

DEPARTMENT of ASIAN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, & CULTURES
CHINESE, JAPANESE, EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

(Div I & II, see explanation below)

Chair: Professor Man He

Cecilia Chang, Frederick Latimer Wells Professor of Chinese; Masashi Harada, Assistant Professor of Japanese; Man He, Associate Professor of Chinese; Shinko Kagaya, Professor of Japanese; Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies; Christopher M. B. Nugent, John W. Chandler Professor of Chinese; Kasumi Yamamoto, Frank M. Gagliardi Professor of Japanese; Li Yu, Herbert H. Lehman Professor of Chinese

Visitors: Yumemi Hanaki, Visiting Lecturer in Japanese; Xiaoming Hou, Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese; Ju-Yin Wang, Visiting Lecturer in Chinese; **Language Fellows:** Xuechan Dai, Yen-Yu Lin; **Teaching Associate:** Mei Ki (Lina) Law

Department Mission Statement and Curricular Goal

The mission of the department is to produce “global citizens” with multilingual abilities, intercultural communicative competence, and multicultural leadership skills, who will be able to make contributions in different sectors of society in a globalized and diverse world. Graduates of our department will not only achieve proficiency in at least one Asian language but also become competent in intercultural communication. They will develop interpretive and analytical skills using both primary texts and secondary sources and become familiar with the textual and cultural traditions in Asia.

The department offers three distinct major tracks: Chinese, Japanese, and East Asian Languages & Cultures. Each major requires a minimum of ten courses. Up to four study-away credits can be counted toward a major.

Learning Objectives for the Chinese Major

Students who complete the requirements for a major in Chinese will be able to:

- Attain the Advanced level in speaking, listening and reading, and Intermediate High level in writing based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.
- Read and analyze basic texts written in Classical Chinese.
- Gain intercultural communicative skills to competently navigate a wide range of social and cultural contexts in Chinese-speaking environments.
- Critically read and analyze a variety of Chinese-language primary sources for academic and professional purposes.
- Engage critically with important aspects of the historical and cultural developments and trends in China’s diverse and complex past and present.
- Acquire the skills to enable them to continue their engagement with the target language and culture as lifelong learners and users of Chinese.

THE MAJOR

In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least eight Mandarin Chinese language courses (CHIN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402) and at least one course in Classical Chinese (CHIN 312). To gain a deeper understanding of Chinese cultural traditions, students should take at least one Chinese core elective in Chinese literary, linguistic, or cultural studies (taught either in English or in Chinese) with prefixes and primary cross-listings in CHIN.

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in [the program of Asian Studies](#).

Learning Objectives for the Japanese Major

Students who complete the requirements for a major in Japanese will be able to:

- Demonstrate linguistic competency/proficiency in comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing in Japanese at the ACTFL Intermediate High to Advanced levels.
- Critically read and analyze a variety of Japanese primary sources for academic and professional purposes.
- Critically engage with Japanese culture, past and present, recognizing its diversity and vibrancy.
- Navigate a wide range of social and cultural contexts by communicating effectively and appropriately with people of other cultures in their local and global communities.
- Continue their engagement with Japanese language and culture as lifelong learners and users of Japanese.

THE MAJOR

In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least eight Japanese language courses (JAPN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402), at least one Japanese core elective in Japanese literary, linguistic, or cultural studies (taught either in English or in Japanese) with prefixes and primary cross-listings in JAPN, and one approved elective related to Japanese language and culture (including additional JAPN core electives, additional Asian language courses, or Japanese studies courses offered in art, comparative literature, history, music, political science, religion, etc.).

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in [the program of Asian Studies](#).

Learning Objectives for the East Asian Languages and Cultures Major

Students who complete the requirements for a major in East Asian Languages and Cultures will be able to:

- Attain a minimum of Intermediate High level in speaking, listening and reading of either Chinese or Japanese, and Intermediate Low level in writing in the language based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.
- Acquire research, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by engaging in linguistic or literary analysis in the field of Chinese studies or Japanese studies.
- Obtain basic intercultural communicative skills to navigate some social and cultural contexts in Chinese- or Japanese-speaking environments.
- Continue their engagement with an Asian language and culture as lifelong learners and users of the target language.
- Students who choose the dual-language option will attain the Advanced level in speaking, listening, and reading in either Chinese or Japanese, and the intermediate level in a second Asian language based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

THE MAJOR

East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) major: In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least six language courses (or attain a minimum proficiency equivalent to the completion of 302) in one East Asian language offered by the department (currently Chinese Mandarin and Japanese). To gain a deeper understanding of the Chinese or Japanese cultural traditions and to develop research skills in the Chinese or Japanese fields, they should take at least two Chinese/Japanese core electives in literary, linguistic, or cultural studies in their primary focus of study with prefixes and primary cross-listings in CHIN/JAPN, and two approved electives related to Chinese/Japanese language and culture (including additional CHIN/JAPN core electives, additional Asian language courses, or Chinese/Japanese studies courses offered in art, comparative literature, history, music, political science, religion, etc.).

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in [the program of Asian Studies](#).

This major offers students who are able to complete the 402 level in either Chinese or Japanese by the end of their sophomore year a dual-language option which will allow them to learn a second Asian language and reach the Intermediate level in speaking that language by the time of graduation. Please consult with the chair or language coordinator for more information about this option.

LANGUAGE PLACEMENT

Students who have studied or otherwise developed some familiarity with Chinese or Japanese language before coming to Williams and who wish to continue their language study at the college should complete a placement evaluation before pre-registering for a language course. More information about the Chinese placement evaluation can be found at <https://chinese.williams.edu/faq/>. Students who wish to take the Japanese placement test should contact the Japanese faculty.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS

The department offers students the option of pursuing a degree with Honors in Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Languages and Cultures through writing an honors thesis. Honors theses allow students a unique opportunity to undertake an examination of topics and texts with a greater depth than regular courses allow. The great majority of students who undertake the challenge of writing an honors thesis find it to be one of their most rewarding academic experiences at Williams.

Students interested in pursuing a degree with Honors should begin thinking about their thesis topic and materials as early as possible. This is particularly true for students who need to gather materials or conduct research abroad, as this will typically take place during their junior year or the summer between their junior and senior years. It is the responsibility of the student to approach faculty members to inquire about their willingness to serve as a thesis advisor. Ideally, students should have previously taken a course with that faculty member in an area related to the subject matter of the thesis. Faculty members will usually only advise a single thesis per year, and never more than two, with students who first approach the faculty member about serving as advisor being given priority. It is recommended that students approach the faculty members with whom they are interested in

working for their thesis by the end of the fall semester of their junior year.

Students must submit a proposal to the department chair and their intended advisor before they pre-register for senior year courses in the spring of their junior year. The proposal should include a statement of the topic, a general description of the types of materials available for study and how the study will be carried out, and the name of the faculty member who will serve as advisor. If the department approves the thesis proposal, the student should enroll in CHIN 493-W31-494, or JAPN 493-W31-494, depending on their major track. Please note that admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students with a consistent record of honors-level work, as indicated by at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.

Students will typically meet with their advisor once a week at a set time other than office hours. The advisor will present the student with a set of deadlines for different stages in the thesis, ranging from a bibliography to the final draft. While these deadlines will vary for different advisors and theses, two deadlines will apply to all theses, whether analytic or translation. 1) Students must submit a finished first chapter or substantial section of polished translation by the last day of the first semester reading period. If the student misses this deadline, he or she will not be allowed to continue the thesis. 2) The finished thesis is due to the advisor by 4:00 pm on the Monday two weeks after the last day of Spring Recess. The student should submit three copies of the thesis at this time. There will be no extensions.

The department will assign two readers, separate from the advisor, to each thesis. The readers will give a written assessment of the thesis that will be an important factor in the final determination of the student's grades for the thesis and what honors designation, if any, will be given. These written comments will be shared with the student. Within two weeks after submission, the department will schedule an oral defense. This will be a one to one-and-a-half hour session in which the student will give a public presentation of his or her thesis to members of the department and invited guests followed by a question and answer period. A final, corrected copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Technical Services Department of Sawyer Library by 4:00 P.M. on the last day of the final examination period.

In order to qualify for Honors, the department must agree that the student has earned two semester grades of B+ or higher, based on his or her thesis and oral defense. Students whose thesis and defense are deemed by the department to be of exceptional merit will be awarded Highest Honors. A letter from the department chair will inform students of these decisions.

STUDY ABROAD

Students intending to major in the department are strongly encouraged to study in Asia at some point during their time at Williams—for a summer or for a semester or full year. Study-abroad in an immersive environment in the target culture is an indispensable step toward advanced proficiency in a second language. Prospective majors or language students who are planning to study abroad must attend the fall semester study-abroad information sessions organized by the department or discuss their plans with department faculty as far in advance as possible. The department administers the Linen Fellowships for Summer Study in Asia which fund selected students' summer intensive language study or research projects. Up to four study-abroad courses may be transferred and counted toward graduation and toward the majors offered in the department. Students MUST contact the department faculty BEFORE assuming study-away credit will be granted toward the major in the department. Upon return, students should ask their study-away program to send their transcript to the Registrar's office so that the appropriate number of credits can be transferred and granted by the department chair.

DEPARTMENT EMAIL LISTS

To be informed about the events, activities and funding opportunities in the department, please use your Williams login to sign up for one or more of the following GLOW special interest email lists.

"DALLC Majors and Faculty" (open to all current and prospective Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Languages and Cultures majors):

<https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/AWTMP>

"Asia-Related Funding Opportunities" (open to all students who would like to seek internal or external funding related to Asia):

<https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/PGJHAC>

"Special Interest Chinese" (open to all students interested in Chinese language and culture): <https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/XEYMPG>

"Special Interest Japanese" (open to all students interested in Japanese language and culture): <https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/DAYTN3>

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