Japanese
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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 two course papers  
  - 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 than 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 Literature Courses (8 credits)
Global Literature 222 Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture
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 328 Haiku and Nature in Japan
Global Literature 338 Undoing the Japanese National Narrative through Literature and Film

Electives (8 credits)
Art History 248 Japanese Art and Aesthetics
Global Literature 222 Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature and Culture
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 322 Eccentric Monks and Hermits in Japan
Global Literature 325 Imagining Community through Japanese Literature and Film
Global Literature 328 Haiku and Nature in Japan
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 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
Religion 160 Asian Religions and the Environment
Religion 251 Mahayana Buddhism
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 PDF after declaration can be counted

105, 106 Elementary Japanese
Fall, Spring  
Johnson  
4 credits
The grammatical basis for reading modern Japanese literature and for conducting conversations on general topics. Course may meet up to five scheduled periods per week. Prerequisite for 106: Japanese 105.

205, 206 Intermediate Japanese
Fall, Spring  
Takemoto  
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. 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  
Shigeto  
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.

405, 406 Fourth-Year Japanese
Fall, Spring  
Shigeto  
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.

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.