In the Department of East Asian Studies

Co-Chairs, Professor Kimberly Besio (Chinese) and Associate Professor Hideko Abe (Japanese)
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A minor in Japanese is offered for students who have a substantial interest in Japanese language and culture.

Requirements for the Minor in Japanese

Five language courses of at least three credits each at the level of Japanese 126 or above, and one more course with a substantial literary/cultural component to be chosen from either Japanese 421, 422, 431, 432, 462, or a course on Japanese literature/culture at the 200 level or higher (Japanese literature/culture courses are listed in the “East Asian Studies” section of the catalogue). Students who start taking Japanese from an upper level are expected to take at least four language courses probably chosen from 421, 422, 431, 432, 462, and independent studies 491 and 492.

Note: The minor in Japanese is intended for non-East Asian studies majors. East Asian studies majors must declare either a Chinese concentration or a Japanese concentration within the major.

Course Offerings

JA125f  Elementary Japanese I  Introduction to the spoken and written language to provide a solid grounding in all the language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students will have a comfortable command of hiragana, katakana, and basic sentence patterns and will become familiar with about 60 kanji and their combinations.  Five credit hours.

JA126s  Elementary Japanese II  A continuation of Japanese 125. Introduces students to the spoken and written language and provides a thorough grounding in all the language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Prerequisite: Japanese 125.  Five credit hours.

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.

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.

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

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

JA321f  Third-Year Japanese  Pre-advanced Japanese for students who have mastered the intermediate level of grammar including honorifics, causative, passive, and causative/passive forms with 300 kanji. Prepares students to read newspaper articles and short stories. Students are required to write an essay every other week and do a research presentation in Japanese on topics related to Japanese culture. Prerequisite: Japanese 128.  Four credit hours.

JA322s  Third-Year Japanese  Continues to prepare students for advanced reading, audiovisual comprehension, and writing practice. Designed primarily for students who have had substantial experience in a Japanese-speaking setting. Prerequisite: Japanese 321.  Four credit hours.

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.
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.  PRINDLE

[JA422]  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.

JA431s  Business Japanese  Prepares students to take part in the Japanese business milieu. Students with advanced proficiency in Japanese will expand their ability to read Japanese articles on economics, write business letters, comprehend and discuss televised news, speak the language that is appropriate for Japanese business settings, and interact with proper manners and customs. Prerequisite: Japanese 321.  Four credit hours.  PRINDLE

[JA432]  Contemporary Japanese Novel  Reading of at least one contemporary novel, paying careful attention to the vocabulary, grammar, geography, and sociocultural context. This will familiarize students with both formal and colloquial forms of Japanese, including the slang the young generation uses. An interactive class format will require students to report, participate in and lead discussions, and write short essays on selected issues on a regular basis. Prerequisite: Japanese 321.  Four credit hours.

[JA462]  Japanese Culture through TV Drama  Advanced Japanese language with a focus on television dramas through which students learn colloquial speech patterns in different social contexts. Special attention is paid to different speech levels (casual to formal) by speakers of different ages, social status, gender, and regions. TV dramas range from romantic stories to political as well as business stories, all of which deal with different social issues. Students are required to (1) understand the content of the drama, (2) discuss specific themes found in the drama, and (3) write a response paper in Japanese about the drama. Prerequisite: Japanese 321.  Four credit hours.

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