

# East Asian Studies

Oberlin has had a long-standing commitment to East Asian Studies. Its ties to China go back to the late nineteenth century when graduates began going there to live and work. Over the years, students have come from China, Japan, and Korea to study at Oberlin, and the campus has been greatly enriched by their presence. The College has constantly emphasized the need for well informed, liberally educated Americans to have a knowledge of non-Western cultures, especially as Asia figures more prominently in world affairs.

The East Asian Studies Program was established in the 1960s to offer students a way of focusing their studies on this important region of the world. We began with courses on Chinese history and language, and now we offer concentrations on China, Japan, and Korea. All EAS majors take a minimum of two years of language study and five levels of Chinese and Japanese are offered. In addition, they can take a wide variety of courses on Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or East Asian history, literature, religion, art history, anthropology, and politics. Our goal is for EAS graduates to have a broad understanding of East Asian societies and cultures, and to attain a functional level of proficiency in a language of the region.

Our faculty members have extensive training and expertise, making them recognized scholars in their fields; they are talented and dedicated teachers seeking to convey Asia's importance to Oberlin students. Qiusha Ma, Hsiu-Chuang Deppman, Li Kai, and Liu Fang teach Chinese language and literature. Qiusha Ma is a scholar of Chinese history. Hsiu-Chuang Deppman and Kevin Tsai specialize in modern Chinese literature and also offer courses in Chinese cinema. Li Kai taught for years at Beijing Normal University before coming to this country in the 1980s; besides his courses on Chinese language he offers a popular course on calligraphy. Liu Fang, from Yunnan Province in China, has long experience teaching in Middlebury College's summer language program.

The Japanese language courses are taught by Suzanne Gay, Stephen Filler, Ann Sherif, Ikuko Kurasawa, and Satoko Kuizumi. Ann Sherif is a specialist of modern and contemporary Japanese literature; she teaches modern

literature courses and a course on the cultural effects of the atomic bomb on Japanese and American societies. Ikuko Kurasawa is an expert on language acquisition from Obirin University in Tokyo. Yuko Kojima, also from Obirin University, assists at the elementary and intermediate levels of Japanese. Stephen Filler specializes in twentieth-century Japanese literary movements, with a focus on anarchism. In addition to teaching language classes, he offers courses on traditional Japanese literature in translation.

Sheila Miyoshi Jager and Albert Park are anthropologists who specialize in modern Korea. They offer courses on gender issues in contemporary East Asia, nationalism, the Korean War, and Korean history.

Besides our language and literature teachers, several EAS faculty members are affiliated with other departments as well. Suzanne Gay specializes in medieval social and material culture; she teaches pre-modern and modern Japanese history. David Kelley also teaches in the History Department, covering the vast sweep of Chinese history. He offers courses on Vietnamese history and on historical perceptions of Asia in the West, as well as a colloquium for first- and second-year students on world history. Bonnie Cheng, a member of the Art Department and EAS, is a specialist of Chinese art and archeology, but also teaches the entire range of East Asian art history. In her courses she actively uses the College's Allen Art Museum, which houses an extraordinary collection of Japanese wood-block prints. James Dobbins and David Riggs are in the Religion Department; their primary interest is Japanese Buddhism. The courses they teach cover the religions of both China and Japan, and include an upper-level seminar on Taoism.

Oberlin students have ample opportunity to study in China, Japan, or Korea through a variety of programs that we sponsor or co-sponsor. In China, our students usually go to Beijing. In Japan they go to Kyoto or Tokyo; in Korea, to Seoul. On campus, a number of our majors live in Asia House, a program dormitory which offers year-round programming relating to Asia.

Graduates of the East Asian Studies Program enter many fields after Oberlin. Many enroll at top graduate schools in such areas as literature, law, sociology, history, political science, art history, religious studies, and business. Several invariably win prestigious scholarships for graduate work in America or abroad. Others pursue careers in such fields as publishing and editing, journalism, translation work, teaching, business and banking, government service, international agencies, and non-profit organizations. Upon graduation from Oberlin, many have been awarded two-year study and teaching fellowships in China or Japan through the Oberlin Shansi Memorial Association, an independent organization on campus dedicated to educational exchange and international understanding between Asia and the U.S.

The East Asian Studies faculty is committed to effective teaching and continuing study of East Asian societies and cultures, carried on in both informal and formal settings. We would welcome you to join us here at Oberlin. Please visit our web site at <http://www.oberlin.edu/eas/>

*Zaijian , sayonara, and anyanghigaesipsiyo!*

ANN SHERIF

Director

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