INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The East Asian Religion, Thought and Culture (EALC) major trains students in the philosophical and religious traditions that help shape and inform the many aspects of East Asia's diverse cultures. The major trains students in a way that is grounded in a familiarity with the texts, languages, and cultures of East Asian societies, while also examining how these traditions have been (and might better be) brought into humanistic disciplines.

UC Berkeley is a world-renowned center for the study of East Asian Humanities. Whether you want to master Chinese or Japanese, immerse yourself in the literary and cultural traditions of East Asia, absorb the profound insights of its philosophical and poetic texts, or come to a deeper understanding of the modern and contemporary histories and media cultures of this complex and vital region, EALC has something for you.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- If you are interested in language or culture and want to complement your studies of religion and philosophy, ask about our minors in Buddhist Studies, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan.
- If you are interested in the philosophy and religion of a specific culture, discuss a plan of study with your major advisor to create a focus through your upper division coursework.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Visit the Institute of East Asian Studies, the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, and other Friends+Partners of EALC.
- Publish your work in the Berkeley Student Journal of Asian Studies.

EALC not only nurtures me into a young scholar but also a more complete person.

– Yisheng Tang, EALC student
EAST ASIAN RELIGION, THOUGHT AND CULTURE
Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST YEAR
- Explore your major:
  - Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
  - Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
  - Enroll in L&S 1 and HUM 10.
  - Take a placement exam for the foreign language you choose to learn.

SECOND YEAR
- Connect and build community:
  - Get into mentoring with Berkeley Connect.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
  - Check out the Berkeley Language Center.
  - Sign up for the Buddhist Studies email list.
- Discover your passions:
  - Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar or student-run DeCal course.
  - Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
  - Explore the collections of Berkeley's C.V. Starr East Asian Library.
- Engage locally and globally:
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options in Asia with Berkeley Study Abroad.
  - Visit the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.
  - Explore the Oakland Asian Cultural Center.
- Reflect and plan your future:
  - Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library.
  - Develop a plan for getting career ready.
  - Set up a Handshake account and sign up for CareerMail.
  - Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series.

THIRD YEAR
- Connect and build community:
  - Join student groups like the East Asian Union.
  - Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
  - Check out the Institute of East Asian Studies.
  - Practice your language skills in the SLC Language Exchange Program.
- Discover your passions:
  - Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM120: Entrepreneurship for All.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.
  - Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Engage locally and globally:
  - Engage with East Asian Cultures in the Bay Area.
  - Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
  - Apply to become a language tutor within the department.
- Reflect and plan your future:
  - Discuss career options and goals with a Career Educator.
  - Shadow alumni in the Cal Job Shadow Program.
  - Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help.
  - Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.

FOURTH YEAR
- Connect and build community:
  - Get support for your thesis project in the Townsend Honors Thesis Workshop.
  - Connect with alumni groups and build your network as you prepare to graduate.
  - Join the Association of Asian Studies.
- Discover your passions:
  - Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM120: Entrepreneurship for All.
  - Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.
  - Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Engage locally and globally:
  - Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders Program.
  - Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps, Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.
  - Apply to the Fulbright ETA Program to teach English in Asia.
- Reflect and plan your future:
  - Learn about career fields and conduct informational interviews with people in those fields.
  - Discuss graduate school options with advisors and professors.
  - Create or update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
  - Attend career and graduate school fairs.
- WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?
  - Jobs and Employers
    - Career in Corporate Environment
    - English Teacher
    - Import/Export Business
  - Graduate Programs
    - Business School
    - Law School
    - MA in Asian Studies
    - PhD in Buddhist Studies
    - PhD in Chinese

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

Updated: 05.08.24