East Asian Studies

Overview
Our program blends traditional concepts and modern ideas, much like East Asia itself. You gain a broad perspective on the nations and peoples of the region, including their language, literature, history, government and rich cultural heritage. Drawing on the College’s extensive resources, you explore East Asia’s economic and geopolitical realities, ethnic and cultural identities, and contemporary social issues. We regularly add new classes that build on the major’s interdisciplinary approach, global viewpoint and deep interest in what’s happening in East Asia today. Chinese and Japanese language students practice their skills by teaching at the Regional Multicultural Magnet School in New London.

Special Opportunities
The study of languages and cultures is, by nature, interdisciplinary. We support students who combine their interest in East Asia with a certificate from one of the College’s interdisciplinary centers or a second major, such as international relations, economics, history or gender and women’s studies. If you have an interest in art, you might work with our collection of Chinese paintings or Japanese prints and woodcuts, including works by Hiroshige.

International Opportunities and Study Abroad
We offer ample opportunities for study and internships abroad. You might research the place of women in corporate Japan, work in an elementary school in Yunnan Province or learn about traditional Chinese medicine in a Beijing hospital. On campus, you can explore the Pacific Rim through an Asian film series, Lunar New Year festivities, a traditional Japanese tea ceremony and taiko drumming. You can also join the department's advisory board and be active with the College's organization for Asian and Asian-American students. We encourage you to apply for international grants, such as the Freeman-ASIA Awards, Fulbright fellowships and Gilman International scholarships.

Cannea Ferguson
East Asian Studies

Q: Why did you decide to major in East Asian studies?
A: In high school, I was intrigued by the tonality of spoken Chinese along with the complex strokes of written Chinese characters. As a prospective student, I attended an intensive Chinese class at Connecticut College and was inspired to continue learning more about Chinese language and culture at the undergraduate level.

Q: What has been your most challenging or rewarding class? Why?
A: Chinese 101: Intensive Elementary Chinese. The intensive coursework pushed me to take responsibility for my language learning, and Professors Tek-wah King and Amy Dooling always encouraged me to do my best work. Over the course of a year, I developed a strong foundation in written and spoken Chinese that prepared me for study abroad.

Q: Did you study abroad? Where and why?
A: I studied abroad for six months in the Associated Colleges in China’s (ACC) Intensive Language & Culture Program in Beijing. The full-time language pledge gave me the opportunity to greatly improve my linguistic and cultural proficiency in a total immersion setting.
Faculty

Amy Dooling, Associate Professor of Chinese
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Columbia University
Modern and contemporary Chinese fiction and drama; Chinese women’s writing; history of the women’s movement and feminism in China; translation

Yibing Huang, Associate Professor of Chinese
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Beijing University; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles
Modern and contemporary Chinese literature, cinema, popular culture; comparative studies of modernism and postmodernism in China and the West; cultural translations between Chinese poetry and modern American poetry

Tek-wah King, Senior Lecturer in Chinese
B.A., National Taiwan University; M.A., Yale University; Ph.D. in progress, Yale University
Syntax and morphology; Chinese writing system and dialects; language pedagogy

Hisae Kobayashi, Senior Lecturer in Japanese
B.A., Tsuda College, Tokyo; M.A., The University of Evansville, Ind.
Language pedagogy; Japanese language

Takeshi Watanabe, Assistant Professor of Japanese
B.A., Ph.D., Yale University
Japanese literature and culture; literary and visual interpretations of history

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a private, highly selective liberal arts college with 1,850 students and more than 40 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities, and the option for students to self-design majors. The College offers a high level of intellectual challenge, and a campus culture that supports students to tailor their educational experience to their own interests and goals. A four-year career development program teaches students how to translate a liberal arts degree into a first job or graduate school admission. Connecticut College is situated in the small New England seaport of New London.

Selected Courses

Beyond “The Orient”: Critical Approaches to East Asian Literature and Film; Introduction to Asian Art; Narratives of the East Asian Diaspora; The Fantastic Other: Travel, History, Utopia; Peripheries and Differences: Re-Imagining Contemporary China; Chinese Poetry and its American Legacies; Modern Chinese Women’s Writing in Translation; History of Gender and Sexuality in Japan, 1850s-1980; From Tea to Connecticut Rolls: Defining Japanese Culture Through Food.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A MAJOR IN EAST ASIAN STUDIES?

Marketing Representative,
Hotel Okura Tokyo
Associate Director of Global Client Services & Sales, Standard & Poor’s
Executive Director, SinagTala Arts Management (Philippines)
Specialist in Chinese Art, Bonhams
Program Assistant, Standard & Poor’s
Global Marketing Director,
Baker & McKenzie
Assistant Director and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Foreign Service Officer,
U.S. Department of State
Chinese Teacher,
New York City Department of Education
International Economist,
U.S. Department of State
Broker and Trader, Bank of America
English Teacher,
Ichikawa Board of Education
Research and Program Assistant,
University of Colorado Program for Teaching in East Asia
Senior Program Adviser, The Asia Foundation

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT RESEARCH IN EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Nick Gollner ’14
From iron rice bowl to ten-piece bucket: shifting Chinese consumerism and modern urban identity

Joy Chang ’14
A new voice for the third space: xu bing and the redefined Chinese American art

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