



DICKINSON COLLEGE

East Asian Studies

2023-2024



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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

DEAR ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES, DONORS, AND MEMBERS OF OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY,

In AY 2023–2024, the East Asian Studies department, featuring newly installed carpets, aimed to make all members feel welcome, comfortable, and productive. We support our students from around the world in studying East Asian languages, societies, and cultures while providing opportunities to connect this knowledge with other disciplines they choose to study on campus. We sent them abroad and facilitated internships to explore high-impact education. We listened to their ambitions, struggles, confusions, and challenges, and encouraged them to find answers with any assistance we could provide. Looking back at the year we shared together, I feel grateful and proud of our faculty and students who made great efforts to contribute to our community and create another year of meaningful education.

We established our three major tracks (Chinese, Japanese, and East Asian Studies) before COVID-19, and this new curriculum and major structure have proven to fit our students' needs well. Once again, this year, we had students majoring in each track who graduated with not only high GPAs but also honors or excellent theses. We reinforced main learning goals and improved tools and processes to assess those for the coming years, ahead of our next 10-year review. We have already tested the use of STAMP tests in second-year Japanese and fourth-year Chinese courses to more scientifically evaluate our students' learning outcomes.

Additionally, we stabilized our study abroad programs by establishing a long-term partner program in Taiwan and two Dickinson-In programs in Japan. With Professor Christopher Peacock's initial visit to Taiwan and Professor Akiko Meguro's ongoing visits to Japanese programs, we strengthened our collaboration with overseas partners

and increased the number of students studying in Taiwan and Japan.

The department also made significant efforts to help students explore more educational opportunities through internships, senior research projects, faculty-student research, and fieldwork. All these "high impact" programs align with the College's goals of providing meaningful education connected with the real world and training global citizens. With all these efforts, I am confident to say that we have fully recovered from the COVID-19 years and expect to see an increase in the number of majors in all three tracks over the next two years.

With consistent and generous support from our donors, we enriched our students' experiences with a variety of activities. We hosted two Flaherty lectures featuring guest speakers from Princeton and Harvard, who presented on cutting-edge research topics in the field. These scholars engaged our students and faculty with lectures on their newly published books, sparking intellectual curiosity and offering advice on graduate studies.

Additionally, we successfully organized modern dance workshops and performances by the Kizuna Dance Company from New York and field trips to the National Museum of Asian Arts and Dickinson Farm. Alongside our regular holiday celebrations, language tables, movie nights, calligraphy, and martial arts workshops, these activities provided our students with diverse learning experiences.

This year, students had the opportunity to learn from Professor Qing Bai from INBM how to hand-make traditional mooncakes. In collaboration with the Biology department, we welcomed spring with a Bonsai workshop, where students and faculty cultivated their own miniature poetic worlds to take home. These cultural activities were well received, and one student even initiated and

established a Bonsai club on campus to practice the Asian belief that "one flower represents the world, and one grain of sand represents heaven."

We have various future goals for our department. Firstly, we plan on broadening language teaching and learning. We aim to enhance pedagogy through new technologies, multimedia resources, and connections with partner programs. For example, taking advantage of the sabbatical semester, Professor Meguro will design a ChatGPT-based chatbot to facilitate her first-year Japanese classes, focusing on speaking and writing.

Secondly, we aim to expand academic perspectives. We will introduce a new lecture series showcasing the best research in the field, starting with Professor Janet Chen from Princeton and Professor Benno Weiner from Carnegie Mellon in the fall semester.

Lastly, we are continuously exploring international opportunities. This summer, representing the department, I met with Professor Lum Sau Kim, Associate Vice President on Global Relations at the National University of Singapore, to explore more academic and internship opportunities for our students and faculty in Singapore. Our goal is to find more venues for students to engage in experiential learning and work in other regions of Asia.

Without the dedicated efforts of my colleagues and the continuous support of our donors, these goals would remain mere words on paper. I have great confidence in our students and colleagues to achieve these objectives with concrete plans and ingenuity. Cheers to a bright new year!

**NAN MA,
CHAIR OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES**

LECTURES & EVENTS

FALL 2023

- SEPT. 15 J-Table at the Farm
- SEPT. 27 Mid-Autumn Festival
- SEPT. 27, 28, 29 Kizuna Dance Workshop and Demonstration
- OCT. 22 Chinese field trip to the Sackler and Freer Art Gallery
- NOV. 16 Flower Arranging Workshop
- NOV. 30 Lecture: Nuclear Ghost: Atomic Livelihoods in Fukushima's Gray Zone, Ryo Morimoto (Princeton)
- DEC. 1 Japanese Martial Arts Demonstration

SPRING 2024

- SEPT. 15 J-Table at the Farm
- FEB. 16 Lunar New Year
- FEB. 27 Japanese Hotpot event
- MARCH 7 Bonsai Class
- MARCH 25 Cherry Blossom Picnic
- MARCH 28 Lecture: "Cinematic Guerillas" Propaganda, Projectionists and Audiences in Socialist China, Jie Li (Harvard)
- MAY 8 Senior Thesis Presentations



VISITING FACULTY



LI LI, VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHINESE

In 2018, I came to Dickinson College to teach for the first time. Five years later, I find myself back here. It's because I truly love it here. I cherish the quiet town, the beautiful campus, and the wonderful teachers and students.

Dickinson College has provided me with excellent working and living conditions, allowing my family and me to lead a pleasant life. The support and assistance from colleagues in the East Asian department, including Professor Ma Nan, have been invaluable in facilitating my teaching work. The students at Dickinson are humble, friendly, and passionate about learning. Their enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture has left a lasting impression on me.

Even when I return to Beijing, I won't forget this place. I hope that someday we'll have the opportunity to meet again! You're also welcome to visit Beijing in the future. Looking forward to our reunion!



SOTA TAKEDA, VISITING INTERNATIONAL SCHOLAR OF JAPANESE

My life at Dickinson College has been very valuable and has allowed me to grow as a person. Everything was new to me, but with the kind support of the people around me, I was able to have a fulfilling teaching life. Many of the students were enthusiastic about their studies, and I looked forward to teaching them every day. I am very grateful for this experience that will help me so much in my future career!



2024 SENIOR THESES



L TO R, BACK ROW: Christopher Peacock, Wei Ren, Neil Diamant, Evan Young, Nan Ma, Alex Bates

L TO R, FRONT ROW: Grace MacDougall, Frances Smith, Lauren Johnston, Akiko Meguro

JAPAN AREA

Grace MacDougall

The Tale of Tears, Youth, and Faces: How Affective Symbols Are Used Within the “Comfort Women” Movement[^]

Frances Smith

Separation Through Unity: How Propaganda Bred Distrust Within the Imperial Japanese Army and Division Between Soldiers and Japanese Society During and After WWII^{^*}

CHINA AREA

Lauren Johnston

Chinese International Students’ Motivations to Come to the United States in the Post-Pandemic Era^{*}

[^]DEPARTMENT HONORS

^{*}THE NEWTON PRIZE IN EAST ASIAN STUDIES

The Department of East Asian Studies is proud to award the **Newton Prize in East Asian Studies**. Generously funded by alumna and trustee Kellie Newton ’81, the Newton Prize is awarded to a graduating senior with at least a 3.33 overall GPA and major GPA, strong departmental citizenship, excellence in our capstone project, and a senior thesis graded A- or higher.

OUR STUDENT WORKERS

Over the past few years, the East Asian Studies department has had a wonderful set of student workers in the office suite with us: **JULIA IVANICK, JOSHUA JEONG, ANDRE KIM,** and **ALEX WYATT**. Our student workers performed a plethora of duties for us, such as poster creation, event set up, book scanning, photography, introducing speakers, and more. With their guidance, we even created our own departmental Instagram account, and they took the lead in creating posts and managing the account. We could not have done it without them and all their hard work. We would like to give them all recognition and thanks for everything they have done for us!

Congratulations to Julia and Alex for graduating in the class of 2024, and congratulations to Josh and Andre for being accepted into the Johns Hopkins three-plus-two program! We will miss them and know that they will accomplish great things!





BONSAI AT DICKINSON

In the windows of the Stern Center in the East Asian Studies wing, multiple different bonsai greet our students as they work, have class, study with friends, and converse with professors. These bonsai were grown by **DE PHAM** of Infrastructure Systems, who has kindly lent them to us and takes care of them for us during the school year. Since these trees have been with us for years, we asked him a few questions about his bonsai and his passion for this traditional Japanese art:

Q. How long have you been growing and taking care of bonsai?

A. I started growing Bonsai in 2000.

Q. What made you interested in bonsai?

A. I went to the National Bonsai Museum in Washington D.C. back in 1982. I saw a 400-year-old bonsai that was gifted to them from Japan, and I fell in love with bonsai back then, though I only started to grow them in 2000. Bonsai teaches me to be relaxed and patient. Bonsai are both an art and craft to me.

Q. How many bonsai do you have at home? Do you have any favorites?

A. I have about 60 bonsai. They are all my favorites because each have different shapes, characters, forms, and sizes.

Q. What is your favorite thing about growing and maintaining bonsai?

A. Repotting, trimming, pruning, shaping, and just taking care of the bonsai each day. The patience in seeing the little tree grow each day, month to month, year to year.

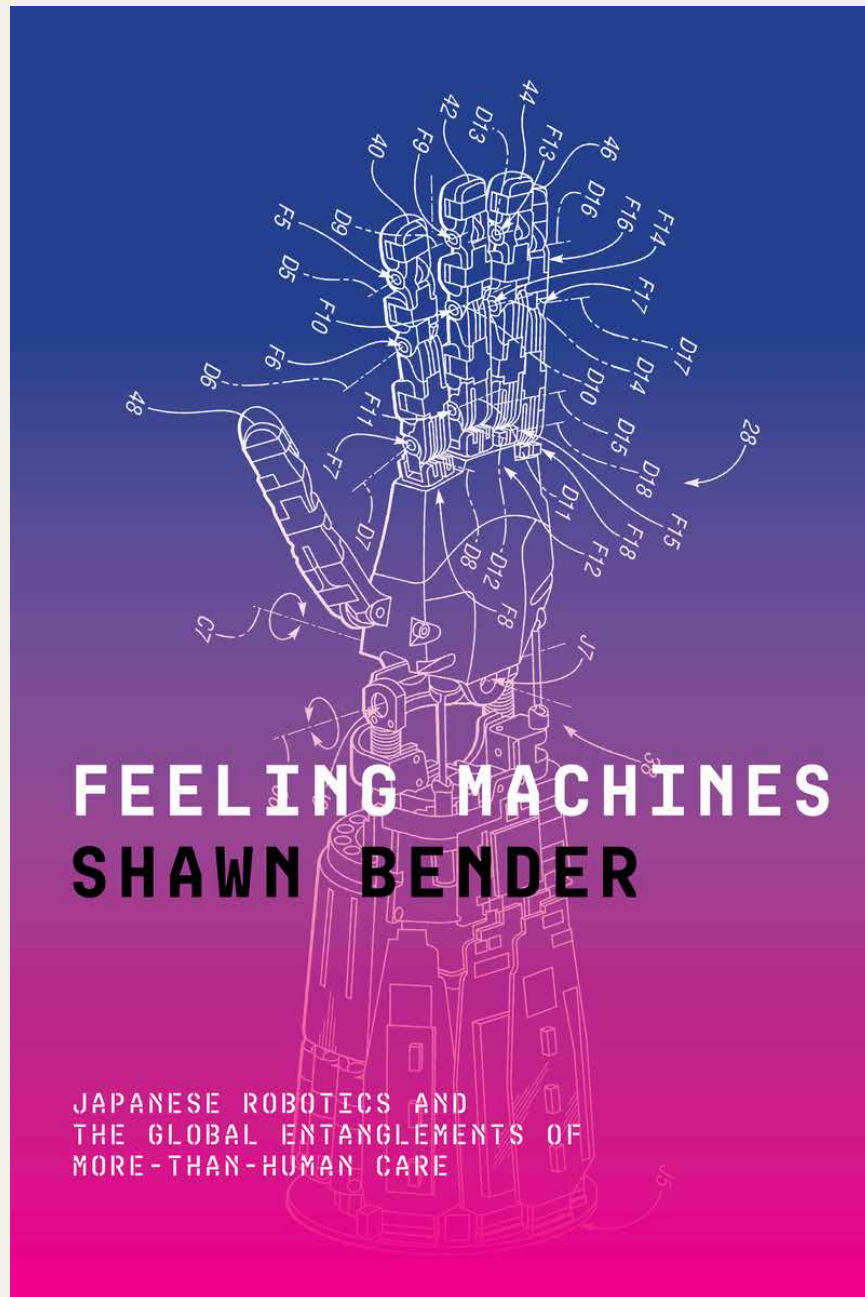
Q. Both taking care of and shaping bonsai are difficult, as the trees are very particular. What do you think is the most challenging part of growing bonsai?

A. The most challenging part of growing bonsai is the trimming and pruning required to maintain its shape, as well as the need to repot the plants every two to three years.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT BONSAI?

Dickinson College has a newly established bonsai club on campus! For more information, please contact Isabelle Kim (kimi@dickinson.edu) for more details.

FACULTY PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT



FEELING MACHINES: JAPANESE ROBOTICS AND THE GLOBAL ENTANGLEMENTS OF MORE-THAN-HUMAN CARE

Shawn Bender, Associate Professor of East Asian Studies

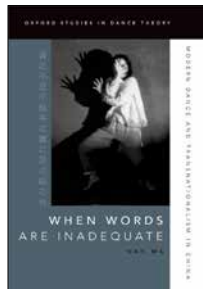
Arriving November 19, 2024

In recent years, debates over healthcare have accompanied rapid advances in technology, from the expansion of telehealth services to artificial intelligence driven diagnostics. In this book, Shawn Bender delves into the world of Japanese robots engineered for care. Care robots (*kaigo robotto*) emerged early in the 21st century, when roboticists began converting assembly line technologies into responsive machines for older adults and people with disabilities. These robots are meant to be felt and programmed to feel. While some greet them with enthusiasm, others fear that they might replace a fundamentally human task. Based on fieldwork in Japan, Denmark, and Germany, Bender traces the emergence of care robots in Japan and examines their impact on therapeutic practice around the world.

Social science scholarship on robotics tends to be either speculative—imagining life together with robots—or experimental—observing robot-human interaction in laboratories or through short-term field studies. Instead, Bender follows roboticists developing technologies in Japan, and travels with the robots themselves into everyday sites of care, tracking the integration of robots into institutional care and the connection of care practice to robotics development. By exploring the application of Japanese robotics across the globe, *Feeling Machines* highlights the entanglements of therapeutic practice and technological innovation in an age of more-than-human care.

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

WHEN WORDS ARE INADEQUATE: MODERN DANCE AND TRANSNATIONALISM IN CHINA

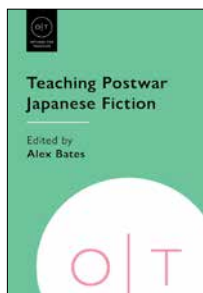


Nan Ma, Associate Professor of East Asian Studies | March 17, 2023

The book examines the careers and choreographies of four Chinese modern dance pioneers—Yu Rongling, Wu Xiaobang, Dai Ailian, and Guo Mingda—and their connections to canonical Western counterparts, including

Isadora Duncan, Mary Wigman, Rudolf von Laban, and Alwin Nikolaïs. Tracing these Chinese pioneers' varied experiences in Paris, Tokyo, Trinidad, London, New York, and China's metropolises and borderlands, the book shows how their contributions adapted and reimagined the legacies of early Euro-American modern dance. By exploring the relationships between performance and representation, choreography and politics, and nation-building and global modernism, it situates modern dance within an intermedial circuit of literary and artistic forms, demonstrating how modern dance provided a kinesthetic alternative and complement to other sibling arts in participating in China's successive revolutions, reforms, wars, and political movements.

TEACHING POSTWAR JAPANESE FICTION

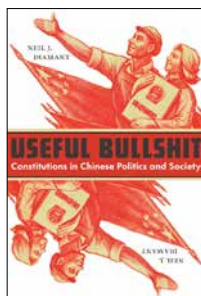


Edited by Alex Bates, Professor of Japanese Language and Literature January 17, 2023

As Japan moved from the devastation of 1945 to the economic security that survived even the boom and bust of the 1980s and 1990s, its literature

came to embrace new subjects and styles and to reflect on the nation's changing relationship to other Asian countries and to the West. This volume will help instructors introduce students to novels, short stories, and manga that confront postwar Japanese experiences, including the suffering caused by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the echoes of Japan's colonialism and imperialism, new ways of thinking about Japanese identity and about minorities such as the zainichi Koreans, changes in family structures, and environmental disasters. Essays provide context for understanding the particularity of postwar Japanese literature, its place in world literature, and its connections to the Japanese past.

USEFUL BULLSHIT: CONSTITUTIONS IN CHINESE POLITICS AND SOCIETY

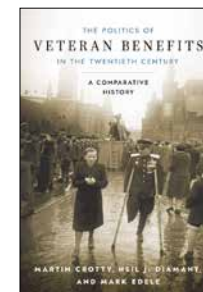


Neil Diamant, Professor of Asian Law and Society | March 15, 2023

In *Useful Bullshit*, Neil J. Diamant pulls back the curtain on early constitutional conversations between citizens and officials in the PRC. Scholars have argued that China, like the former USSR, promulgated constitutions to enhance its domestic and international legitimacy by opening up the constitution-making process to ordinary people, and by granting its citizens political and socioeconomic rights. But what did ordinary officials and people say about their constitutions and rights? Did constitutions contribute to state legitimacy? Drawing upon a wealth of archival sources from the Maoist and reform eras, Diamant deals with all facets of this constitutional discussion, as well as its afterlives in the late '50s, the Cultural Revolution, and

the post-Mao era. *Useful Bullshit* illuminates how the Chinese government understands and makes use of the constitution as a political document, and how a vast array of citizens—police, workers, university students, women, and members of different ethnic and religious groups—have responded.

THE POLITICS OF VETERAN BENEFITS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: A COMPARATIVE HISTORY



Co-written by Neil Diamant, Professor of Asian Law and Society October 15, 2020

In this sophisticated comparative history of government policies regarding veterans, Martin Crotty, Neil J. Diamant, and Mark Edele examine veterans' struggles for entitlements and benefits in the

United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Taiwan, the Soviet Union, China, Germany, and Australia after both global conflicts. They illuminate how veterans' success or failure in winning benefits were affected by a range of factors that shaped their ability to exert political influence. Some veterans' groups fought politicians for improvements to their postwar lives; this lobbying, the authors show, could set the foundation for beneficial veteran treatment regimes or weaken the political forces proposing unfavorable policies. *The Politics of Veteran Benefits in the Twentieth Century* provides a large-scale map for a research field with a future: comparative veteran studies.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor **ALEX BATES** had a successful sabbatical last spring that included a trip to Japan. He was researching an early Japanese environmentalist and his impact on literature and was able to see first-hand the impact copper mining on the mountainous landscape of Tochigi, near Nikko. Last summer, Professor Bates published an essay about representations of immigrants and multiethnic peoples in Japanese disasters, including the Netflix animated series *Japan Sinks 2020*. He also published a short online essay revisiting his 1923 Kantō Earthquake work for the 100th anniversary. (You can read it for free here: <https://apjif.com/2023/8/Bates>). He is looking forward to revisiting his course on “war and memory” in East Asia this fall. This summer, he was promoted to full professor.

In addition to teaching courses in Fall 2023, **SHAWN BENDER** completed work on his book manuscript on care robots entitled *Feeling Machines: Japanese Robotics and the Global Entanglements of More-Than-Human Care*. The book is due to be published in November 2024 by Stanford University Press. Prof. Bender was on sabbatical in Spring 2024, during which he did preparatory work for a new project to study the effects of automation on the nature and meaning of farm work. He's looking forward to beginning that field research in earnest and to returning to teach a full slate of courses next year.

Professor **NAN MA**, after teaching courses on Chinese science fiction and film multiple times, embarked on her new research project on the intersection of the Chinese science fiction novel *The Three-Body Problem* and community studies. She presented a draft of this paper at Indiana University. In addition to her teaching-inspired research, Professor Ma continues her service on the editorial board of the *Dance Research Journal*. In June, she concluded her three-year work on Dickinson's Academic Program Standards Committee and will serve for the last year as the Chair of the East Asian Department in her three-year term. She looks forward to preparing for her second book once her service commitments conclude.

This past year, **CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK** continued to teach various levels of Chinese language classes, including a fully reimagined fourth year course, and he introduced a new course titled “Chinese Literature after Mao,” which explored literary and filmic reflections on Mao's rule and the major changes in China since. He has been finalizing a long-running translation and research project on Tsering Döndrup's epic

novel *The Red Wind Howls*, which he presented on at last year's Association for Asian Studies conference in Seattle, and which he is optimistic will see the light of day soon. In summer 2024, Professor Peacock visited the department's newly established study abroad program at National Taiwan University. In addition to being a long-overdue return to the wonderful isle of Taiwan, it was a hugely productive and positive trip that showcased the exciting educational experiences Dickinson students have to look forward to when studying Chinese in Taipei.

Professor **REN WEI** taught a new first-year seminar “Art of Money, Art is Power: Rethinking the ‘Masterpiece’ in Global Art” in 2023. It discussed the intersection of art, education, politics, and economy. Learning about artists from Hokusai to Michelangelo and from Rembrandt to Ai Weiwei, students discovered the cultural biases, ideological conflicts, discriminations, and the economics that occurred in the process of canonization in art history. Professor Ren also helped initiate a pilot program with Temple University's Campus in Tokyo. This partnership will allow Dickinson students to take robust studio and art history courses outside Europe during their time abroad. Professor Ren collaborated with some of the best scholars in Chinese art on an edited volume titled *Carved, Cast, and Ground: Antiquarianism and Craft in East Asia*. This upcoming publication reveals how antiquarianism was a key catalyst in the transitions to modern artistic practices in East Asia.

Professor **EVAN YOUNG** enjoyed his return to campus during the 2023–24 academic year after his sabbatical. While teaching he also continued developing his book manuscript, *Family at the Bedside: Illness, Healing, and Knowledge in Early Modern Japan*, by incorporating family records from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries detailing strategies of medicine usage and religious healing practices. In March of 2024, he presented his work “Exemplary Healers: Tales of Sick-Nursing and Virtue in Early Modern Japanese Women's Literature” at the national Association for Asian Studies meeting in Seattle. Professor Young was also recently invited to contribute to a new volume of the *Cambridge History of Medicine* and will be developing a chapter on familial knowledge and medical practice in the eighteenth century from a global perspective.

MAJOR AND MINOR INFORMATION

MAJOR	EAST ASIAN STUDIES	CHINESE	JAPANESE
FOUNDATION	CHIN 101, 102, 201, 202 -OR- JPNS 101, 102, 201, 202		
ELABORATION	<p>TOPICS* EASN 120</p> <p>2 HUMANITIES ELECTIVES</p> <p>2 SOCIAL SCIENCES ELECTIVES</p> <p>1 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE (Choice of humanities, social sciences, or advanced language)</p> <p>1 300-LEVEL SEMINAR</p> <p>*One elective must cover transnational Asia or focus on an area other than the country of language study.</p>	<p>ADVANCED LANGUAGE CHIN 231 OR EQUIVALENT CHIN 232 OR EQUIVALENT CHIN 361</p> <p>TOPICS* 1 HUMANITIES ELECTIVE</p> <p>1 SOCIAL SCIENCES ELECTIVE</p> <p>1 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE (choice of humanities, social sciences, or advanced language)</p> <p>1 300-LEVEL SEMINAR</p> <p>*On country of target language or on transnational Asia.</p>	<p>ADVANCED LANGUAGE JPNS 231 OR EQUIVALENT JPNS 232 OR EQUIVALENT JPNS 361</p> <p>TOPICS* 1 HUMANITIES ELECTIVE</p> <p>1 SOCIAL SCIENCES ELECTIVE</p> <p>1 ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE (choice of humanities, social sciences, or advanced language)</p> <p>1 300-LEVEL SEMINAR</p> <p>*On country of target language or on transnational Asia.</p>
CULMINATION	EASN 480 & EASN 490		

MINOR

CHINESE

CHIN 201 and 202, two language courses above 202, and 1 additional 300-level language course OR 1 topics course on either China or greater East Asia

JAPANESE

JPNS 201 and 202, two language courses above 202, and 1 additional 300-level language course OR 1 topics course on either Japan or greater East Asia



STUDY ABROAD IN EAST ASIA!

Dickinson offers a great variety of opportunities for studying abroad, as we believe that there is no better way to learn about a civilization than immersing yourself into their culture. Different East Asian study abroad programs include:

JAPAN

NANZAN UNIVERSITY (*Nagoya, Japan*)

The program offers politics, folklore, religion, literature, and history courses in English for students to fully comprehend Japanese culture in one of Japan's largest cities.

AKITA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (*Akita, Japan*)

Their goal as a university is to produce future leaders who can effectively conduct business and lead international organization in the 21st century, all while allowing students to explore the northern Tohoku region of Japan.

TAIWAN

CET TAIWAN (*Taipei, Taiwan*)

CET Taiwan gives you access to the best parts of study abroad—intensive language classes, internship opportunities in Chinese and English-speaking environments, and a location that balances life in a big city with quick getaways to nature.



EASN COURSES, FALL 2024

EASN 205-02: JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. REN

This course is intended to introduce students to the scholarly study of Japanese architecture and urbanism, covering both the pre-modern and modern eras. Each session will be devoted to the examination of one significant Japanese architectural site, coupled with an important concept or methodological concern in the study of the Japanese built environment. The sites and issues chosen for study are intended to provide students with a broad knowledge base with which to pursue further students in architectural history, design history, environmental history, and East Asian history. Participants will be introduced to each of the major typologies of Japanese architecture: shrines, temples, imperial villas, castles, tea houses, merchant houses (machiya), and farmhouses (minka), as well as the two of the most historically significant city forms in the archipelago, the imperial grid city and the castle town. In addition, the nature and culture of advanced timber-frame architecture will be studied from the vantage point of design, engineering, source materials and process, as well as the sustainability issues inherent to the materials. More general themes that inform the course throughout include the relationship of architecture to the natural landscape, historical and contemporary issues of sustainability, the concept and design of the city, and the significance of the body.

EASN 205-03: TIBETAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN THE PRC

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. PEACOCK

When the People's Liberation Army entered Tibet in 1950, Tibetan society was turned upside down. A culture defined by its devout Buddhism became part of communist China, and over the following decades, Tibetans were subjected to extreme political campaigns and vast socio-economic changes. After the death of Mao in 1976, the relatively relaxed political climate gave rise to a flourishing cultural scene in Tibet. Since then, Tibetan writers and artists have been finding new avenues of creative expression as they wrestle with the major issues facing the Land of Snows. How can Tibetans reevaluate the roles of religion and tradition on their own terms? Can Tibetans discuss sensitive issues such as the Cultural Revolution and the ongoing self-immolation protests by Buddhist monks? What is it like to be an ethnic minority in a country that is 91% Han Chinese? What does feminism look like in modern Tibet? These are just some of the questions that Tibetan writers—and this course—seek to explore. We will examine literature, art, and film by Tibetans living in the PRC,

and through them discover how a unique cultural tradition has adapted itself to the modern world. All texts will be in English translation (translated from Tibetan and Chinese); no prior study of China or Tibet related topics required.

EASN 206-01: CHINA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. DIAMANT

This course examines China's relationship to the major world powers, regions, and international organizations. Beginning with a consideration of Chinese traditions of dealing with foreign countries, we will then examine the revolutionary legacy of Mao Zedong and the reorientation of foreign policy under Deng Xiaoping after 1978. The course will focus on the role of ideology, history, culture, interests, and leadership in China's foreign relations.

EASN 206-02: LIFE AND DEATH IN THE AGE OF SAMURAI AND GEISHA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. YOUNG

In this course, we critically investigate the surprising origins behind some of the most pervasive icons of pre-modern Japan. By analyzing a variety of historical sources, including diaries, legal petitions, picture scrolls, and woodblock prints, students will gain insight into what it was like to live in the 13th–18th centuries. Topics include the rise of the samurai as a military and political force, the development of geisha as skilled entertainers, peasant revolts, warrior monks, and the texture of everyday life. By analyzing these sources and engaging with new, innovative scholarship, students will learn how to craft original and compelling arguments that change the way we understand pre-modern Japanese society and culture.

EASN 206-03: MODERN FAMILY IN EAST ASIA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. BENDER

Families are our first world. They are our first introduction to the norms and expectations of society. Changes in society can dramatically impact families; changes in families can dramatically reshape society. This course explores the relationship between family and society change in East Asia in the modern era. Drawing on ethnographic and historical research, the course examines shifts in marriage and fertility patterns, approaches to education and child rearing, gender roles and expectations, as well as the care of older adults, primarily in China and Japan. We complement our consideration of social science texts with cinematic depictions of families grappling with the forces of fragmentation.

EASN COURSES, FALL 2024, CON'T.

EASN 209-01: THE JAPANESE WOODBLOCK PRINT

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. REN

This course provides a thorough introduction to the woodblock print—Japan's most celebrated artistic medium—from its emergence in the mid-17th century to the modern era. Technical developments, major genres, and master designers are explored within the context of the print's relationship to the urban culture of early modern and modern Japan. Topics include censorship, theatricality, the representation of war, nationalism, and Japonisme. Special emphasis is placed on an examination of habits of pictorial representation and protocols of viewing unique to the Japanese print medium. Lectures are supplemented by viewing sessions in the Trout Gallery.

EASN 305-01: WAR AND MEMORY IN EAST ASIAN LITERATURE AND FILM

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. BATES

This class examines Japanese, Chinese, and some Korean and Taiwanese representations of the war fought in Asia between 1937 and 1945. This conflict affected the lives of millions and irrevocably changed the landscape of foreign relations in the region. We will investigate questions of collective (and contested) memory, victimization and responsibility, as well as how artists attempted to represent experiences that stretched the boundaries of the imagination. Many of the issues we will discuss remain heated topics of debate in domestic and international politics today. This investigation into collective memory will involve in-depth engagement with fiction and films as well as scholarship relating to the war. By the end of the semester, students will gain experience expressing their ideas using the analytic tools that we practice in class. Students will evaluate responses to historical controversies in the realms of academia, politics, literature, film and popular culture, and consider how these debates shape the ways in which we remember and understand past conflicts.

EASN COURSES, SPRING 2025

EASN 108-01: ARTS OF EAST ASIA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. REN

This course introduces students to a selection of objects and sites that elicit new modes of cultural perception and insight into the artistic cultures of China, Korea, and Japan. Loosely arranged in a chronological order, each week is devoted to in-depth examination of a different type of object, medium, and format. The diverse mediums (sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, lacquer, prints, painting, calligraphy, photography, performance, and architecture) and the long historical span covered in class will chart how culture traveled within East Asia, and later, globally, as well as each culture's distinctive methods of adaptation over time. Major themes include the relationship between artistic production and sociopolitical and socioeconomic development, cultural exchange, aesthetics, impact of religion, power and authority, gender, and issues of modernity. Lectures are supplemented by viewing sessions in the Trout Gallery.

EASN 120-01: HISTORY OF EAST ASIA FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE PRESENT

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. YOUNG

This course explores the diverse and interrelated histories of the region currently composed of China, Korea, and Japan, over the past two thousand years. We begin by studying the technologies and systems of thought that came to be shared across East Asia, including written languages, philosophies of rule, and religions. Next, we examine periods of major upheaval and change, such as the rise of warrior governments, the Mongol conquests, and engagement with the West. The course concludes by tracing the rise and fall of the Japanese empire and the development of the modern nation states that we see today.

EASN 205-01: BUDDHIST ART IN EAST ASIA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. REN

This course introduces students to the study of the history of the visual culture of Buddhism in East Asia, and to the study of pre-modern visual culture more generally. Each week will be devoted to the discussion of

a particular keyword in Buddhist art, beginning with the basics such as "Buddha," and "Bodhisattva," toward more specialized topics, including "transformation tableau," and "pagoda." In conjunction with the investigation of keywords in Buddhist art, we will also address theories of iconography/iconology, space, spectatorship, etc.

EASN 205-02: EAST ASIAN CINEMA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. BATES

Evening meeting time is for film screening. This course introduces students to award winning and highly acclaimed films in Asian cinema, including films made in China (Mainland, Hong Kong, Taiwan), Japan, Korea, Vietnam, India, and Iran. By studying the work of well-known Asian film directors, students will become familiar with shared and different approaches to issues of national identity, nationalism, tradition, modernism, postmodernism, commercialism, globalization, sexuality, love, family, and the rural-urban dichotomy, and acquire a better understanding of the history of national cinema and the Asian societies and cultures the films reflect and shape. The course also analyzes artistic styles and aesthetic values that manifest in these films and examines how the art of Asian cinema influences filmmaking around the world.

EASN 206-01: HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND THE BODY IN EAST ASIA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. YOUNG

This course is an introduction to the history of medicine in East Asia. We will begin by exploring the theoretical and practical underpinnings of classical Chinese medicine, which was the foundation of healing practices in premodern China, Korea, and Japan. We will then move on to trace the introduction of modern biomedicine and the eventual reemergence of "Traditional Chinese Medicine" as an alternative style of therapy in the 20th century. We will also consider a wide range of topics that have generated compelling intellectual dialogue, including the relationship between doctors and patients and between medicine and the state.

EASN 236-01: JAPANESE SOCIETY

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. BENDER

This course is an introduction to contemporary Japanese society. The course examines what everyday life is like in Japan from anthropological and historical perspectives. It explores such major social institutions as families, gender, communities, workplaces, and belief systems. The course focuses as well on the ways in which modernization has affected these institutions and the identities of Japanese people.

EASN 305-01: TOPICS ON MODERN DESIGN IN EAST ASIA

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. REN

Traditional Chinese and Japanese art and design served as an important source of inspiration for European modernism. But what happened to art and design within China and Japan during the modern period? Despite China's traditional stronghold in modular design and Japan's current prestige in design culture, the two countries faced incredible challenges during the late 19th and early 20th century as they struggled with their own cultures' pasts and the modern concept of art and design. This class offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of modern East Asian art and examines how the concept of design emerged and developed in Japan and China in relation to both fine arts and industry in a broad cross-cultural nexus. While design connected modern China and Japan in ways unprecedented, the two cultures also adopted different design strategies defined by their respective cultural and historical conditions. The class is discussion based and is supplemented by a fieldtrip to Washington, D.C.

EASN 306-01: GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN MODERN JAPANESE HISTORY

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. YOUNG

This course is an exploration of how sexuality and gender have been continually redefined and experienced throughout modern Japanese history. We will analyze the changes Japanese society underwent from the 19th century to the present, paying particular attention to transformations as well as continuities in eroticism, same-sex love, family structure, and gender roles. A key theme of the course is the socially constructed nature of gender norms and how women and men frequently transgressed feminine and masculine ideals, a theme that we will explore through both primary sources in translation and secondary scholarship. Building upon in-class workshops and a series of short-essay assignments, the final goal of the course will be to produce a paper that analyzes the development of this new and exciting field of history.

Dickinson

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