

Japanese

Marco Aurelio Silva Fonseca

Yukiko Shigeto

Wakako Suzuki

The courses in Japanese language and literature will provide an opportunity for an in-depth study of modern Japanese language and acquiring literary and cultural knowledge of Japan. Students will gain both oral and written language proficiency and literary analysis skills.

Learning Goals

- **Language Competency:** Through sequentially structured language courses and a wide range of courses in Japanese culture, students will develop the linguistic skills necessary to speak, listen, read, and write in a range of social contexts. Advanced language courses prepare students to take an N2 level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.
- **Culture:** Through the exploration of literary and cultural histories of Japan, students will be able to articulate an appreciation and understanding of how modern cultural products of Japan, ranging from film, anime, and books, are fostered on the rich cultural tradition of the past.
- **Critical Thinking:** Through intense study of the Japanese language, students will gain a critical distance from their first language and naturalized frame of reference. This distance will enable them to practice ethical comparativism in engaging with cultures different from their own.
- **Research Experience:** Students will be able to use Japanese-language sources for the purpose of writing analyses of literary and cultural topics.

Placement in language courses: Students with previous language experience in Japanese must take a placement test in order to enroll. Contact Professor Shigeto to arrange a meeting.

Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy course and credit requirements for the major or minor after the major or minor has been declared.

Total credit requirements for a Japanese major (exclude senior honor's project): 36

Major in Japanese Language and Literatures:

- 36 Credits excluding honors project
- Required Courses
 - 20 credits in Japanese language courses listed below, of which at least eight credits should be 300 level or above
 - 8 credits in Japanese literature courses (see course list below)
 - 8 credits in electives (see course list below)
- Other notes
 - Students who place into the third year can substitute up to four credits in language courses with literature or elective courses
 - No more than 12 credits from off-campus and transfer credit may be applied to the major
 - Students pursuing a double-major in Japanese and another discipline are allowed to use a four-credit course selected from the approved list to be counted from another major programs
 - No more than four credits in independent study may be applied toward the major with the approval of the Japanese faculty
- Senior Requirements
 - Expand one course paper and complete a senior project
 - Oral examination
- Honors
 - Students submit a Honors in Major Study Application to their department
 - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
 - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
 - Accumulated at least 87 credits
 - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.

- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
- Major GPA of at least 3.500
- Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
- Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course.
- Pass the senior assessment with distinction
- The department will submit the Honors applications to the Registrar's Office of students pursuing Honors by the specified deadline
- The department submit "Senior Assessment/Major Study Certificate" to the Registrar's Office no later the Reading Day
- An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

Language Courses (20 credits)

Japanese 105 and 106 *Elementary Japanese*
 Japanese 205 and 206 *Intermediate Japanese*
 Japanese 305 and 306 *Third-Year Japanese*
 Japanese 405 and 406 *Fourth-Year Japanese (repeatable)*
 Japanese 400/ Global Literature 222 *Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture*
 Japanese 438/Global Literature 338 *Undoing the Japanese National Narrative through Literature and Film*

Japanese Literature Courses (8 credits)

Global Literature 312 *Solitude and Imagination*
 Global Literature 322 *Eccentric Monks and Hermits in Japan*
 Global Literature 325 *Imagining Community through Japanese Literature and Film*
 Global Literature 387 *ST: Youth in Precarious Japan*
 Japanese 400/ Global Literature 222 *Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture*
 Japanese 425/Global Literature 225 *Exploring Human-Nonhuman Dynamics in Japanese Literature*
 Japanese 438/Global Literature 338 *Undoing the Japanese National Narrative through Literature and Film*

Electives (8 credits)

Art History 143 *Buddhist Art in Asia*
 Japanese 400/Global Literature 222 *Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture*
 Japanese 425/Global Literature 225 *Exploring Human-Nonhuman Dynamics in Japanese Literature*
 Global Literature 301 *Chinese Literature and Film Adaptation*
 Global Literature 305 *Youth and Revolution in Contemporary Chinese Literature and Culture*
 Global Literature 312 *Solitude and Imagination*
 Global Literature 325 *Imagining Community through Japanese Literature and Film*
 Global Literature 338 *Undoing the Japanese National Narrative through Literature and Film*
 History 109 *Historical Roots of East Asia*
 History 110 *East Asian History 1600 to the Present*
 History 205 *East Asian Environmental History*
 History 241 *Early Japanese History*
 History 243 *Modern Japanese History*
 History 248 *Topics in Asian History*
 History 348 *Horseriders and Samurai*
 History 355 *Pacific Whaling History*
 Japanese 405-406 *Fourth Year Japanese*
 Philosophy 360 *Asian Philosophy of Women, Gender, and Sexuality*
 Religion 110 *Introduction to East Asian Philosophy*

Minor in Japanese:

- 20 Credits
- Required Courses
 - 2 years of Japanese from Japanese 105, 106, 205, and 206
 - One course of Japanese language or culture
- Other notes
 - Students who start with second-year Japanese will need to take 12 additional credits of Japanese language and culture
 - No courses taken P-D-F after declaration can be counted

105, 106 Elementary Japanese**Fall, Spring****Fonseca****4 credits**

This course introduces basic grammar patterns, hiragana, katakana, and kanji, while providing the student with the opportunity to practice conversational skills and to read cultural and literary materials. 4 periods per week plus 1 period of Conversation Session outside of the class with a native speaker. *Prerequisite for 106:* Japanese 105.

200 Special Topics**4 credits**

This course explores selected topics in Japanese. Any current offerings follow.

200 ST: Linguistics Through the lens of K-Pop**Spring****Fonseca****4 credits**

This course will cover the core concepts of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, semantics, syntax, and pragmatics. The course will use examples from Korean and Japanese linguistics to interrogate the relationship between pop culture and language. The topics will blend linguistic theory with anime, manga, drama, K-pop, J-pop, and movies. This course does not require prior knowledge of Korean or Japanese language. This course may be elected for credit in Film and Media Studies. Distribution: none.

205, 206 Intermediate Japanese**Fall, Spring****Suzuki****4 credits**

This course continues to introduce new grammar patterns and *kanji*, while providing the student with the opportunity to practice conversational skills and to read cultural and literary materials. Course may meet up to five scheduled periods per week. 4 periods per week plus 1 period of Conversation Session outside of the class with a native speaker. *Prerequisite for 205:* Japanese 106 or consent of instructor. *Prerequisite for 206:* Japanese 205 or consent of instructor.

305, 306 Third-Year Japanese**Fall, Spring****Fonseca****4 credits**

A comprehensive grammar review plus continued instruction and practice in Japanese conversation, grammar, and composition. Focus on development of strong reading and translation skills in order to explore ways to recognize and communicate intercultural differences. Students must know how to use a *kanji* dictionary. *Prerequisite for 305:* Japanese 206 or consent of instructor. *Prerequisite for 306:* Japanese 305 or consent of instructor. Students who have not taken Japanese at Whitman previously are required to take an oral and written placement examination for entrance.

400 Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture**Not offered 2023-24****4 credits**

This course introduces students to selected works of Japanese literature from the 20th century. The course will cover a wide range of prose fiction including autobiographical fiction, realist and fantastic novels as well as works in popular literature genres, including detective and satirical fiction. We will explore the ambivalent ways in which

Japanese writers incorporated Western literary theories and concepts into the domestic literary tradition in their efforts to create a “modern Japanese literature.” In addition to the impact of industrialization on human perception and writers’ narrative modes, we will consider how modern printing technologies changed reading practices. Taught in English. Students electing to take Japanese 400 will complete some reading, writing, and discussion assignments in Japanese. May be elected as Global Literature 222.

405, 406 Fourth-Year Japanese

Fall-405

Suzuki

4 credits

The course will begin with a program to develop proficiency in the four communication skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing as well as cultural understanding. Approximately 250 kanji compounds will be introduced, and kanji introduced in the first, second, and third-year classes will be reviewed. The focus of the program will be to help students gain a broader background in Japanese language and culture by reading literary texts and essays, and to explore the challenges of translating those texts into English. Students also will be expected to express themselves orally without having to rely on heavily prefabricated phrases. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite for 405:* Japanese 306 or consent of instructor. *Prerequisite for 406:* Japanese 405 or consent of instructor.

425 Exploring Human-Nonhuman Dynamics in Japanese Literature

Not offered 2023-24

4 credits

This course introduces representative works in Japanese literature that address human-nonhuman relationships. We will explore how each work presents a cosmology of its own, released from strict nature-culture and subject-object divisions. While paying attention to specific anthropogenic environmental changes that the writers are responding to, we will also consider how their perspectives and attunement to surrounding presences- including the dead- might enhance our capacity to imagine a life with others on an imperiled planet. In addition to literary texts, some films and anime will be included. This course counts for Environmental Humanities credit. May be elected as Global Literature 225. *Prerequisite:* Japanese 306.

438 Undoing the Japanese National Narrative through Literature and Film

Not offered 2023-24

4 credits

In this course we focus on the literary works and films of Japan’s post-WWII period from the mid-1940s through the 1970s and explore the ways in which writers and filmmakers responded to the social and cultural transformations brought about by war, defeat, occupation, and recovery. The main questions to be addressed include: How did writers and filmmakers engage with the question of war responsibility in and through their works? What does it mean to “take responsibility for war”? How do their works, at both levels of form and content, critique and undo the official national narrative that largely coincided with the modernization theory put forth in the early 1960s? How long does the “postwar” last? Taught in English. May be elected as Global Literature 338. Students enrolled in this course (Japanese 438) will do writing and some of the reading assignments in Japanese.

491, 492 Independent Study in Japanese Language

Fall, Spring

Staff

1-4 credits

This class is designed for students who have completed three years of college-level Japanese and who desire to pursue further study in Japanese language, literature, or culture. The instructor will choose texts on topics in which the student shows interest; students will read and prepare translations of selected readings and write a critical introductory essay. *Prerequisites:* Japanese 306 or equivalent.

498 Honors Thesis

Fall, Spring

Staff

4 credits

Designed to further independent research leading to the preparation of an undergraduate honors thesis in Japanese. Required of and limited to senior honors candidates in Japanese major. *Prerequisite:* admission to honors candidacy.

The program in Japanese also includes courses in English. These classes are listed in the *Art History and Visual Culture Studies* and *Global Literatures* sections of the catalog.

