East Asian Studies

About Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS)

Founded in 1959, the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) at the University of Kansas is the only East Asian resource center in the Great Plains region. CEAS supports East Asian language instruction and promotes East Asian studies across the curriculum. Seventy affiliated faculty members teach in 29 departments and 10 professional schools at KU, offering over 250 courses fully or partially devoted to East Asia. Students who are interested in enrolling in graduate level coursework in CEAS without formal admission to a graduate program at KU are encouraged to apply for graduate non-degree seeking student status. See the department’s admission webpage (https://ceas.ku.edu/non-degree-seeking) for further details.

The M.A. in Contemporary East Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary degree focused on 20th and 21st century East Asia. This program provides students with in-depth interdisciplinary knowledge of a selected East Asian country (China, Korea, or Japan); a broad knowledge of modern East Asia; and social science research skills and methods appropriate to international area studies. Two concentrations are available:

1. Contemporary East Asia

A conventional M.A. program usually completed in 18 months to two years, depending on prior language training. This concentration can be used either for professional advancement or as preparation for a doctoral degree.

2. Foreign Affairs Studies (FAST): Contemporary East Asia in a Global Context

An accelerated (12-month) program designed for students with second-level (intermediate) language proficiency and substantial first-hand experience in East Asia. This concentration is usually selected for professional advancement. For Foreign Area Officers, more information is available at: Graduate Military Program, Foreign Area Officer (FAO) (http://gmp.ku.edu/faqo). If you are a Foreign Area Officer interested in our program, please read Information for FAOs. (http://ceas.ku.edu/overview-0)

Courses

CEAS 200. Topics in East Asian Studies: _______. 1-3 Hours U.
An introductory interdisciplinary topics course addressing contemporary issues related to one or more East Asian countries. Format and content will vary. Does not count toward the EALC major or minor requirements unless otherwise indicated by EALC in the Schedule of Classes. LEC.

CEAS 500. Seminar in East Asian Studies: _______. 1-3 Hours U.
An interdisciplinary seminar addressing contemporary issues related to one or more East Asian countries. Prerequisites to be determined by instructor(s) on the basis of course content. Does not count toward the EALC major or minor requirements unless otherwise indicated by EALC in the Schedule of Classes. LEC.

CEAS 610. Minorities in Japan. 3 Hours S.
This course offers a sociological and historical exploration of Japan’s minorities: the Ainu, Okinawans, Burakumin, and Zainichi Koreans who are often excluded from narratives of Japanese history. Exclusion of the minority issue not only overlooks the existence of minority populations in Japan but also contributes to misconceptions of Japan as a homogeneous country. The course objective is to challenge the conventional master narrative of racial and cultural homogeneity. We shed light on Japan’s minorities, their historical experiences, current struggles, and future challenges. This course is taught at the 300 and 600-levels, with additional assignments required at the 600-level. (Same as EALC 610.) Prerequisite: An introductory East Asian Studies course or consent of the instructor. LEC.

CEAS 704. Contemporary East Asia. 3 Hours.
This graduate seminar explores rapidly changing societies in contemporary East Asia, particularly China, Japan, and Korea. The course provides a critical overview of East Asia and its diversity and complexity using cross-cultural perspectives and interdisciplinary social science approaches, and situates East Asian societies in the context of globalization. (Same as EALC 704.) LEC.

CEAS 710. Research Design for International Area Studies. 3 Hours.
This course addresses the challenges for students engaged in graduate research projects and theses in an interdisciplinary and international context. The course will guide the students through the structures of research design processes for various epistemological approaches, and will assist students in formulating strong research questions, reviewing and situating their own work within the literature, working with the library and subject librarians, appropriating theory, and modeling writing conventions for research within their selected epistemological community. Students will also be exposed to a variety of research methods and will practice designing projects utilizing a select number of them. During the course of the semester, students will be working toward a plan for a substantial graduate research project. (Same as GIST 710 and LAA 710.) Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. LEC.

CEAS 788. Topics in East Asian Studies: _______. 3 Hours.
An interdisciplinary graduate seminar addressing contemporary issues related to one or more East Asian countries. Course may be taken more than once if topic varies. This course may be cross-listed or meet with a 500 level seminar. Enrollment in this course will require additional assignments beyond those required of a 500 level seminar. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor. LEC.

CEAS 802. Research Seminar. 3 Hours.
Students will work with the instructor and, when appropriate, an additional faculty advisor to design, research and write up a research paper on an East Asian topic of their choosing. Students enrolling in this course are expected to have taken a social science research methods class prior to taking this course and to apply those methods to the research process. A core course for the MA in Contemporary East Asian Studies. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. SEM.

CEAS 898. Thesis and Research Project Writing. 3 Hours.
This course is primarily designed to guide MA students through the writing development of their concluding graduate research, whether a final graduate research project or a thesis. Students will learn and apply the practices of effective communication and writing of research while completing the various components of their final projects. The intention of the class is to help students complete a high quality draft of their research, though deadlines and assignment may relate to practice in graduate level research writing in general. Within an interdisciplinary framework and an understanding of rhetorical distinctions across various epistemologies, students will practice relevant modeling of academic literature reviews, transparency in communicating research practices, analyzing/interpreting texts, data, or other information, and introducing and concluding their work. (Same as GIST 898.) Prerequisite: GIST 710. THE.