

Japanese (JAPAN)

Courses

JAPAN 1A Elementary Japanese 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

Japanese 1A is designed to develop basic Japanese language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will learn the Japanese writing system: hiragana, katakana and approximately 150 kanji. At the end of the course, students should be able to greet, invite, compare, and describe persons and things, activities, intentions, ability, experience, purposes, reasons, and wishes. Grades will be determined on the basis of attendance, quiz scores, homework and class participation.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JAPAN 1A after completing JAPAN 1.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1 hour of laboratory per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 9 hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 1B Elementary Japanese 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

Japanese 1B is designed to develop basic skills acquired in Japanese 1A further. Students will learn approximately 150 new kanji. At the end of the course students should be able to express regret, positive and negative requirements, chronological order of events, conditions, giving and receiving of objects and favors, and to ask and give advice. Grades will be determined on the basis of attendance, quiz scores, homework and class participation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 1A

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JAPAN 1B after completing JAPAN 1.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 12 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 7A Introduction to Premodern Japanese Literature and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is an overview of Japanese literature and culture, 7th-through 18th-centuries. 7A begins with Japan's early myth-history and its first poetry anthology, which show the transition from a preliterate, communal society to a courtly culture. Noblewomen's diaries, poetry anthologies, and selections from the Tale of Genji offer a window into that culture. We examine how oral culture and high literary art mix in Kamakura period tales and explore representations of heroism in military chronicles and medieval Noh drama. After considering the linked verse of late medieval times, we read vernacular literature from the urban culture of the Edo period. No previous course work in Japanese literature, history, or language is expected.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 7B Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session

An introduction to Japanese literature in translation in a two-semester sequence. 7B provides a survey of important works of 19th- and 20th-century Japanese fiction, poetry, and cultural criticism. The course will explore the manner in which writers responded to the challenges of industrialization, internationalization, and war. Topics include the shifting notions of tradition and modernity, the impact of Westernization on the constructions of the self and gender, writers and the wartime state, literature of the atomic bomb, and postmodern fantasies and aesthetics. All readings are in English translation. Techniques of critical reading and writing will be introduced as an integral part of the course.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 7C Japanese Culture Across Texts and Media 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024

This course introduces students to the historical contexts and social forces shaping the production of Japanese texts and media.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

JAPAN 10A Intermediate Japanese 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

The goal of this course is for the students to understand the language and culture required to communicate effectively in Japanese. Some of the cultural aspects covered are; geography, speech style, technology, sports, food, and religion. Through the final project, students will learn how to discuss social issues and their potential solutions. In order to achieve these goals, students will learn how to integrate the basic linguistics knowledge they acquired in J1, as well as study new structures and vocabulary. An increasing amount of reading and writing, including approximately 200 new kanji, will also be required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 1 or Japan 1B

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JAPAN 10A after completing JAPAN 10.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of discussion and 2 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of discussion and 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 10B Intermediate Japanese 5 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025, Summer 2024 Second 6 Week Session

The goal of this course is for the students to understand the more advanced language and culture required to communicate effectively in Japanese. Some of the cultural aspects covered are; pop-culture, traditional arts, education, convenient stores, haiku, and history. Through the final project, students will learn how to introduce their own cultures and their influences. In order to achieve these goals, students will learn how to integrate the basic structures and vocabulary they acquired in the previous semesters, as well as study new linguistic expressions. An increasing amount of more advanced reading and writing, including approximately 200 new kanji, will also be required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 10A

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for JAPAN 10B after completing JAPAN 10.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 12 hours of lecture and 0 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 100A Advanced Japanese 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course will develop further context-specific skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It concentrates on students using acquired grammar and vocabulary with more confidence in order to express functional meanings, while increasing overall linguistic competence. Students will learn approximately 200 new Kanji. There will be a group or individual project. Course materials include the textbook supplemented by newspapers, magazine articles, short stories, and video clips which will provide insight into Japanese culture and society.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 10 or Japan 10B

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Japan 100A after taking Japan 100 or Japan 100X.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 100B Advanced Japanese 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course aims to develop further context-specific skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It concentrates on students using acquired grammar and vocabulary with more confidence in order to express functional meanings, while increasing overall linguistic competence. Students will learn approximately 200 new Kanji. There will be a group or individual project. Course materials include the textbook supplemented by newspapers, magazine articles, short stories, essays, and video clips which will provide insight into Japanese culture and society.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 100A

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Japan 100B after taking Japan 100 or Japan 100X.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 100S Japanese for Sinologists 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2017, Spring 2015

Students will be trained to read, analyze, and translate modern Japanese scholarship on Chinese subjects. A major purpose of the course is to prepare students to take reading examinations in Japanese. The areas of scholarship to be covered are: politics, popular culture, religion, sociology and history as well as areas suggested by students who are actively engaged in research projects. Two readings in selected areas will be assigned, one by the instructor and the second by a student participant.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing; Japan 10B and Chinese 100B or equivalents

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 101 Fourth-Year Japanese: Aspects of Japanese Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

Students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills further to think critically, to express their points of view, and to understand Japanese culture and society in depth. The readings are mainly articles on current social issues from Japanese newspapers, magazines, and professional books as sources of discussions. Students are required to write short essays on topics related to the reading materials.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 100, Japan 100B, or Japan 100X; or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 102 Fourth-Year Readings: Japanese Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2020, Spring 2018

This course provides students an opportunity to develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in order to express their opinions in argumentative discourse. Students read and discuss a variety of Japanese texts to deepen their understanding of Japanese society and people and to improve their intercultural communicative competence.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 100, Japan 100B, or Japan 100X; or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 103 Fourth-Year Readings: Japanese Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2018, Fall 2016

This course provides students an opportunity to develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, thereby enabling them to express their points of view and to engage in argumentative discourse. In addition to Japanese literature, readings include academic essays and other texts, which provide a variety of writing styles and serve as sources for classroom discussion. Also, Japanese films are used for various activities in order to broaden students' cultural awareness and knowledge of Japanese society.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 100, Japan 100B, or Japan 100X; or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN 104 Fourth-Year Readings: Japanese History 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

Students develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills further while examining Japanese historical figures, events, background, stories, etc. Students read a variety of texts and watch videos related to Japanese history as sources for discussions to deepen their understanding of Japanese society, culture, and people from historical perspectives. Students conduct individual research on a topic in Japanese history, and write a short research paper.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 100, Japanese 100B, or Japanese 100X; or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

JAPAN 105 Fourth-Year Japanese: Current Issues in Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

In this course, students will practice various techniques to read articles in Japanese on current issues in Japan, and they will learn about Japanese conceptions of the world and how Japanese society functions. They may want to compare what they have learned with similar issues in their own countries to deepen their understanding of the issues and develop their critical thinking ability. They will also learn more advanced Japanese grammar and increase their vocabulary.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 100, Japan 100B, or Japan 100X; or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

JAPAN C115 Buddhism and its Culture in Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course provides a critical survey of prominent and other noteworthy expressions of Buddhist thought and culture in Japanese history. The Japanese experience of Buddhist teachings, practices and institutions, as well as aesthetic expressions in painting, sculpture, architecture, garden design, literature, and theatre will be examined against the backdrop of the transmission of all these forms of Buddhist culture from India to China to Korea to Japan. Special attention will also be given to the fusion of Buddhist and "native" Japanese sensibilities in theater (Noh, Kabuki, and Bunraku) and popular art such as ukiyo-e prints and manga.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 0-1 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C115

JAPAN 116 Introduction to the Religions of Japan 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

An introductory look at the culture, values, and history of religious traditions in Japan, covering the Japanese sense of the world physically and culturally, its native religious culture called Shinto, the imported continental traditions of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism, the arrival and impact of Christianity in the 16th century and the New Religions of the 19th and 20th centuries. Focus will be on how the internal structure of Buddhist and Confucian values were negotiated with long-established views of mankind and society in Japan, how Japan has been changed by these foreign notions of the individual's place in the world, particularly Buddhism, and why many see contemporary Japan as a post-religious society.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Blum

JAPAN 120 Introduction to Classical Japanese 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

An introduction to classical Japanese (bungo), the premodern vernacular, which was used as Japan's literary language until well into the 20th century and remains essential for a thorough grounding in Japanese literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 10 or Japanese 10B

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 130 Classical Japanese Poetry 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2021

An introduction to the critical analysis and translation of traditional Japanese poetry, a genre that reaches from early declarative work redolent of an even earlier oral tradition to medieval and Early Modern verses evoking exquisitely differentiated emotional states via complex rhetoric and literary allusion. Topics may include examples of Japan's earliest poetry in Man'yōshū, Heian courtly verse in Kokinshū, lines from Shinkokinshū with its medieval mystery and depth, linked verse (renga), and the haikai of Bashō and his circle.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 132 Premodern Japanese Diary (Nikki) Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2011, Spring 2009

The tradition of Japanese self-reflective literature, composed by both men and women, is long and rich. Topics for this course include highly personal memoirs by court women and poetic travel diaries.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 140 Heian Prose 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2010, Spring 2000

The course focuses on select masterpieces from the Japanese narrative tradition, including Murasaki Shikibu's *The Tale of Genji* (Genji monogatari) and Sei Shōnagon's *The Pillow Book* (Makura no soshi).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN C141 Introductory Readings in Kanbun 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018

Introductory reading class focusing on premodern texts written in Kanbun, the Japanese way of reading and writing Classical Chinese.

The first half focuses on the orthography and syntax of Kanbun, primarily using examples from military texts from the medieval period. The second half focuses on writings considered artistic, religious (Buddhist), literary, historical, biographical, or ritualistic in nature, including snapshots of doctrinal statements by influential thinkers in the Buddhist tradition. In that Kanbun is Chinese in format but was nearly always read in Classical Japanese word order, this fulfills the Japanese-major requirement of a second semester of Classical Japanese.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120. One semester of classical Japanese. Prior background in Buddhist history and thought is helpful, but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Blum

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C141

JAPAN 144 Edo Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2013, Spring 2012

Critical reading and translation of important literary texts from the Edo period, including poetic diaries, merchant fiction, and (joruri) drama.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 146 Japanese Historical Documents 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2012, Fall 2009

Writings in the Japanese vernacular constitute only one part of the total premodern Japanese written corpus. Until the 20th century, the preferred medium for most historical texts and male diaries was Sino-Japanese (kanbun). Familiarity with the grammar of this extraordinarily rich tradition is therefore essential for all students of premodern Japanese disciplines

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 120

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 155 Modern Japanese Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is an introduction to Japanese modernism through the reading and discussion of representative short stories, poetry, and criticism of the Taisho and early Showa periods. We will examine the aesthetic bases of modernist writing and confront the challenge posed by their use of poetic language. The question of literary form and the relationship between poetry and prose in the works will receive special attention.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 100A (may be taken concurrently)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 159 Contemporary Japanese Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course examines the historical production and reception of key Japanese literary and film texts; how issues of gender, ethnicity, social roles, and national identity specific to each text address changing economic and social conditions in postwar Japan.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 100A (may be taken concurrently)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 160 Introduction to Japanese Linguistics: Grammar 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

This course deals with issues of the structure of the Japanese language and how they have been treated in the field of linguistics. It focuses on phonetics/phonology, morphology, writing systems, dialects, lexicon, and syntax/semantics, historical changes, and genetic origins. Students are required to have intermediate knowledge of Japanese. No previous linguistics training is required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 10, Japan 10B or Japan 10X

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Hasegawa

JAPAN 161 Introduction to Japanese Linguistics: Usage 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course deals with issues of the usage of the Japanese language and how they have been treated in the field of linguistics. It concentrates on pragmatics, modality/evidentiality, deixis, speech varieties (politeness, gender, written vs. spoken), conversation management, and rhetorical structure. Students are required to have intermediate knowledge of Japanese. No previous linguistics training is required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japan 10, Japan 10B, or Japan 10X

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Hasegawa

JAPAN 163 Translation: Theory and Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

An overview of the concepts of theoretical, contrastive, and practical linguistics which form the basis for work in translation between Japanese and English through hands-on experience. Topics include translatability, various kinds of meaning, analysis of the text, process of translating, translation techniques, and theoretical background.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Japanese 100, Japanese 100B, or Japanese 100X; or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Hasegawa

JAPAN 164 Reading Japanese Texts Using Advanced Grammatical Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course is designed for those at high-intermediate to low-advanced level of fluency in Japanese to further develop their reading proficiency through detailed grammatical analyses of selected texts. Although adequate knowledge of both vocabulary and grammar is essential for understanding the text, often in foreign-language learning, vocabulary typically receives more emphasis than grammar.

Through assigned texts, students learn through a hands-on approach how words are combined to form a phrase, how phrases are combined to form a clause, how clauses are combined to form a sentence, how sentences are combined to form a text. Readings are selected from modern Japanese writing on current affairs, social sciences, history, and literature.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: J10B or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Hasegawa

JAPAN 170 Classical Japanese Literature in Translation 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Fall 2010, Fall 2008

This course surveys Japanese poetry and/or prose written predominantly in or before the Heian Period (794-1185). Topics will vary.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 173 Modern Japanese Literature in Translation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2020

This course surveys modern Japanese fiction and poetry in the first half of the 20th century. Topics will vary.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN C176 Archaeology and Japanese Identities 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2007

Course explores stereotypical images of traditional Japanese culture and people through archaeological analysis. Particular emphasis will be placed on changing lifeways of past residents of the Japanese islands, including commoners, samurai, and nobles. Consideration will be given to the implications of these archaeological studies for our understanding of Japanese identities.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Also listed as: ANTHRO C125B

JAPAN 177 Urami: Rancor and Revenge in Japanese Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

Urami (rancor, resentment) has an enduring presence in Japanese literature. Figures overburdened with urami become demons, vengeful ghosts, or other transformed, dangerous, scheming characters. They appear in many different genre and eras. The course's topic enables discussion on concepts important for understanding Japanese literary works such as hyper-attentiveness to shifting social status, the role of groupness in targeting victims, the imperatives of shame, secrets, the circumscribed agency of women, and the reach of Buddhist teachings into behavioral norms. For those interested in comparative literature, the course offers an opportunity to take a measure of what Japanese narratives offer as legitimate causes of rancor and revenge.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Wallace

JAPAN 178 Murakami Haruki and Miyazaki Hayao: the Politics of Japanese Culture from the Bubble to the Present 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2019

This course will examine the works of the novelist Murakami Haruki and the animator Miyazaki Hayao within the context of contemporary Japanese aesthetics and history. Both Murakami and Miyazaki debuted in 1979 and their work has very much defined Japan's cultural experience from the tail end of the Era of High Growth Economics through the Bubble Era, the Lost Decade, and into the twenty-first century. Students will explore the works of these two figures in the context of the history of Japanese literature and film and its relation to larger political, social, and cultural trends of Japan from the 1980s to the present.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture and 6 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

JAPAN 180 Ghosts and the Modern Literary Imagination 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2008, Spring 2008

The course examines the complex meanings of the ghost in modern Japanese literature and culture. Tracing the representations of the supernatural in drama, fiction, ethnography, and the visual arts, we explore how ghosts provide the basis for remarkable flights of imaginative speculation and literary experimentation. Topics include: storytelling and the loss of cultural identity, horror and its conversion into aesthetic pleasure, fantasy, and the transformation of the commonplace. We will consider historical, visual, anthropological, and literary approaches to the supernatural and raise cultural and philosophical questions crucial to an understanding of the figure and its role in the greater transformation of modern Japan (18th century to the present).

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 181 Reframing Disasters: Fukushima, Before and After 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2016

The course considers the different literary, social and ethical formations that arise or are destroyed in disaster. It explores how Japanese literature and media, before and after 3:11, attempt to translate the unrepresentable, and in so doing, to create a new type of literacy about 1) trauma and the temporality of disaster, 2) precarity, community and the public sphere and 3) sustainability and ecological scale. The course will pay particular attention to a range of works that explicitly or obliquely reframe iconic or popular representations of disasters in cinema, literature and other media, taking into account of the readiness with which certain cultural forms lend themselves to vistas of disaster.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

JAPAN 185 Introduction to Japanese Cinema 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2015, Spring 2013

This course will offer a survey of Japanese cinema from its earliest days to contemporary anime (animated film). Providing the basic tools for analyzing film language, the course begins by analyzing the interactions between early Japanese film and early Hollywood. We then consider the development of Japanese film, discussing style and structures of connotation, figurative meaning and political critique, the uses of the historical past and ideology, and the roles of youth culture and views of the family. We consider the place of important individual directors. We also discuss current critical debates about broader trends in Japanese film and culture, as they illuminate the construction and ruptures in notions of Japanese identity.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

JAPAN 188 Japanese Visual Culture: Introduction to Anime 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

This course is an introduction to Japanese animation, or anime, from its earliest forms (in relationship to manga) to recent digital culture, art, and games. We will analyze and study mainly animated feature films and read the critical work they inspired. We will address such issues as cultural memory and apocalyptic imagination, robots and the post-human, cities, nature, and the transnational; gender, shojo, and the aesthetics of "cute," as well as consider specific issues in the theoretical understanding of anime within technology and media theory.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 3.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: O'Neill

JAPAN 189 Topics in Japanese Film 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2013

Selected topics in the study of Japanese film.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 2-3 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 8-8 hours of lecture and 4-6 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN H195A Honors Course 2 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Directed independent study and preparation of senior honors thesis. Limited to senior honors candidates in East Asian Languages (for description of Honors Program, see Index).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior honors standing in East Asian Languages, 3.5 GPA in major, 3.3 overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

JAPAN H195B Honors Course 2 - 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Fall 2015

Directed independent study and preparation of senior honors thesis.

Limited to senior honors candidates in East Asian Languages (for description of Honors Program, see Index).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior honors standing in East Asian Languages, 3.5 major GPA, 3.3 overall

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-5 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series. Final exam not required.

JAPAN C225 Readings in Japanese Buddhist Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This seminar serves as an introduction to a broad range of Japanese Buddhist literature belonging to different historical periods and genres, including liturgical texts; monastic records, rules, and ritual manuals; doctrinal treatises; biographies of monks; and histories of Buddhism in Japan. Students are required to do all the readings in the original languages, which are classical Chinese (Kanbun) and classical Japanese. It will also serve as a tools and methods course, covering basic reference works and secondary scholarship in the field of Japanese Buddhism. The content of the course will be adjusted from semester to semester to accommodate the needs and interests of the students.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: BUDDSTD C225

JAPAN 230 Seminar in Classical Japanese Poetry 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

Topics run from Japan's earliest extant poetic anthologies in Chinese (Kaifuso) or Japanese (Man'yoshu) to medieval linked verse (renga) and Edo haikai.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JAPAN 232 Japanese Bibliography 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2016, Spring 2010

An introduction to research tools for Japanese studies. The course gives primary consideration to literary sources but also presents an overview of basic texts and web sites dealing with bibliographical citation, lexicography, history, religion, fine arts, geography, personal names, biographies, genealogies, and calendrical calculation. Internet access is required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Reading ability in modern Japanese; classical Japanese helpful but not required

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JAPAN 234 Seminar in Classical Japanese Drama 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Spring 2013, Fall 2004

Topics may include examples from the Noh, Kyogen, Joruri, or Kabuki theaters.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JAPAN 240 Seminar in Classical Japanese Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Topics may include works of Heian fiction such as The Tale of Genji (Genji monogatari) and memoirs such as The Pillow Book (Makura no soshi).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

JAPAN 242 Seminar in Medieval Japanese Texts 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2006, Fall 2001

Topics may include medieval war tales (gunki monogatari), essays (zuihitsu), and diaries in Japanese or Sino-Japanese (kanbun).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Two semesters of classical Japanese

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

JAPAN 255 Seminar in Prewar Japanese Literature 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021

Reading and critical evaluation of selected texts in prewar (roughly the 1860s through the 1940s) Japanese literature and literary and cultural criticism. Texts change with each offering of the course.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JAPAN 259 Seminar in Postwar Japanese Literature 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2021

Reading and critical evaluation of selected texts in postwar (roughly the 1940s through the present) Japanese literature and literary and cultural criticism. Texts change with each offering of the course.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing and permission of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JAPAN 298 Directed Study for Graduate Students 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Special tutorial or seminar on selected topics not covered by available courses or seminars.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 5-60 hours of independent study per week
 6 weeks - 2.5-30 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 1.5-28 hours of independent study per week
 10 weeks - 1.5-20 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

JAPAN 299 Thesis Preparation and Related Research 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of thesis supervisor and graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-35 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 1.5-28 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

JAPAN 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the graduate adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for a master's degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of graduate adviser

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

JAPAN 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser, intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare for various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 1.5-15 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Japanese/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.