Mission Statement and Learning Objectives

The mission of the Department of Asian Studies is to help as many students as possible—both majors and non-majors—develop practical proficiency in Asian languages and, in the tradition of the liberal arts, acquire a meaningful understanding of important facets of one or more of the disciplines represented within Asian Studies (including anthropology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion, and sociology), so that they may realize their fullest intellectual and personal potential and be able to make useful contributions to society. The department offers three distinct major tracks: Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese.

Learning Objectives for the Japanese Major

The Japanese major consists of a core language curriculum and a variety of interdisciplinary courses offered in the Asian Studies Department. In the Japanese language courses, students attain linguistic and cultural proficiency from the elementary through the advanced level. The interdisciplinary courses are designed to deepen students’ understanding of and familiarity with diversity and dynamicity in Japanese culture.

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.
- Conduct research by engaging in cross-linguistic, cross-cultural, and comparative historical analysis with problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
- 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

We offer courses in English in the field of Asian Studies as well as courses in Chinese and Japanese language, literature, and culture. Three distinct majors are offered: a major in Chinese; a major in Japanese; and an interdisciplinary Asian Studies major which allows students to choose from a wide range of courses in the anthropology, art, economics, history, languages, linguistics, literatures, music, politics, religion, and sociology of China, Taiwan, Japan, and other Asian countries. An increasing number of courses on South Asia are also offered (e.g. ASST 117, ASST 221, ASST 244, ASST 246T, ASST 248, ASST 252, ASST 256, ASST 391, ASST 415, ASST 424, ASST 431, ASST 488). Students interested in taking Korean or Hindi may take these languages through the Critical Language Program administered by the Center for Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Students with questions about the Asian Studies majors or about Asian Studies course offerings should consult the chair. Please note: Courses with ASST prefix carry Division II credit unless otherwise noted and courses with CHIN and JAPN prefixes carry Division I credit unless otherwise noted.

All students wishing to major in the Department of Asian Studies are required to take and pass a total of eleven courses, as follows:

One course that explicitly compares at least two countries in Asia, such as ASST 103, ASST 126, ASST 233, ASST 245, ASST 248, ASST 250, ASST 256, ASST 271, ASST 391, ASST 414, ASST 424, ASST 431, JAPN 258. Or students may take instead a course on a country that is different
from their country of primary focus.

Four semesters of Chinese or Japanese language (including no more than two 100-level courses).

In addition to completing (1) and (2) above, all majors choose either an Area Studies track, leading to a major in Asian Studies; or a Language Studies track, leading to a major in Chinese or Japanese.

The requirements for Japanese are indicated below:

Japanese Major

Four additional semesters of Japanese language (300-level or higher).

One approved course in Japanese language (400-level), literature or culture.

One approved elective on Japan.

STUDY ABROAD

Students intending to major in Asian Studies are encouraged to study in Asia during one or both semesters of their junior year. Williams faculty serve on the boards of several study abroad programs in China and Japan. Opportunities to study in India, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and other Asian countries are also available. Prospective Asian Studies majors who are planning to study abroad should discuss their plans with their advisor as far in advance as possible. Up to eight courses taken overseas may be counted toward graduation, and up to four courses taken off campus may be counted toward the major.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes. In some cases, provisional approval can be granted (students should be sure to contact the department for details). For programs that we are familiar with, we usually pre-approve credits.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, complete syllabus including readings/assignments, and exams or other written work.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes, maximum of four courses.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Approved courses only.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

No.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

Not in particular. Students are always strongly encouraged to consult with the department faculty ahead of time to plan on what courses to take during study-away and what courses to take up return.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn’t:

There have been cases where students decided to take different courses after they arrived at the program and those courses did not meet our requirements.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS

Students interested in writing an honors thesis in Japanese should submit a proposal to the department chair before they pre-register for senior 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. Admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students who have maintained at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.

Students admitted to the program should register for JAPN 493-W31-494. They will be expected to turn in the final draft of their thesis shortly after spring break and to discuss their results formally with their faculty graders. Their final grades in the three courses listed above and the award of Honors, Highest Honors, or no honors will be determined by the quality of the thesis and the student’s performance in the oral defense.
THE ASIAN STUDIES ENDOWMENT

The Linen summer grants for study abroad, the Linen visiting professorships, and several other programmatic activities in the department are supported by an endowment for Asian Studies established by family and friends in memory of James A. Linen III, Class of 1934, Trustee of the College from 1948 to 1953 and from 1963 to 1982.

JAPN 101 (F) Elementary Japanese

An introduction to modern spoken and written Japanese, the course aims to instill proficiency in Japanese by developing four necessary skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing to successfully interact with native speakers. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Audio, video and computer--assisted learning materials will be used extensively. Classes consist of a combination of "act" classes, conducted exclusively in Japanese, where students use the language in various types of drills and communicative activities, and "fact" classes, conducted in Japanese and English, where students learn about the language and culture.

Class Format: fact classes, three hours per week; act classes three hours per week

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

Extra Info: students registered for JAPN 101-102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (JAPN 101 and 102) are taken

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Kasumi Yamamoto
CON Section: 02    MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am     Shinko Kagaya
CON Section: 03    MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm     Shinko Kagaya

JAPN 102 (S) Elementary Japanese

An introduction to modern spoken and written Japanese, the course aims to instill proficiency in Japanese by developing four necessary skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing to successfully interact with native speakers. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Audio, video and computer--assisted learning materials will be used to facilitate learning. Classes consist of a combination of "act" classes, conducted exclusively in Japanese, where students use the language in various types of drills and communicative activities, and "fact" classes, conducted in Japanese and English, where students learn about the language and culture.

Class Format: fact classes, three hours per week; act classes three hours per week

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

Extra Info: students registered for JAPN 101-102 are required to attend and pass the sustaining program during the winter study period; credit granted only if both semesters (JAPN 101 and 102) are taken

Prerequisites: JAPN 101

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
LEC Section: 01    TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm     Kasumi Yamamoto
CON Section: 02    MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am     Shinko Kagaya
CON Section: 03    MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am     Shinko Kagaya
JAPN 131 (F) Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
This course is an introduction to the basic ideas and methodology of linguistics. We learn how to formally analyze the patterns of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meanings (semantics and pragmatics). Other topics, such as first language acquisition and language variations, may be discussed as needed. Although we use Japanese as the primary target data throughout the course, we occasionally look at data from other languages for further application of linguistic methodology and for the better understanding of cross-linguistic variations and underlying universality across languages. Classes are conducted in English.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: class discussion, reading assignments (as preparation for class), written assignments (exercises), mid-term and final exam

Prerequisites: no background knowledge of Japanese or linguistics is required; open to all students who are interested in Japanese language or language in general

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: first-year and sophomore students

Expected Class Size: 25

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: Linguistics

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01    TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm    Mamoru Hatakeyama

JAPN 153 (F) Japanese Film
Crosslistings: JAPN153 / COMP153
Secondary Crosslisting
From the swashbuckling samurai films of Kurosawa and delicate family dramas of Ozu to edgy cinematic experiments and a breathtaking range of animation, Japan has one of the most varied and exciting film traditions in the world. This course will introduce you to major periods, genres, and directors in that tradition. We will read film criticism that represents a range of approaches, but focus particularly on learning and practicing the kind of close visual analysis that will allow you to build your own original descriptions of how a given scene "works." Throughout the course we will consider the relationship between classic cinema and popular genres like sword flicks, melodramas, psychological thrillers, and anime, focusing particularly on directors whose work seems to borrow equally from genre film and the artistic avant-garde. All texts are translated or subtitled. All levels welcome.

Class Format: lecture

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance, participation, some responses, two papers (5-7 pages), test

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 40

Enrollment Preferences: students majoring in a related field

Expected Class Size: 20

Distributions: (D1)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST

Attributes: FMST Core Courses

Not offered current academic year

JAPN 201 (F) Intermediate Japanese
This course is a continuation of First-Year Japanese 101-102, further developing the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The same general methodology will be used. Upon completing the course, students will have been introduced to most of the major structural patterns of contemporary Japanese and will be able to read simple expository prose.

Class Format: fact classes, three hours per week; act classes three hours per week
**JAPN 202 (S) Intermediate Japanese**

This course is a continuation of Japanese 201, further developing the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The same general methodology will be used. Upon completing the course, students will have been introduced to most of the major structural patterns of contemporary Japanese and will be able to read simple expository prose.

**Class Format:** fact classes, three hours per week; act classes three hours per week

**Requirements/Evaluation:** evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** JAPN 201 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 10

**Distributions:** (D1)

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**Spring 2019**

LEC Section: 01  TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Mamoru Hatakeyama

CON Section: 02  MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am  Jinhwa Chang

CON Section: 03  MWF 12:00 pm - 12:50 pm  Jinhwa Chang

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**JAPN 223 (S) Japanese Food Culture in a Global Context**

Crosslistings: COMP223 / JAPN223

**Primary Crosslisting**

The bourgeoning popularity of Japanese food on a global scale has resulted in a surge of new research, literature, and films. Conversely, the effects of globalization have transformed the dining experience within Japan to be ever more multiethnic. This interdisciplinary course explores the complex relationship between food and culture in Japan, and the emergence of Japanese cuisine as a global phenomenon, referring to a variety of materials and practices. Topics to be addressed include modernization, nation-building, militarization, globalization, the environment, and popular culture.

**Class Format:** seminar

**Requirements/Evaluation:** active class participation, three response papers, two small projects (including descriptions & class presentations), and one research paper & presentation

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** none

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Distributions:** (D1)

Not offered current academic year

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**JAPN 258 (S) Language and Literacy Development**
Language is uniquely a human function and fundamental to one's participation in society. Children learn to talk in the first three years of life at an impressive speed. However, in order to successfully participate in academic and social life, it is critical for one to develop literacy skills. Learning to read is a multifaceted process that involves various cognitive resources. This course is an introduction to language development and literacy acquisition in first language and in a cross-linguistic environment including Japanese, Chinese and English. Linguistic concepts such as phonology, syntax and morphology will be introduced as we discuss the acquisition processes. Questions to be addressed include: How does a child develop oral language from birth? How does a child learn the meaning of words? How is learning to talk and read similar or different across various languages? How is learning to read different from learning to speak? How "natural" is it to learn to read?

Class Format: seminar
Requirements/Evaluation: active participation in the class discussion, weekly reaction paper, quiz, final paper
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 25
Enrollment Preferences: Japanese, Chinese, Asian Studies, and Psychology majors
Expected Class Size: 25
Department Notes: Psychology majors, this course counts as a 200-level elective in psychology but does not count as one of the three 200-level courses for the major; for Asian Studies, Chinese, and Japanese majors, this course counts as a comparative requirement course
Distributions: (D1)
Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under JAPN; meets Division 2 requirement if registration is under PSYC
Attributes: Linguistics

Spring 2019
SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Kasumi Yamamoto, Mamoru Hatakeyama

JAPN 260 (F) Japanese Theatre and its Contemporary Context
Crosslistings: COMP262 / JAPN260
Primary Crosslisting
Japan's rich and varied performance traditions, old and new, born of different historical settings, coexist to this day and compete for the attention of audiences, domestically and abroad. The forms to be considered (nohgaku, kabuki, bunraku, shingeki, butoh, and Takarazuka all female revue among others) are all dynamic. Each has transformed itself in response to evolving social conditions. This course examines these performance traditions, considers how each reflects the social, cultural, and political context of its birth, and poses the question, "of what relevance is each to a contemporary audience?" Some of the other questions we will explore are: How have these performing traditions transformed themselves throughout history, including after 3.11? What do we mean by traditional? contemporary? How are traditional and contemporary performance genres interacting with each other? How have the central themes of these works evolved? All readings and discussion will be in English.

Class Format: lecture/discussion
Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, presentations, written journals, two short papers, and one longer paper
Prerequisites: none; open to all
Enrollment Limit: 20
Expected Class Size: 15
Distributions: (D1)
Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Fall 2018
LEC Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm Shinko Kagaya

JAPN 274 (F) Confronting Japan (WI)
Crosslistings: COMP274 / JAPN274

Primary Crosslisting

This tutorial looks into confrontations, within Japan and across its borders, how such confrontations are perceived, handled and narrated, and what they tell us about Japanese society. Through literature and other media, we will probe domestic issues, such as gender/economic disparities, aging, minorities, suicide, reclusion and post 3-11 recovery, and international issues, related to Japan's shifting roles within East Asia and beyond. Discussions will untangle the conflicting perspectives, and elaborate the thoughts and feelings of the various contestants. All readings and discussions will be in English. Some course materials will also be available in Japanese, for those interested.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: 4- to 5-page papers and 2-page critiques (in alternating weeks), and one final report at the culmination of the course

Extra Info: not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Japanese majors

Expected Class Size: 10

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Not offered current academic year

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JAPN 276 (S)  Premodern Japanese Literature and Performance

Crosslistings: COMP278 / JAPN276

Primary Crosslisting

Some of Japan's performance traditions, which developed in different historical settings, have survived to this day and continue to coexist and compete for the attention of audiences both domestically and abroad. This course examines the Japanese literature of three major periods in Japan's history, focusing on how literary and performance traditions have been interrelated in the unfolding of Japanese literary history. We will begin by looking into the Heian period (794-1185), when the work of female authors occupied center stage and some of the canonical texts of the Japanese literary and cultural tradition were born. Next we will consider the medieval period (1185-1600), which saw the rise of the samurai class and the consequent shift in the domain of artistic creation. Then we will look at the Edo period (1600-1867), when a new bourgeois culture flourished and audiences were greatly transformed. We will also explore the continuing force of premodern literary traditions in contemporary performing arts. All readings and discussions will be in English.

Class Format: lecture/discussion

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, presentations, written journals, two essay questions, one paper, and attendance of live performance events

Prerequisites: none; open to all

Enrollment Limit: 20

Expected Class Size: 15

Distributions: (D1)

Attributes: GBST East Asian Studies Electives; PERF Interdepartmental Electives

Not offered current academic year

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JAPN 301 (F)  Upper-Intermediate Japanese

This course is a continuation of Japanese 201 and 202. Students will further develop the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, while consolidating the foundations built in Elementary and Intermediate Japanese. The same general methodology will be used. In this course, students begin to emphasize vocabulary building through the study of situationally oriented materials stressing communicative competence. The reading of expository prose in both semi-authentic and authentic materials of intermediate difficulty will also receive some extensive attention.

Class Format: three 75-minute classes

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: JAPN 202 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: none
JAPN 302 (S) Upper-Intermediate Japanese
This course is a continuation of Japanese 301. Students will further develop the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, while consolidating the foundations built in Elementary and Intermediate Japanese. The same general methodology will be used. In this course, students begin to emphasize vocabulary building through the study of situationally oriented materials stressing communicative competence. The reading of expository prose in both semi-authentic and authentic materials of intermediate difficulty will also receive some extensive attention.

Class Format: three 75-minute classes
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam
Prerequisites: JAPN 301 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 10
Distributions: (D1)

JAPN 401 (F) Advanced Japanese
A continuation of Japanese 301 and 302, developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the discussion of social issues in contemporary Japan. Topics may vary according to the level of the students.

Class Format: three 75-minute classes
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes and projects (presentations)
Prerequisites: JAPN 302 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 8
Distributions: (D1)

JAPN 402 (S) Advanced Japanese
A continuation of Japanese 401, developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the discussion of social issues in contemporary Japan. Topics may vary according to the level of the students.

Class Format: three 75-minute classes
Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes and projects (presentations)
Prerequisites: JAPN 401 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: none
Expected Class Size: 8
Distributions: (D1)
JAPN 403 (F)  Advanced Seminar in Japanese I

This course provides advanced training in listening, speaking, reading and writing Japanese, focusing on current issues in Japan.

Class Format: three hours per week

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes and projects.

Prerequisites: JAPN 402 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 5

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

JAPN 404 (S)  Advanced Seminar in Japanese II

This course is designed for advanced Japanese language students. The goal is for students to be able to carry on extended discourse--such as a discussion, a speech, or an interview--in a culturally appropriate manner; to read authentic materials with ease; and to make presentations and write research papers on issues of interest. The course will focus on current social, cultural, educational, and political issues in Japan.

Class Format: three hours per week

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on daily classroom performance, homework, quizzes, and projects

Prerequisites: JAPN 403 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: none

Expected Class Size: 5

Distributions: (D1)

Not offered current academic year

JAPN 407 (F)  An Exploration of Japanese Language and Culture

Crosslistings: ASST207 / JAPN407

Primary Crosslisting

Language is the primary means for human beings to lead social lives and it expresses, embodies and symbolizes cultural and social reality. This tutorial will examine the intertwining ways in which the Japanese language reflects the patterns of life and intrinsic beliefs of Japanese, while exploring how this linguistic code may influence and shape the ways Japanese think. We will look into the following topics: polite language and the variety of personal pronouns in order to examine how the hierarchical structure of Japanese society is reflected in them. Also, we will explore women's speech, youth and queer Japanese to discuss social and gender identities and the role of linguistic stereotypes in manga, anime and TV dramas as well as the "easy Japanese movement," which depicts the shift from a monolingual to multilingual Japanese society. And finally, our examination will investigate the semantic and cultural losses that occur in translations from Japanese prose to English prose. The course is conducted in either Japanese or English with materials drawn from linguistics and sociocultural studies both in Japanese and English. Students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 207T and students wishing to take the course in Japanese should register under JAPN 407T. Japanese language learners will not only develop analytical and critical thinking, but will gain more advanced Japanese skills such as reading to understand the logic of arguments, exponent narrative, and academic presentations and writing.

Class Format: tutorial

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance and participation, 5 short papers, 5 critiques, and one final project; ASST 207T will meet once a week; JAPN 407T will meet twice a week

Extra Info: may not be taken on a pass/fail basis; not available for the fifth course option

Prerequisites: none for ASST 207T; a 400-level Japanese language course, advanced level Japanese proficiency or permission of instructor for JAPN 407T

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective Japanese, Chinese, and Asian Studies majors
Expected Class Size: 10

Department Notes: students wishing to take the course in English should register under ASST 207T and students wishing to take the course in Japanese should register under JAPN 407T

Distributions: (D1) (WI)

Distribution Notes: meets Division 1 requirement if registration is under ASST or JAPN

Attributes: Linguistics;

Fall 2018
TUT Section: T1 TBA Kasumi Yamamoto

JAPN 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Japanese
Japanese senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
HON Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane

JAPN 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Japanese
Japanese senior thesis.
Class Format: independent study
Extra Info: this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494)
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
HON Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane

JAPN 497 (F) Independent Study: Japanese
Japanese independent study. For students who have completed Japanese 402 or the equivalent.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2018
IND Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane

JAPN 498 (S) Independent Study: Japanese
Japanese independent study. For students who have completed Japanese 402 or the equivalent.
Class Format: independent study
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2019
IND Section: 01 TBA George T. Crane