

# East Asian Studies

East Asian Studies is a multidisciplinary concentration designed for students wishing to attain reasonable fluency in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean with specialized exposure to selected East Asian subjects. It serves students with two types of interests: those who aim to pursue active professional careers related to the East Asian region; and those who want to pursue graduate study in the humanities or social sciences with particular emphasis on China, Japan or Korea. Students in East Asian Studies will gain language proficiency and familiarity with East Asia through advanced courses in a variety of disciplines. Concentrators are strongly encouraged, but not required, to study in East Asia for one or two semesters. The concentration requires students to demonstrate a basic proficiency in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean.

## The Language Requirement

The concentration requires students to demonstrate a basic proficiency in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean. For the purposes of the concentration, proficiency is determined to be consistent with successful completion of the Department's third-year course sequence in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (0500-0600), or its equivalent. Native speakers of these languages may, for example, demonstrate competency such that language courses may be unnecessary. Department language instructors may also determine that course work completed at one of the language-intensive study abroad programs attended by our undergraduates is comparable to courses offered at Brown. Up to three upper level (700-999) language courses may count as electives for the Focus concentration credit. (Lower-level language courses do not count as concentration electives).

Note that we do not equate completion of third-year Chinese, Japanese, or Korean with fluency in these languages. Rather, we believe that students who have demonstrated the skills associated with third-year Chinese, Japanese, or Korean have acquired a foundational understanding of the languages' grammar, vocabularies, and conversational patterns, such that they are able to make themselves understood in everyday situations, and to understand both spoken and written communication.

For the purposes of the concentration, language courses through the third-year are treated as an accompanying requirement.

### Language Prerequisites (demonstrating proficiency through the third-year or 0600 level in one of the three languages below)

Chinese	
CHIN 0100 & CHIN 0200	Basic Chinese and Basic Chinese
CHIN 0300 & CHIN 0400	Intermediate Chinese and Intermediate Chinese
CHIN 0350 & CHIN 0450	Elementary to Intermediate Chinese for Advanced Beginners and Advanced Chinese for Heritage Learners
CHIN 0500 & CHIN 0600	Advanced Modern Chinese I and Advanced Modern Chinese I
Japanese	
JAPN 0100 & JAPN 0200	Basic Japanese and Basic Japanese
JAPN 0300 & JAPN 0400	Intermediate Japanese and Intermediate Japanese
JAPN 0500 & JAPN 0600	Advanced Japanese I and Advanced Japanese I
Korean	
KREA 0100 & KREA 0200	Korean and Korean
KREA 0300 & KREA 0400	Intermediate Korean and Intermediate Korean
KREA 0500 & KREA 0600	Advanced Korean and Advanced Korean

KREA 0912 Business Korean

### Language Electives (language courses that may be counted for concentration credit)

Chinese	
CHIN 0700 & CHIN 0800	Advanced Modern Chinese II and Advanced Modern Chinese II (either course may be taken for one semester)
CHIN 0911	Business Chinese
CHIN 0912	Chinese Language and Culture
CHIN 1040	Modern Chinese Literature
Japanese	
JAPN 0700 & JAPN 0800	Advanced Japanese II and Advanced Japanese II (either course may be taken for one semester)
JAPN 0711	Japanese Linguistics
JAPN 0810	Classical Japanese
JAPN 0811	Business Japanese
JAPN 0812	Japanese Language and Society through Contemporary Film
JAPN 1010	Readings in Contemporary Japanese Fiction

## Electives

The concentration requires that students complete a total of eight electives tied to their course of study, which may be defined in linguistic, chronological, thematic, or cultural terms. Students should choose their courses with the following four requirements in mind.

- **Focus Requirement:** In order to ensure intellectual coherence and focus in the concentration, at least three of the eight electives must focus on the geographic region associated with the student's language study/expertise (including expertise demonstrated in lieu of coursework). For example, a concentrator studying Japanese language, or who has demonstrated competency in Japanese to fulfill the departmental language requirement, should take at least three courses focusing on Japan. Up to three upper level (700-999) language courses may count as electives for the focus concentration credit. (Lower-level language courses do not count as concentration electives).
- **EAST Requirement:** At least three of the eight electives must be East Asian Studies (EAST) courses at any level; Chinese (CHIN), Japanese (JAPN), or Korean (KREA) courses at the 1000-level and above may also count toward this requirement.
- **Breadth Requirement:** At least one of the eight electives must focus on an East Asian country or culture other than those associated with the language the student is using to satisfy the concentration's language requirement. A concentrator studying Chinese, for example, must choose at least one course that focuses on Korea and/or Japan.
- **Senior Seminar Requirement:** At least one of the eight elective courses must be an advanced research seminar, taken in the senior year.

As is common in multidisciplinary concentrations, a wide range of courses, including many taught by faculty in other departments, may be counted toward the concentration. These include courses offered by East Asian Studies faculty, faculty with courtesy appointments in the Department, and courses with a significant focus on East Asia offered in such disciplines such as American Studies, Art History, Economics, International Relations, and many others.

### Sample Electives offered by East Asian Studies

EAST 0140	Childhood and Culture in Japan
EAST 0304	Words on Things: Literature and Material Culture in Early Modern China
EAST 0307	China Through the Lens: History, Cinema, and Critical Discourse
EAST 0406	Foreign Bodies in Japan, 600–1600

## EAST 1505 Two Koreas

For additional elective choices, visit <http://brown.edu/academics/east-asian-studies/courses/more-course-offerings>.

## Senior Seminars

At least one of the eight elective courses must be an advanced research seminar, usually taken in the senior year. The research seminar will normally provide students with the opportunity to develop a project or paper focusing on one or more of their areas of inquiry within the concentration. Students are strongly encouraged to find ways to incorporate the use of Chinese-, Japanese-, or Korean-language materials in their research and learning in these courses. Courses falling into this category include EAS seminars over the 1000 level, as well as designated seminars offered by affiliated faculty in such departments as History, Religious Studies, and Comparative Literature, among others. The Department will provide a list of pre-approved senior seminars every semester. Students wishing to add courses to that list must submit their requests in writing to the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the start of the semester.

### Sample advanced seminars offered by East Asian Studies

EAST 1931	Market Economy, Popular Culture, and Mass Media in Contemporary China
EAST 1942	Queer Japan and Beyond

## Double Concentrations

Students who are interested in developing a double concentration, including East Asian Studies as one of the two concentrations, should bear in mind that normally no more than two courses may be double-counted toward satisfying the course requirements of either of the two concentration programs involved.

## Study Abroad

Concentrators are strongly encouraged, though not required, to study in East Asia for one or two semesters during their undergraduate years. Course credits earned abroad are generally transferable to Brown. However, a maximum of three courses taken abroad, of genuine intellectual substance and significantly related to East Asian Studies, may be considered for concentration credit.

## Summary of requirements:

- Language study through the level of 0600 or the equivalent of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean
- Eight elective courses (see details above)
  - **Focus Requirement:** three courses.
  - EAST Requirement: three courses.
  - Breadth Requirement: one course.
  - Senior Seminar: one course.
- Honors candidates only: EAST 1980 - EAST 1981

**Please note:** *EAS does not currently offer a concentration in Vietnamese. Students who take Vietnamese language in EAS may wish to consider completing a Certificate in Intercultural Competence through the Center for Language Studies.*

## Honors

East Asian Studies offers qualified students, in their senior year, the opportunity to undertake a sustained research and writing project that, ideally, will result not merely in a long term paper, but in a piece of original scholarship. To enroll in the Honors Program, the student must be a senior East Asian Studies concentrator, and have earned an A or an S with Distinction in the majority of courses for the concentration. Candidates for Honors are required to have developed a competence in an East Asian language sufficient to allow them to use East Asian language materials in carrying out their research. Students must also successfully obtain the support of at least two faculty members who will agree to serve as primary and secondary advisors for the thesis. Prospective writers submit a thesis prospectus, brief bibliography, and completed application forms (with signatures), ordinarily late in the student's six semester, to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, who provides the final permission to proceed.

Synopses of successful thesis proposals will be distributed to Department faculty.

Thesis writers enroll in advisor-specific sections of the thesis-writing course EAST 1980 (Fall) and EAST 1981 (Spring), meet regularly with their advisors over the course of both semesters, and submit final versions of their theses to the Department in mid-April. Advisors and students are required to provide updates of their progress to the Director of Undergraduate Studies at regular intervals.

The completed thesis is evaluated for Honors by the thesis director and by the second reader. In case of a difference of judgment between the two readers, a third opinion may be sought. EAST 1981 counts as one concentration elective credit. The awarding of Honors in East Asian Studies will occur only if the Honors Thesis receives a final grade of A. If an A is not received, the student will still receive University academic credit for EAST 1980-81. Students are notified in mid-May whether the Department has recommended the awarding of Honors. Copies of readers' comments are provided to the student.

Graduating concentrators may have the ability to present the results of their senior theses in the department's Senior Project Forum. The Forum will usually take place at the end of the spring semester, but may also occur at the end of the fall semester to accommodate mid-year graduates.