JAPANESE STUDIES, BA

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More Information: https://mll.case.edu/undergraduate/japanese/

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (BA)
Major: Japanese Studies

Program Overview

Today's students find themselves in a world of increasingly multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multicultural contexts. Through a long history of receiving, reworking, and incorporating influences from nearby cultural centers on the Asian mainland, from surrounding Pacific islands, and from the world beyond (including Europe and the Americas), Japan has developed a tradition of multiculturalism—a tradition that is best understood through interdisciplinary study. Following this thread, the Japanese Studies Program seeks to foster the student's global and interdisciplinary perspectives, while at the same time maintaining a flexibility that allows individuals to pursue their own areas of interest. To further foster the student's linguistic and cultural development, the Japanese Studies Program strongly encourages study abroad in Japan for a year, a semester, or a summer.

Students may pursue a major in Japanese Studies or a minor in Japanese. The program offers a variety of courses to fulfill the requirements, ranging from five levels of the Japanese language to courses about Japanese cinema, literature, and pop culture. Besides these core courses, we encourage the student to take related courses in such interdisciplinary areas as Asian art, cinema, comparative literature of Japan and the West, Japanese religion and history, and international business. Taking advantage of the varied resources of the university and University Circle institutions, the Japanese Studies Program makes the study of Japanese culture an integral part of the student's undergraduate education. Furthermore, the Japanese Studies Program provides an excellent foundation for graduate or professional school or for careers in international business and finance, careers involving technological or medical exchange, and careers in law, journalism, foreign service, or the arts.

All courses in modern languages and literatures are taught primarily in the target language, unless the course is cross-listed with the World Literature Program or other interdisciplinary programs. In addition to scheduled class meetings, elementary and intermediate language courses require that students work with audio or audiovisual materials outside of class.

Career opportunities for students majoring in these areas exist in college and university teaching, translation and interpretation, diplomatic and other government service, business, international nonprofit agencies, and the arts, and can be enhanced by a double major or a secondary major.

Majors in Japanese Studies are expected to acquire the ability to understand, speak, read, and write in Japanese and to develop a sound understanding of the relevant literatures and cultures.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in the Japanese language: listening and speaking; writing and reading; and be able to express abstract thoughts in the acquired language.
- Students will be able to demonstrate translingual and transcultural competence, by perfecting their ability to operate between languages and global cultures.
- Students will be able to analyze texts written in Japanese as well as in translation, such as but not limited to literature, including cinema and other types of cultural productions and non-fiction writings.
- Students will be able to utilize the knowledge and skills acquired to conduct research in a foreign language and practice academic and professional standards.

Placement Procedure

Students with prior experience in Japanese, however acquired (e.g., in high school, at another institution, or via study abroad), work with department faculty members to determine an appropriate level at which to start. In general, one year of high school language instruction is the equivalent to one university-level course. Students who have taken four years or more of one language in high school are generally eligible to take 300-level language courses at CWRU, but the department recommends starting with a course numbered under 320.

Study Abroad

Study abroad in Japan is highly recommended, preferably for a year, a semester, or even short term (see JAPN 235). Every effort is made to grant appropriate credit for courses taken at a Japanese university during the study abroad experience.

Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the **Undergraduate Academics** section of the General Bulletin.

Combined Bachelor's/Master's Programs

Undergraduate students may participate in accelerated programs toward graduate or professional degrees. For more information and details of the policies and procedures related to accelerated studies, please visit the **Undergraduate Academics** section of the General Bulletin.

Program Faculty

Beth M. Carter, PhD
(University of Pennsylvania)
Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; Section Head, Japanese Studies Program; Undergraduate Studies Advisor, Japanese Studies Program
Premodern Japanese literature

Takao Hagiwara, PhD
(University of British Columbia)
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Modern Japanese literature

Lecturers

Lai Jiang, MA
(Indiana University)
Lecturer of Japanese, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Japanese language pedagogy

Yukie Miura, MA
(Purdue University)
Lecturer of Japanese, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Japanese language pedagogy

Kosuke Ogaki, MEd
(Auburn University)
Lecturer of Japanese, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
English for speakers of other languages

Yukiko (Nishida) Onitsuka, EdD
(University of Cincinnati)
Lecturer of Japanese, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Literacy and second-language studies

Program Requirements

Students seeking to complete this major and degree program must meet the **general requirements for bachelor's degrees** and the **Unified General Education Requirements**. Students completing this program as a **secondary major** while completing another undergraduate degree program do not need to satisfy the **school-specific requirements** associated with this major.

The BA in Japanese Studies requires a minimum of 32 credit hours. For students beginning the major at the 200-level, the course requirements are as follows:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses:		
JAPN 201	Intermediate Japanese I	4
JAPN 202	Intermediate Japanese II	4
JAPN 301	Advanced Japanese I	4
JAPN 302	Advanced Japanese II	4
JAPN 350	Contemporary Japanese Texts I	3
JAPN 351	Contemporary Japanese Texts II	3
Four Asian studies, world literature, or other related courses. [a]		12
Total Credit Hours		**34**

a "Other related courses" may include courses in Japanese literature, film, theater, art history, anthropology, philosophy, religion, sociology, political science, or history. Permission of Japanese Studies advisor required.

Students beginning the major at the 300-level do not take JAPN 201 and JAPN 202, but will take two additional courses in an area related to their major research. All other requirements for the BA are the same.

While some language courses can be skipped in a sequence, progression is not allowed in reverse order. Additionally, students may not waive the language requirement.

Courses in other disciplines also form an important component of the Japanese Studies Program. They provide an international, as well as interdisciplinary, perspective on Japanese culture. A faculty advisor supervises each student's selection of these courses.

In addition to the courses required for the major, the following courses are offered in the Japanese Studies Program:

Code	Title	Credit Hours
JAPN/WLIT 215	The World of Manga	3
JAPN/WLIT 225	Japanese Popular Culture and Society	3
JAPN 235	The Japan Experience: Kyoto - Language, Culture & Exchanges	3
JAPN/WLIT 245	Classical Japanese Literature: Enduring Aesthetics in Poetry, Prose, Musings, and Plays	3
JAPN/WLIT 255	Modern Japanese Literature in Translation	3
JAPN 306	Readings in Manga	3
JAPN/WLIT 315	Origins of Anime: Classical Texts, Modern Manga, Anime, and Tales	3
JAPN 335	Japanese Linguistics	3
JAPN/WLIT 337	Love and Loss: Reading The Tale of Genji	3
JAPN/WLIT/RLGN 341	Power of Words: Ritual Uses of Premodern Japanese Literature	3
JAPN 345/ WGST 348/WLIT 345	Japanese Women Writers	3
JAPN/WLIT 355	Modern Japanese Novels and the West	3
JAPN 365/WLIT 365J	Constructing the Samurai: Images of Japanese Warriors from 1100's to the Present	3
JAPN 397	Senior Thesis I [a]	3
JAPN 398	Senior Thesis II [a, b]	3
JAPN 399	Independent Study	1-3
JAPN 450	Japanese in Cultural Context I	3
JAPN 451	Japanese in Cultural Context II	3
JAPN 435	Japanese Linguistics	3

a This course is required to be considered for honors.
b This course requires a substantial research paper in Japanese or English. Students are required to identify their faculty advisors and the topic of their paper by the end of the junior year.

Departmental Honors

The departmental honors program is for especially dedicated majors. Requirements for honors in modern languages and literatures are:

1. GPA of at least 3.5 in the major;
2. Completion of a senior thesis (**JAPN 397**, **JAPN 398**)