Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, & Cultures
Chinese, Japanese, East Asian Languages & Cultures

Chair: Professor Li Yu

Cecilia Chang, Frederick Latimer Wells Professor of Chinese; Man He, Assistant Professor of Chinese; Shinko Kagaya, Professor of Japanese; Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies; Christopher M. B. Nugent, Professor of Chinese; Kasumi Yamamoto, Frank M. Gagliardi Professor of Japanese; Li Yu, Professor of Chinese

Visitors: Eun Young Seong, Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese;

Language Fellows: Ai-Chen Wang, Mo Wu; Teaching Associate: Qiqi Chen

Department Mission Statement and Curricular Goal

The mission of the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures is to produce “global citizens” who will be able to make contributions in different sectors of society in a globalized and diverse world with multilingual abilities, intercultural communicative competence, and multicultural leadership skills. Graduates of our department will not only achieve proficiency in at least one Asian language but also become competent in intercultural communication. They will develop interpretive and analytical skills using both primary texts and secondary sources and become familiar with the textual and cultural traditions in Asia.

The department offers three distinct major tracks: Chinese, Japanese, and East Asian Languages & Cultures. Each major requires a minimum of ten courses. Up to four study-away credits can be counted toward a major.

Learning Objectives for the Chinese Major

Students who complete the requirements for a major in Chinese will be able to:

• Attain the Advanced level in speaking, listening and reading, and Intermediate High level in writing based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.
• Read and analyze basic texts written in Classical Chinese.
• Gain intercultural communicative skills to competently navigate a wide range of social and cultural contexts in Chinese-speaking environments.
• Critically read and analyze a variety of Chinese-language primary sources for academic and professional purposes.
• Engage critically with important aspects of the historical and cultural developments and trends in China’s diverse and complex past and present.
• Acquire the skills to enable them to continue their engagement with the target language and culture as lifelong learners and users of Chinese.

The Major

In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least eight Mandarin Chinese language courses (CHIN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402) and at least one course in Classical Chinese (CHIN 312). To gain a deeper understanding of Chinese cultural traditions, students should take at least one Chinese core elective in Chinese literary, linguistic, or cultural studies (taught either in English or in Chinese) with prefixes and primary cross-listings in CHIN.

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in the program of Asian Studies.

Learning Objectives for the Japanese Major

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.
• 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

In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least eight Japanese language courses (JAPN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402), at least one Japanese core elective in Japanese literary, linguistic, or cultural studies (taught either in English or in Japanese) with prefixes and primary cross-listings in JAPN, and one approved elective related to Japanese language and culture (including additional JAPN core electives, additional Asian language courses, or Japanese studies courses offered in art, comparative literature, history, music, political science, religion, etc.).

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in the program of Asian Studies.

Learning Objectives for the East Asian Languages and Cultures Major

Students who complete the requirements for a major in East Asian Languages and Cultures will be able to:

• Attain a minimum of Intermediate High level in speaking, listening and reading of either Chinese or Japanese, and Intermediate Low level in writing in the language based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.
• Acquire research, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by engaging in linguistic or literary analysis in the field of Chinese studies or Japanese studies.
• Obtain basic intercultural communicative skills to navigate some social and cultural contexts in Chinese- or Japanese-speaking environments.
• Continue their engagement with an Asian language and culture as lifelong learners and users of the target language.
• Students who choose the dual-language option will attain the Advanced level in speaking, listening, and reading in either Chinese or Japanese, and the intermediate level in a second Asian language based on the ACTFL proficiency guidelines.

THE MAJOR

East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) major: In order to develop proficiency and intercultural communicative skills in the language, students are required to complete at least six language courses (or attain a minimum proficiency equivalent to the completion of 302) in one East Asian language offered by the department (currently Chinese Mandarin and Japanese). To gain a deeper understanding of the Chinese or Japanese cultural traditions and to develop research skills in the Chinese or Japanese fields, they should take at least two Chinese/Japanese core electives in literary, linguistic, or cultural studies in their primary focus of study with prefixes and primary cross-listings in CHIN/JAPN, and two approved electives related to Chinese/Japanese language and culture (including additional CHIN/JAPN core electives, additional Asian language courses, or Chinese/Japanese studies courses offered in art, comparative literature, history, music, political science, religion, etc.).

Students placed out of lower-level language courses can take additional approved electives to replace the language course requirement. Electives include core language courses, core electives, and ASIA courses in the program of Asian Studies.

This major offers students who are able to complete the 402 level in either Chinese or Japanese by the end of their sophomore year a dual-language option which will allow them to learn a second Asian language and reach the Intermediate level in speaking that language by the time of graduation. Please consult with the chair or language coordinator for more information about this option.

LANGUAGE PLACEMENT

Students who have studied or otherwise developed some familiarity with Chinese or Japanese language before coming to Williams and who wish to continue their language study at the college should complete a placement evaluation before pre-registering for a language course. More information about the Chinese placement evaluation can be found at https://chinese.williams.edu/faq/. Students who wish to take the Japanese placement test should contact the Japanese faculty.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS

The department offers students the option of pursuing a degree with Honors in Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Languages and Cultures through writing an honors thesis. Honors theses allow students a unique opportunity to undertake an examination of topics and texts with a greater depth than regular courses allow. The great majority of students who undertake the challenge of writing an honors thesis find it to be one of their most rewarding academic experiences at Williams.

Students interested in pursuing a degree with Honors should begin thinking about their thesis topic and materials as early as possible. This is particularly true for students who need to gather materials or conduct research abroad, as this will typically take place during their junior year or the summer between their junior and senior years. It is the responsibility of the student to approach faculty members to inquire about their willingness to serve as a thesis advisor. Ideally, students should have previously taken a course with that faculty member in an area related to the subject matter of the thesis. Faculty members will usually only advise a single thesis per year, and never more than two, with students who first approach the faculty member about serving as advisor being given priority. It is recommended that students approach the faculty members with whom they are interested in
working for their thesis by the end of the fall semester of their junior year.

Students must submit a proposal to the department chair and their intended advisor before they pre-register for senior year 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. If the department approves the thesis proposal, the student should enroll in CHIN 493-W31-494, or JAPN 493-W31-494, depending on their major track. Please note that admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students with a consistent record of honors-level work, as indicated by at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.

Students will typically meet with their advisor once a week at a set time other than office hours. The advisor will present the student with a set of deadlines for different stages in the thesis, ranging from a bibliography to the final draft. While these deadlines will vary for different advisors and theses, two deadlines will apply to all theses, whether analytic or translation. 1) Students must submit a finished first chapter or substantial section of polished translation by the last day of the first semester reading period. If the student misses this deadline, he or she will not be allowed to continue the thesis. 2) The finished thesis is due to the advisor by 4:00 pm on the Monday two weeks after the last day of Spring Recess. The student should submit three copies of the thesis at this time. There will be no extensions.

The department will assign two readers, separate from the advisor, to each thesis. The readers will give a written assessment of the thesis that will be an important factor in the final determination of the student’s grades for the thesis and what honors designation, if any, will be given. These written comments will be shared with the student. Within two weeks after submission, the department will schedule an oral defense. This will be a one to one-and-a-half hour session in which the student will give a public presentation of his or her thesis to members of the department and invited guests followed by a question and answer period. A final, corrected copy of the thesis must be submitted to the Technical Services Department of Sawyer Library by 4:00 P.M. on the last day of the final examination period.

In order to qualify for Honors, the department must agree that the student has earned two semester grades of B+ or higher, based on his or her thesis and oral defense. Students whose thesis and defense are deemed by the department to be of exceptional merit will be awarded Highest Honors. A letter from the department chair will inform students of these decisions.

COVID-19 CHANGES
Due to the pandemic, the department has reduced the number of courses required for its majors for the graduating classes of ‘22, and ‘23. For these years, the minimum requirements are nine courses as follows:

Chinese major: CHIN 101, 102, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402, 312.
Japanese major: JAPN 101, 102, 202, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402, one approved elective.
East Asian Languages and Cultures major: at least six CHIN/JAPN language courses (or a minimum proficiency equivalent to the completion of 302), two CHIN/JAPN core electives, and one approved elective.

Students with higher language proficiency who are placed out of any of the core language courses (101 through 402) can take an equal number of faculty-approved electives taught either in Chinese/Japanese or in English on literature, linguistics, culture studies or related Chinese or Japanese studies disciplines (e.g., art history, history, political science) to fulfill the core language requirement.

Students who plan to study abroad either during the summer or during their junior year MUST consult with department faculty for advice.

STUDY ABROAD
Students intending to major in the department are strongly encouraged to study in Asia at some point during their time at Williams—for a summer or for a semester or full year. Study-abroad in an immersive environment in the target culture is an indispensable step toward advanced proficiency in a second language. Prospective majors or language students who are planning to study abroad must attend the fall semester study-abroad information session organized by the department or discuss their plans with department faculty as far in advance as possible. The department administers the Linen Grants for Summer Study in Asia which fund selected students’ summer intensive language study or research projects. Up to four study-abroad courses may be transferred and counted toward graduation and toward the majors offered in the department. Students MUST contact the department faculty BEFORE assuming study-away credit will be granted toward the major in the department. Upon return, students should ask their study-away program to send their transcript to the Registrar’s office so that the appropriate number of credits can be transferred and granted by the department chair.

DEPARTMENT EMAIL LISTS
To be informed about the events, activities and funding opportunities in the department, please use your Williams login to sign up for one or more of the following GLOW special interest email lists:

“DALLC Majors and Faculty” (open to all current and prospective Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Languages and Cultures majors):
https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/AWTMXP

“Asia-Related Funding Opportunities” (open to all students who would like to seek internal or external funding related to Asia):
https://glow.williams.edu/enroll/PGJHAC
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: daily classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: 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

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Kasumi Yamamoto
CON Section: 02 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Shinko Kagaya
CON Section: 03 MWF 11:00 am - 11:50 am 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: daily classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

Prerequisites: JAPN 101

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Unit Notes: 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

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023
JAPN 131 (F) Introduction to Japanese Linguistics: Past, Present and Future of Japanese Language

**Cross-listings:** JAPN 131 ASIA 131

**Primary Cross-listing**

This course is to understand of how and why the Japanese language has developed to its present form and usage. We will first learn basic concepts and methodologies of linguistics, such as how to formally analyze the patterns of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structures (syntax), and meaning (semantics and pragmatics). Then, based on sociolinguistics, linguistic typology, anthropological and cognitive linguistics frameworks, we will investigate variations and usages of the Japanese language. Topics will include polite language and honorifics, gender and women's language, onomatopoeia, linguistic landscape, Japanese dialects, language conflicts, language rights (Okinawans, Ainu, and Koreans in Japan), and multilingualism. The course format combines lectures, seminars, and student-facilitated discussions. There will be small quizzes, homework assignments, a final research paper, and a poster presentation of the final project. Although there is no prerequisite, intermediate Japanese proficiency or equivalent is beneficial when analyzing primary data.

**Class Format:** combination of lecture and discussion

**Requirements/Evaluation:** quizzes, one or two discussion facilitation, mid-term exam, poster presentation, and an 8- to 10-page final paper

**Prerequisites:** none

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

JAPN 131 (D1) ASIA 131 (D1)

**Attributes:** Linguistics

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Kasumi Yamamoto

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

**Requirements/Evaluation:** daily performance, homework, quizzes, chapter tests, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** JAPN 101-102 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

**Expected Class Size:** 12

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

Fall 2022

SEM Section: 01  TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am  Eun Young Seong

CON Section: 02  MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am  Eun Young Seong
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: daily performance, homework, quizzes, chapter tests, and a final exam
Prerequisites: JAPN 201 or permission of instructor
Enrollment Limit: 20
Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Eun Young Seong
CON Section: 02 MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am Eun Young Seong
CON Section: 03 MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am Eun Young Seong

JAPN 220 (S) Being Korean in Japan (DPE)

Cross-listings: JAPN 220 ASST 220 ASIA 220

Primary Cross-listing

Who are Zainichi Koreans (Koreans in Japan)? How are they different from Koreans in Korea or in the United States? Contemporary Korean TV dramas and films have depicted Koreans as attractive and successful people appealing to Hallyu (Korean Wave) fans around the world. However, Zainichi Koreans, who are the largest ethnic minority in Japan, have been frequently portrayed as abusive husbands/fathers, pitiful wives/mothers, or juvenile delinquents in both Japanese and Korean cinema and literature. Through close readings of films, novels, and short essays, we will explore little-known yet significant representations of Zainichi Koreans by focusing on Japanese and Korean historical contexts. By doing so, we will discover new aspects of transnational exchange not only between Japanese and Koreans, but also between South and North Koreans in Japan. All class materials will be available in English translation or with English subtitles.

Requirements/Evaluation: attendance/participation; short written responses; midterm essay; group presentation; final essay
Prerequisites: none
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: Open to all students, but if over-enrolled, priority will be given to Asian Studies and Japanese majors
Expected Class Size: 16
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
JAPN 220 (D1) ASST 220 (D1) ASIA 220 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course looks at the dynamics of unequal power in the social marginality of Korean immigrants in Japan. Exploring historical contexts, students will analyze how the ethnic particularity of the Korean minority has engaged with and against Japanese society. Students will also examine how we might associate the minority culture and history with extensive global issues, including the relationships between environmental problems and minorities, wars and women, and imperialism and migration.
Attributes: GBST Borders, Exiles + Diaspora Studies Electives GBST East Asian Studies Electives

Not offered current academic year
JAPN 223 (S) Japanese Food Culture in a Global Context (DPE)

Cross-listings: JAPN 223 COMP 223

Primary Cross-listing

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.

Requirements/Evaluation: active class participation, three response papers, two small written report (including class presentations), and one research paper and presentation

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 12

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

JAPN 223 (D1) COMP 223 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course explores the complex relationship between food and culture in and out of Japan, in relation to a variety of topics such as modernization, nation-building, militarization, globalization, environmentally sustainable development, and popular culture. Students will have the opportunity to critically analyze how various social/cultural, historical, and political contexts shaped and unveiled (in)difference, (dis)power, and (in)equity in food production and consumption.

Spring 2023

SEM Section: 01 Cancelled

JAPN 240 (S) Toward Healing Trauma in Japanese and Korean Cinema (DPE)

Cross-listings: ASIA 240 JAPN 240

Primary Cross-listing

This course examines Japanese and Korean cinema from the 1930s to the present, with a focus on narratives of trauma. We will analyze cinematic representations of social conflicts caused by continuous negotiations of tradition and progress, gender and identity, and everyday life and war wounds in the transition from imperial/colonial to post-imperial/post-colonial periods. Along with exploring historical contexts, we will compare the ways in which Japanese and Korean filmmakers have confronted social injustice by addressing the pain of trauma. In doing so, we will discover the meanings of cultural confrontation in the process of healing and reconciliation in our society. All readings and screenings will be available in English translation or with English subtitles.

Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation, weekly GLOW posts, two short essays (4-5 pages each), and a final project

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 20

Enrollment Preferences: Open to all students, but if over-enrolled, priority will be given to majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 20

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1) (DPE)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:

ASIA 240 (D1) JAPN 240 (D1)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course traces the trajectories of Japanese and Korean films that deal with contentious issues which have
left deep scars in society, including the legacies of Japanese colonialism and Cold War politics in East Asia. Students will have the opportunity to think critically about the implications of such cultural representations of social wounds and injustice on the way toward reconciliation.

Not offered current academic year

**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:** daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** JAPN 202 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

**Expected Class Size:** 8

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Fall 2022**

LEC Section: 01  MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Shinko Kagaya

**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. In this course, students work on the reading skills for comprehending primary source materials and expository prose of intermediate difficulty; the communication skills for conducting practical conversations and presentations; and the listening skills for interpreting various types of information.

**Class Format:** three 75-minute classes

**Requirements/Evaluation:** daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** JAPN 301 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 15

**Enrollment Preferences:** current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

**Expected Class Size:** 8

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

**Spring 2023**

LEC Section: 01  MWF 8:30 am - 9:45 am  Shinko Kagaya

**JAPN 401 (F) Advanced Japanese**

This course is a continuation of Japanese 301 and 302. Students will develop the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing 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:** daily performance, homework, quizzes and projects (presentations)

**Prerequisites:** JAPN 302 or permission of instructor

**Enrollment Limit:** 10
Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022
SEM Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Eun Young Seong

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: daily performance, homework, quizzes and projects (presentations)

Prerequisites: JAPN 401 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: current or prospective majors in the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023
SEM Section: 01 MWF 11:00 am - 12:15 pm Kasumi Yamamoto

JAPN 493 (F) Senior Thesis: Japanese
Japanese senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Fall 2022
HON Section: 01 TBA Li Yu

JAPN 494 (S) Senior Thesis: Japanese
Japanese senior thesis; this is part of a full-year thesis (493-494).

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D1)

Spring 2023
HON Section: 01 TBA Li Yu

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

Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

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

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D1)

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Winter Study

JAPN 12 (W) The Art of Writing: Introduction to Arabic and Japanese Calligraphy
Calligraphy is an art of elegant penmanship that is closely connected to philosophy, spirituality, literature, and poetry. This course introduces students to two different traditions of calligraphy, namely those of Arabic and Japanese, exploring their distinct characters as well as similarities. How has master-apprentice learning shaped each? How have these artforms developed in modern times? How are different aesthetics valued in each? And what are the themes and ideas shared between these two different traditions? At the theoretical level, students will explore historical, cultural, philosophical, and spiritual backgrounds of Arabic and Japanese calligraphy as well as material dimensions of the two traditions—how inks, pens, brushes, and paper are produced. At the practical level, students will be introduced to the execution of lettering with traditional tools, exploring self-expression through the art of writing. Students will be encouraged to consider how balance can be found in that which comprises both order and chaos, form and obscurity, and word and image. In class (6 hours per week), students will engage in hands-on activities, learning the basic techniques of Arabic and Japanese calligraphy. Class time also includes short lectures on theoretical and practical aspects of the two traditions. Through this course, students will learn to use calligraphy as a meditation tool, one that cultivates inner focus and attention to breathing and bodily movements. Outside class, students will be required to practice daily ten-minute calligraphy meditation sessions. Evaluation for this course is based on attendance at each session, a final calligraphy work, and in-class presentation on the piece. No previous knowledge of Arabic/Japanese or experience with calligraphy is required for this course. The class is open to students interested in both/either of two calligraphy traditions.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** final project or presentation

**Prerequisites:** n/a

**Enrollment Limit:** 10

**Enrollment Preferences:** Majors in Arabic Studies and the Department of Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures if the course is overenrolled.

**Expected Class Size:** NA

**Grading:** pass/fail only

**Unit Notes:** Eriko Okamoto is a research associate in Arabic Studies at Williams College. She has studied Arabic calligraphy in the US and the Middle East and has trained in Japanese calligraphy for over 20 years.

**Materials/Lab Fee:** $35

**Attributes:** EXPE Experiential Education Courses  SLFX Winter Study Self-Expression  STUX Winter Study Student Exploration  WELL Winter Study Wellness

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Winter 2023

JAPN 25 (W) Exploring Kyoto Culture: How 1200 years of cultural history continues throughout today
Kyoto, the former imperial capital of Japan has 1200 years of history. It is referred to as Japan's cultural treasure house and thrives on its ancient heritage in architecture, gardens, religion, performing and culinary arts and craftsmanship. Yet Kyoto's appearances can be deceiving. You will find a monumental temple designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site under the shadow of ultramodern high-rising buildings. There is an enigmatic quality to the city with this juxtaposition of old and new. This unresolved tension between modernization and tradition is Kyoto's fascination. The
purpose of this travel course is to explore the cultural history of Kyoto and how it is perpetuated and transformed in a modern era. Students will visit various sites and artists/artisan areas in Kyoto. Through these experiences, they will arrive at their own conclusion about what it means to sustain tradition while pursuing modernization and innovation. The first week of the course will be conducted on campus. Students conduct research in pairs to acquire additional in-depth knowledge on one selected area of Kyoto's art/craftmanship. For the second and third week, the class will travel to Kyoto. We will first explore the city of Kyoto to develop an idea of how its cultural history progressed from courtly culture in the Heian period, to samurai tradition in the Medieval periods, and aspects of religious ceremonies, Noh Theater and tea ceremonies. We will also visit four to five artisan/artist studios, including hands on experiences at some studios. Students are expected to participate in all the scheduled activities, keep a daily journal, and participate in daily reflections. At the end of the Kyoto visit, students will summarize their reflections and present their views on Japanese traditional and modern art/craft/performance to the local community and to the Kyoto artists/artisans at a public forum. The class will return to campus towards the end of the third week.

Requirements/Evaluation: post daily blog to the course website and a public PowerPoint presentation in Kyoto

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 8

Enrollment Preferences: personal statements and completion of course(s) related to Japan

Expected Class Size: 8

Grading: pass/fail only

Materials/Lab Fee: $3,700

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses TRVL Winter Study Travel Course

Winter 2023

TVL Section: 01 TBA Shinko Kagaya

JAPN 31 (W) Senior Thesis: Japanese
To be taken by all students who are candidates for honors in Japanese.

Class Format: independent study

Grading: pass/fail only

Winter 2023

HON Section: 01 TBA Li Yu

JAPN 88 (W) Japanese Sustaining Program
Students registered for JAPN 101-102 are required to attend and pass the Japanese Sustaining Program. However, students are also required to register for a regular Winter Study course. Once the regular Winter Study registration process is complete, the Registrar's Office will automatically enroll you in the Sustaining Program, check your class schedule to confirm enrollment.

Requirements/Evaluation: regular attendance and active participation

Prerequisites: Japanese 101

Grading: pass/fail option only

Materials/Lab Fee: one Xerox packet

Winter 2023

LAB Section: 01 MWR 9:00 am - 9:50 am Li Yu

JAPN 99 (W) Independent Study: Japanese
Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is
approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** pass/fail only

Winter 2023

IND Section: 01    TBA    Li Yu