

JAPANESE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

The department offers a core language program in Japanese and courses in literature and culture.

The Program

Practical language skills are taught using contemporary methods and materials so that upon entering the upper division a student will have attained substantial fluency in the spoken language (listening and speaking) and the written language (reading and writing). Upper division courses balance the need to further develop language skills with the need to understand and appreciate the richness and diversity of Japanese culture. All students are encouraged to combine their study of language and literature with courses in related fields, and to study abroad through the Education Abroad Program, the UC Davis Study Abroad Program or through internships in Japan.

Career Opportunities

UC Davis graduates have learned that a major in Japanese is a meaningful, earned distinction that facilitates entrance to graduate programs and professional schools. In addition, job opportunities abound in virtually all career paths, especially for graduates who have completed study abroad.

Honors Program

To be eligible to receive high or highest honors in the Japanese major, students must complete a senior thesis project. A student interested in pursuing a senior thesis project must enroll in JPN 194H and complete a scholarly paper or similar research project under the direction of a senate faculty member. The thesis project will have a minimum duration of two quarters and carry a minimum of 6 units of credit. To qualify to undertake the senior thesis project, a student must have completed at least 135 units with a minimum GPA of 3.500 in courses counted toward the major. Interested students should consult with faculty in their field of interest by the quarter before they hope to commence work on the project (in most cases this will be the Spring Quarter of their junior year). Students who complete the senior thesis project and have an overall GPA that qualifies them for honors may be recommended by the faculty for honors, high honors, or highest honors at graduation.

Education Abroad Program

The university maintains study abroad programs in Japan. They offer excellent opportunities for students to polish their language skills and experience Asian cultures firsthand. Students are encouraged to participate. Appropriate courses taken abroad can be applied toward the major or the minor. For details, see the department's undergraduate advisor or the Global Learning Hub (<https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/>).

Related Courses

See East Asian Studies (EAS) (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/>) course list.

Prerequisite Credit

No student may repeat a course if that course is a prerequisite for a course that has already been completed with a grade of C– or better.

Placement

JPN 001 is intended for beginning students with no prior knowledge of the Japanese language. Students who do have some knowledge but wish to improve their skills should meet with one of the advisors to discuss appropriate placement. Students must follow departmental guidelines for placement in all language courses and instructor approval is required for enrollment.

Backtracking

Satisfactory completion of a language course is evidence that a student's language skills are beyond the level of those expected in its prerequisite courses. Accordingly, students who have completed a language course cannot go back and take its prerequisites. If the prerequisite courses are required for the major, students may substitute other courses. Students who are not sure how this requirement applies to them should speak to the undergraduate advisor.

Waived Language Courses

Students with exceptional language ability may waive required language courses. If lower division courses have been waived, students will not have to take courses in their place. If upper division courses have been waived, students can use other appropriate courses to earn the units they need to complete the major. Consult the undergraduate advisor regarding the selection of appropriate courses.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Japanese Bachelor of Arts is 40.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
Complete 0-30 units:		0-30
JPN 001 & JPN 002 & JPN 003 & JPN 004 & JPN 005 & JPN 006	Elementary Japanese and Elementary Japanese and Elementary Japanese and Intermediate Japanese and Intermediate Japanese and Intermediate Japanese	
OR		
Equivalent as determined by a language placement exam.		
Recommended but not required:		
CHN 010	Modern Chinese Literature (In English)	
CHN 011	Great Books of China (in English)	
CHN/JPN 050	Introduction to the Literature of China & Japan	
HIS 009B	History of East Asian Civilization	
JPN 010	Masterworks of Japanese Literature (in English)	
JPN 025	Japanese Language & Culture (in English)	
LIN 001 or LIN 001Y	Introduction to Linguistics Introduction to Linguistics	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		0-30
Depth Subject Matter		

Grading: Students may take up to two and no more than two (regular, letter-graded) courses for the major on a P/NP basis. Courses which are only offered on a P/NP basis do not count toward these limits.

JPN 101	Japanese Literature in Translation: The Early Period	4
JPN 102	Japanese Literature in Translation: The Middle Period	4
JPN 103	Japanese Literature in Translation: The Modern Period	4
JPN 111	Modern Japanese: Reading & Discussion	4
JPN 112	Modern Japanese: Reading & Discussion	4
JPN 113	Modern Japanese: Reading & Discussion	4
JPN 151	Japanese Linguistics	4

Note: With prior approval of the undergraduate advisor, students already proficient in Japanese at any third-year level¹ must take other upper division Japanese (JPN) courses to replace language course(s).

Choose three; at least 12 units: 12

JPN 104	Modern Japanese Literature: War & Revolution
JPN 105	Modern Japanese Literature: Hero & Anti-Hero
JPN 106	Japanese Culture Through Film
JPN 107	Modern Japanese Autobiographies (in English)
JPN/CHN 108	Poetry of China & Japan (in English)
JPN 109	Japanese Popular Culture
JPN 114A	Spoken Japanese
JPN 114B	Spoken Japanese
JPN 114C	Spoken Japanese
JPN 115	Japanese Composition
JPN 116	Culture & History in Kyoto
JPN 121	Advanced Japanese I
JPN 122	Advanced Japanese II
JPN 123	Advanced Japanese III
JPN 130	Readings in Modern Japanese Literature to 1926
JPN 131	Readings in Modern Japanese Literature: 1920-1945
JPN 132	Readings in Modern Japanese Literature: 1945-1970
JPN 133	Readings in Modern Japanese Literature: 1970-Present
JPN 134	Readings in the Humanities: Traditional Culture
JPN 135	Readings in the Humanities: The Modern Period
JPN 136	Readings in Japanese Newspapers
JPN 137	Readings in Contemporary Japanese Literature
JPN 138	Readings in the Humanities: Japan Today
JPN 141	Introduction to Classical Japanese
JPN 152	Traditional Japanese Drama

JPN 153	Love, Sexuality & the Family in Modern Japanese Literature
JPN 154	Tourism & Heritage in Japan
JPN 155	Introduction to Japanese Folklore
JPN 156/CTS 148B	Japanese Literature on Film
JPN 157	Japanese Women Writers
JPN 158	The Supernatural in Japan
JPN 160	The Culture of Japanese Food
JPN 162	Japan Travelogue: Ethnographic Writing on Japanese Culture & People
Up to 4 units:	
JPN 194H	Special Thesis Honors Project
Up to 4 units:	
JPN 198 & JPN 199	Directed Group Study and Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates
or JPN 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates
Up to two (8 units) upper division Chinese courses ²	
AHI 164	The Arts of Japan
COM 112	Japanese Cinema
ECN 171	Economy of East Asia
HIS 194A	Aristocratic & Feudal Japan
HIS 194B	Early Modern Japan
HIS 194C	Modern Japan
HIS 194D	Business & Labor in Modern Japan
POL 148B	Government & Politics in East Asia: Japan
RST 170	(Discontinued for fall 2022) **
RST 172	Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism
OR	
Other advanced literature and culture courses selected in consultation with the undergraduate advisor.	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal 40	
Total Units 40-70	

1

JPN 111-JPN 112-JPN 113.

2

Excluding CHN 111, CHN 112, CHN 113, CHN 120, CHN 150, CHN 192, CHN 194H, CHN 195H.

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.