

Goals and Outcomes Statement for East Asian Studies Concentration

(Katie Sparling version, 9/29/08)

With the world's most populous nation and some of its largest economies, East Asia is a region of growing significance. It consists of areas encompassed by present day China, Japan, and Korea (and by some definitions, Mongolia, Myanmar, Siberia, and Vietnam). Of these areas, Carleton's curriculum is rich in language and culture courses on China and Japan. The concentration consists of a program of interdisciplinary study. Core courses and supporting courses in arts and literatures, social sciences, and humanities are combined with language training and off-campus study and include a designated capstone course. Students may choose to concentrate on one East Asian country, studying it from the perspectives of several disciplines and putting it into regional context in the capstone seminar. Or they may choose to focus more generally on East Asia, studying several countries from a variety of perspectives. In either case, the concentration seeks to highlight both the similarities and the differences in the societies and cultures of East Asia and to generate understanding of a vital part of the modern world.

Goals

Knowledge Areas

East Asian Studies Concentrators should:

Develop a multidimensional understanding of the arts, beliefs, societies, and traditions, including a historical dimension, of EITHER one East Asian country or, more generally, of East Asian as a region

Achieve some awareness both of the particularity and the complexity of different East Asian cultures and societies and of continuities within the region

Be able to begin to understand one East Asian culture from the inside through the logic and images of its principal language

Achieve some experiential understanding of some part of that culture

Achieve some acquaintance with the approaches and fundamentals of methodologies associated with at least three disciplines representing the three Carleton distribution divisions of Arts and Literature, Social Sciences, and Humanities

Skills of Expression and Communication

Concentrators should:

Achieve a basic conversational competence in one East Asian language and be able to read and write within a limited range of vocabulary and structure

Be able to express complex ideas and articulate arguments clearly in English, orally and in writing

Apprehend complex thoughts and arguments presented by others in English, both orally and in writing

Communicate respectfully in an academic environment

Skills of Inquiry and Analysis

Explore analytically a text, argument, or social phenomenon in their field

Integrate general and specialized knowledge to ask productive questions and solve problems in their field

Design and carry out an independent, thesis-driven research project

Locate and use secondary sources judiciously in research in their field

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The East Asian Studies Concentration offers students multiple opportunities to develop the understanding and practice the skills identified above. The students design their own curriculum (in consultation with an advisor) from a wide array of possibilities; each student's program is individual and particular. The only common element is the Capstone Seminar, in which students conduct and present independent research, for peer and faculty review. This course allows students to see their individual work in a broader comparative or regional context. East Asian Studies Concentrators can expect the following:

Assessment of knowledge areas embedded in course work in the targeted areas

Skills of inquiry and analysis assessed through analytical or research papers required in virtually all non-language courses, culminating in the Capstone Seminar

East Asian language skills assessed in frequent written and oral testing in the basic Chinese or Japanese language sequence, or by special examination

Skills of expression and communication in English assessed through frequent course-based written assignments and required oral presentations, often including group projects, and ultimately in the Capstone Seminar

