

## East Asian Studies Graduate Course List for 2025-2026 as of 8/12/2025

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.

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### 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** Piphah Heng  
T 9.25-11.15

East and Southeast Asia have increasingly emerged as hotspots for global political, economic, and cultural interactions. What were the roots and social processes that gave rise to such systems? In this seminar, we explore archaeological evidence for the development of social and political organization and religious practices, using selected examples from East and Southeast Asia spanning approximately 5000 BCE to 1500 CE. We examine four key themes: (1) the origins and timing of plant and animal domestication, (2) the emergence and impact of early metallurgy, (3) patterns of interregional interaction, and (4) the rise of sociopolitical complexity. Using a comparative archaeological perspective—focusing on settlement patterns, urbanism, craft production, monumentality, and diverse material culture—we examine how both local factors and long-distance connections shaped these trajectories. We conclude the course with a reflection on the role of archaeology in contemporary society, particularly in countries where the past is actively curated, celebrated, and contested. No background in archaeology or East/Southeast Asian studies is required. Through short lectures, weekly discussions, student presentations, and a final research paper on selected case studies, students learn how archaeological research is conducted and interpreted. By the end of the term, students are able to outline the broad historical sequence of the region from the earliest food production through the mid-second millennium CE; identify major archaeological sites and their contributions to our understanding of domestication, metallurgy, and early urbanism; and compare the historical trajectories of East and Southeast Asian societies. The course also emphasizes critical thinking and analytical reasoning, encouraging students to evaluate evidence, interrogate interpretive frameworks, and formulate informed perspectives on the region's past.

## ARCHITECTURE, SCHOOL OF

### ARCH 7126a

#### **Destruction, Continuation and Creation: Architecture & Urbanism of Modern Japan**

Yoko Kawai

W 2.00-3.50

This course examines how design philosophies and methodologies were developed in Japanese architecture during the 150 years from the Meiji Restoration until the post-modern era. Special attention is paid to how the country's cultural identity has been continuously relevant to modern society by evolving itself through natural disasters such as earthquakes, and political destruction such as wars. The methodologies and technologies for architecture and cities supported and were influenced by this constantly transforming, yet unchanging, Japanese culture. The course also compares the architecture of two International Expos in Osaka, one in 1970, signifying the end of metabolism, and another in 2025. Highlighted architects include Chuta Ito, Goichi Takeda, Frank Lloyd Wright, Kameki Tsuchiura, Sutemi Horiuchi, Kunio Maekawa, Kenzo Tange, Arata Isozaki, Fumihiko Maki, Kisho Kurokawa, Kazuo Shinohara, Tadao Ando, and Sou Fujimoto. Students are required to make in-class presentations and write a final paper.

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## COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

### CPLT 9053a/EALL 8230a/ EAST 8220a

#### **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.*

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## DIVINITY, SCHOOL OF

### REL 983b

#### **China Mission**

Chloe Starr

HTBA

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.

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## EARLY MODERN STUDIES

### EMST 6532a/EAST 6301a/ 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.

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## EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

### EALL 5050b

#### **The Culture of Landscape in China**

Pauline Lin

F 1.30-3.20

An introduction to Chinese philosophical, poetic, and visual explorations of landscape and the changing relationship between human beings and nature. Through texts, archaeological materials, visual and material culture, and garden designs from the second century

BCE to modern times, we learn about the Chinese conception of the world; relationship to and experiences in nature; and shaping of the land through agriculture, imperial parks, and garden designs. We conclude with contemporary environmental issues confronting China and how contemporary parks can help regenerate our ecosystem.

**EALL 5510a** **Transpacific Korea: Latin American Connections in History, Literature and Film** Youngkyun Choi  
Th 3.30-5.20  
This course introduces students to Transpacific Studies with a focus on the historical and cultural relationships between Korea and Latin America. Through literature, film, and scholarly texts, students will examine the underexplored experiences of Korean immigrants in Latin America and Latin American migrants in Korea. Beginning with the early 20th-century history of Korean labor migration to Mexico and Cuba, the course then traces how transpacific movements evolved through the Korean War and into the era of postwar globalization. By engaging with fiction, documentaries, and analytical readings, students will gain insight into how transpacific migrations have shaped diasporic identities, labor economies, and cultural exchange between these two regions. *Students are not expected to be deeply familiar with Korean or Latin American history, but some familiarity with both cultures and languages will be helpful. Please note that students in this course are expected to produce quality writing that demonstrates critical thinking and college-level research skills.*

**EALL 5670a** **Japan's Global Modernisms: 1880–1980** Rosa van Hensbergen  
M 3.30-5.20  
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 5690a** **Topics in Modern Korean Literature** Youngkyun Choi  
T 3.30-5.20  
In this course, students read key works of Korean literature in English translation from the early twentieth century to the present day. The specific course topic varies by term. Primary sources include long-form novels, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction writing by representative authors, as well as literary scholarship on themes and historical context relevant to the materials. The readings in this course are arranged in roughly chronological order, requiring us to examine Korea’s colonial modernization process in the first half of the twentieth century, the authoritarian regimes of South Korea from 1948 to 1987, and South Korea’s integration into the neoliberal world order after democratization. *Supplementary audio-visual materials such as artwork, video clips and music may be presented to students in class. All class materials are in English translation, and no previous knowledge of Korean language is required.*

**EALL 5810a/FILM 8730a** **Japanese Cinema and Its Others** Kirsten Seuffert  
MW 11.35-12.50; Screenings T 7.00-10.00 PM  
Critical inquiry into the myth of a homogeneous Japan through analysis of how Japanese film and media historically represent “others” of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, and sexualities, including women, black residents, ethnic Koreans, Okinawans, Ainu, undocumented immigrants, LGBTQ minorities, the disabled, youth, and monstrous others such as ghosts.

**EALL 6000a/EAST 6222a** **Sinological Methods** Pauline Lin  
F 9.25-11.15  
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** **Zhuangzi** Mick Hunter  
F 1.30-3.20  
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.*

**EALL 8230a/CPLT 9053a/  
EAST 8220a**

**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.*

**EALL 8920a/FILM 8740a**

**Japanese New Wave Cinema**

Kirsten Seuffert

Th 1.30-3.20; Screenings W 7.00-10.00 PM

This course explores the “New Wave” in Japanese cinema in the context of the rise of “new wave” across cinemas in the American sphere in the period roughly between 1955 and 1975. It focuses on both local contexts and global flows in the turn to experimental filmmaking in Japan, paying particular attention to how films sought to make social and political interventions in both content and form. We analyze New Wave films and critical writing by asking what they can tell us about Japan’s postwar, high-speed economic growth, student and counterculture movements, and place in the Cold War order. We also consider what the Japanese New Wave tells us about the possibilities of cinema: its global simultaneity, transcultural movement, and historical trajectory. Topics include the legacy of World War II in Japan and cinema as a mode for narrating history; the rise of global youth culture in the context of postwar economic growth; cinema and protest against the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty; the aesthetic use of sex, violence, and politics to shock mainstream culture; documentary as a site for radical experimentation; the studio system, independent filmmaking, and transformations of the Japanese film industry; and what is meant by “modernist” and “avant-garde” in New Wave cinema.

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

**CHINESE**

**CHNS 5700a**

**Introduction to Literary Chinese I**

Pauline Lin

T,Th 11.35-12.50

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**

**Introduction to Literary Chinese II**

Pauline Lin

T,Th 11.35-12.50

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

**JAPANESE**

**JAPN 5700a**

**Introduction to Literary Japanese**

Yoshitaka Yamamoto

T,Th 9.00-10.15

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**

**Readings in Literary Japanese**

Yoshitaka Yamamoto

W 9.25-11.15

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.*

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**EAST ASIAN STUDIES**

**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 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 6301a/HIST 8532a/  
EMST 6532a**

M 1.30-3.20

**Song-Dynasty China (960–1276): Modern Before Europe?**

Valerie Hansen

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.

**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 8220a/CPLT 9053a/  
EALL 8230a**

**Topics in Sinophone and Chinese Studies**

Jing Tsu

T 1.30-3.20

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**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.

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**FILM & MEDIA STUDIES**

**FILM 8730a/EALL 5810a**

**Japanese Cinema and Its Others**

Kirsten Seuffert

MW 11.35-12.50; Screenings T 7.00-10.00 PM

Critical inquiry into the myth of a homogeneous Japan through analysis of how Japanese film and media historically represent “others” of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, and sexualities, including women, black residents, ethnic Koreans, Okinawans, Ainu, undocumented immigrants, LGBTQ minorities, the disabled, youth, and monstrous others such as ghosts.

**FILM 8740a/EALL 8920a**

**Japanese New Wave Cinema**

Kirsten Seuffert

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This course explores the “New Wave” in Japanese cinema in the context of the rise of “new wave” across cinemas in the American sphere in the period roughly between 1955 and 1975. It focuses on both local contexts and global flows in the turn to experimental filmmaking in Japan, paying particular attention to how films sought to make social and political interventions in both content and form. We analyze New Wave films and critical writing by asking what they can tell us about Japan's postwar, high-speed economic growth, student and counterculture movements, and place in the Cold War order. We also consider what the Japanese New Wave tells us about the possibilities of cinema: its global simultaneity, transcultural movement, and historical trajectory. Topics include the legacy of World War II in Japan and cinema as a mode for narrating history; the rise of global youth culture in the context of postwar economic growth; cinema and protest against the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty; the aesthetic use of sex, violence, and politics to shock mainstream culture; documentary as a site for radical experimentation; the studio system, independent filmmaking, and transformations of the Japanese film industry; and what is meant by “modernist” and “avant-garde” in New Wave cinema.

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**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/EAST 6301a/  
EMST 6532a**

M 1.30-3.20

**Song-Dynasty China (960–1276): Modern Before Europe?**

Valerie Hansen

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.

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## HISTORY OF ART

**HSAR 6594a/EAST 6423a**

Th 1.30-3.20

**Chinese Paintings at the YUAG**

Quincy Ngan

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE

**PLSC 6840a/EAST 5521a**

T 3.30-5.20

**China's International Relations**

Feng Zhang

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**PLSC 6850b/EAST 5520b**

HTBA

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Feng Zhang

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