

East Asian Languages and Cultures

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) offers majors and a minor that allow for cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of East Asia. Students can choose either to focus on one of our three linguistic and cultural traditions — Chinese, Japanese, and Korean — or to explore different traditions and societies by taking courses about multiple regions. EALC offers a wide-ranging and diverse curriculum by means of which students may acquire knowledge and understanding of the literary, historical, and cultural expressions of East Asia from ancient times up to the present. Our language programs also foster the ability to negotiate meaning in a culturally and contextually appropriate manner through the development of high levels of proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The emphasis in the EALC programs (with specializations in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean) is on achieving high competency in the relevant language and learning how to read texts from the target culture — literary, philosophical, cultural, historical, or even visual — with an informed appreciation of the contexts in which they were produced. The goal of all of these studies — language, textual, and interdisciplinary — is to acquire the cultural sensitivities needed to become sophisticated scholars and educated global citizens as well as to provide a deeper appreciation of our common cultural experience and the intrinsic value of humanistic study.

Language Placement: Placement tests are required for all students entering EALC language programs, with the exception of those students who have had no previous exposure to the language and wish to enroll in the first semester of the first level of instruction. Students who test into second-level, third-level, or fourth-level Chinese/Japanese/Korean and satisfactorily complete (with a grade of B– or better) at least one semester of language study may be eligible for back credit. Refer to the Back Credit Policy webpage for details. Please note that students with native language proficiency, as determined by the language section, and students who enroll in courses below their placement level are ineligible for back credit units. Students who misrepresent their language proficiency to gain entrance into a course at the elementary or intermediate level will be dropped from that course.

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