In the Department of East Asian Studies

Chair. Associate Professor Hong Zang (Chinese)
Professor Hideko Abe; Assistant Professor Laura Nuffer; Language Assistant Mika Kawashima

A minor in Japanese is offered for students who have a substantial interest in Japanese language and culture.

Requirements for the Minor in Japanese

Six courses are required to fulfill the minor in Japanese. They include five language courses of at least three credits each at the level of Japanese 126 or above and one more course chosen from either a 400-level course in Japanese or a course on Japan (needs to be approved by the advisor for Japanese) at the 200 level or higher.

Course Offerings

JA125f Elementary Japanese I This course introduces the fundamentals of the Japanese language, with an equal emphasis on all four domains of language usage: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will master basic sentence patterns and core vocabulary necessary for everyday conversation. They will also gain command of the two phonetic writing systems used in Japanese, hiragana and katakana, and learn 60 of the most commonly used ideographic characters, or kanji. Five credit hours. SHMAGIN

JA125Jj Elementary Japanese This course introduces the fundamentals of the Japanese language, with an equal emphasis on all four domains of language usage: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will master basic sentence patterns and core vocabulary necessary for everyday conversation. They will also gain command of the two phonetic writing systems used in Japanese, hiragana and katakana, and learn 60 of the most commonly used ideographic characters, or kanji. Three credit hours. SHMAGIN

JA126s Elementary Japanese II This course builds on the foundations of the previous semester to expand students' abilities of comprehension and self-expression. Students will continue to acquire essential grammar and vocabulary and will learn an additional 85 kanji. Prerequisite: Japanese 125 or equivalent. Five credit hours. NUFFER

JA127f Intermediate Japanese I Designed for students who have taken two semesters of Japanese, provides the intermediate level of competency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening. The four skills are simultaneously introduced and practiced in every class with emphasis on balancing accuracy, fluency, and complexity. Also helps students understand how linguistic practice is strongly connected to culture. Prerequisite: Japanese 126. Four credit hours. NUFFER

JA128s Intermediate Japanese II Designed for students who have taken three semesters of Japanese. Students continue to advance their linguistic skills in speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Enables students to function in various social contexts using culturally appropriate linguistic skills and knowledge, including honorifics and speech levels. Prerequisite: Japanese 127. Four credit hours. ABE

JA135fs Conversational Japanese I In a small group setting, students practice speaking. Nongraded. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Japanese 125 or 126. One credit hour. KAWASHIMA

JA235fs Conversational Japanese II In a small group setting, students practice speaking. Nongraded. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Japanese 127 or 128. One credit hour. KAWASHIMA

JA321f Third-Year Japanese This course offers an entry point to advanced Japanese. Students will master complex grammatical constructions and acquire vocabulary necessary to express their thoughts on a variety of social issues. Emphasis is placed on developing natural communication strategies appropriate in a range of situations, from casual to formal. Readings and audiovisual materials will incorporate authentic Japanese aimed at native speakers. Prerequisite: Japanese 128. Four credit hours. NUFFER

JA322s Third-Year Japanese Following the first semester of third-year Japanese, this course continues to cultivate students' capacity for complex, nuanced communication in all four domains of language usage (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). Students will acquire further grammar, vocabulary, and kanji, and gain increasing confidence with authentic Japanese texts such as newspaper articles and short stories. Prerequisite: Japanese 321 or 341. Four credit hours. NUFFER
JA335fs  Conversational Japanese III  In a small group setting, students practice speaking. Nongraded. Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Japanese 321, 322, 421, or 422. One credit hour. KAWASHIMA

JA421f  Fourth Year Japanese  Further reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Japanese, using current newspaper articles, short stories, and audiovisual materials. Prerequisite: Japanese 322. Four credit hours. ABE

JA422s  Fourth-Year Japanese  A continuation of Japanese 421 for students who have taken seven semesters of Japanese. Language practice includes reading short stories and newspaper articles, giving oral presentations on topics related to Japanese culture, learning another 150 Chinese characters, mastering the use of various types of dictionaries and online supports, and learning the structure of kanji radicals. All class activities are conducted only in Japanese. Prerequisite: Japanese 421. Four credit hours. ABE

JA491f, 492s  Independent Study  Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Two to four credit hours. FACULTY