and India, while exploring critical issues such as the Taiwan question, territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and China's growing role in global governance. Special attention is paid to understanding the drivers of China's recent assertive turn in foreign policy under Xi Jinping, theories of international relations as applied to China's rise, and the implications of China's increasing power for the international order. Through engagement with scholarly works and contemporary policy debates, the course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of China's foreign relations and its emergence as a global power. *Instructor permission required.*

EAST 6222a/EALL 6000a

F 9.25-11.15

Sinological Methods

Pauline Lin

A research course in Chinese studies, designed for students with background in modern and literary Chinese. Students 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.

EAST 6423a/HSAR 6594a

Th 1.30-3.20

Chinese Paintings at the YUAG

Quincy Ngan

This seminar explores the issue of authenticity in thirteenth through twentieth century Chinese paintings at the Yale University Art Gallery. Students become familiar with the different schools of connoisseurship and the major debates surrounding authenticity in the field of Chinese painting. Students learn about the methods for authenticating an attribution, as well as the rationale behind the dating provided by the gallery. Calligraphical inscriptions and seals on the works, as well as their physical condition, related conservation reports, and provenance are consulted as well. This class makes frequent visits to the gallery. Reading ability of Chinese is not required. *Instructor permission required.*

EAST 5301a**Advanced Readings in Tokugawa Documents**

Masato Takenouchi

F 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. *Prerequisite: HIST 3404: Japanese Historical Documents, or instructor's permission.*

EAST 9100a or b**Independent Study**

By arrangement with faculty and with approval of the DGS.

EAST 9900a or b**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.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS, JACKSON SCHOOL OF**GLBL 6285a****China's Challenge to the Global Economic Order**

Hanscom Smith

T 1.30-3.20

In the decades after 1979, China’s adherence to key tenets of the US-backed liberal international economic system enabled it to achieve middle income status. After the 2008-9 global financial crisis, however, weaknesses in the US model combined with China’s own sustained growth increased Beijing’s confidence in an alternative, state-oriented model that increasingly underpins China’s foreign economic engagement. This course examines the basis of China’s economic strength as a precursor to investigating the Belt and Road initiatives, trade, investment, and development policies, international organization advocacy, business practices, and other aspects of China’s growing international economic footprint. These factors are analyzed from the perspective of China’s internal dynamics, competition with the United States, and overall foreign policy goals and are evaluated for their impact on the prevailing global economic order. Planned guest speakers include senior representatives from the State Department and the Embassy of China in Washington, as well as experts on Chinese investment in the United States and Taiwan’s role in global technology supply chains. In-class simulations focus on China’s WTO accession and the Belt and Road Initiative versus the Indo-Pacific Strategy. The course is taught by a practitioner who spent over a decade managing US government economic policy in and on China. *Instructor permission required.*

HISTORY**HIST 8532a****Song-Dynasty China (960–1276): Modern Before Europe?**

Valerie Hansen

M 1.30-3.20

Did any society attain early modernity before Europe did so in 1500–1600? China did during the Song dynasty (960–1275). Consideration of economic output, meritocratic recruitment of the bureaucracy via civil service examinations, printing, levels of education and literacy (among both men and women), urban life, and foreign trade. Seminar members may choose to do either a research paper comparing China and Europe or a historiographic essay.

HISTORY OF ART**HSAR 6594a/EAST 6423a****Chinese Paintings at the YUAG**

Quincy Ngan

Th 1.30-3.20

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PLSC 6840a/EAST 5521a
HTBA

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PLSC 6850b/EAST 5520b
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