

Japanese

Department of Linguistics

Japanese
College of Arts and Sciences
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Overview

This area of study is available as a special major through the College of Arts and Sciences. It is not a separately registered degree program. Refer to the Special Majors section (<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/academicprograms/spma.shtml>) for more information. For information on the minor, contact the department.

While English continues to be the primary language for international communication, the Japanese language is acquiring status as a major foreign language, particularly for those who aspire to pursue relationships with East Asia as well as Japan. The Japanese language is spoken by the entire population of Japan - about 125 million - and ranks ninth among the languages of the world in terms of the number of native speakers. It is also studied widely as a foreign language in East Asia. Contrary to a common belief that asserts the uniqueness of the Japanese language, it is a very typical human language with respect to grammatical structure.

The Japanese curriculum provides a solid foundation for an understanding and appreciation of the rich and diverse culture of Japan. The language, culture, linguistics, and pedagogy courses offered are useful to students who aspire to an East Asia-related academic or professional career in education, government, communications, or business, as well as in other fields in the United States and abroad.

The curriculum of the Japanese program includes:

- Courses designed to develop or improve competence in spoken and written Japanese through the advanced level;
- Courses on Japanese culture, linguistics and pedagogy;
- Courses that examine Japanese business culture and vocabulary, and science and technology topics in Japanese.

About our Degrees

The Japanese curriculum provides a solid foundation for an understanding and appreciation of the rich culture of Japan. The curriculum includes:

- Courses designed to develop competence in written and spoken Japanese through the advanced level, utilizing an innovative team-teaching approach for the first three years as well as advanced-level independent study options for fourth-year Japanese
- Courses on Japanese culture, linguistics (taught in English), and on the teaching of Japanese as a foreign language (taught in Japanese)

The Japanese curriculum provides a solid foundation for an understanding and appreciation of the rich culture of Japan. The curriculum includes: Courses designed to develop competence in written and spoken Japanese through the advanced level, utilizing an innovative team-teaching approach for the first three years as well as fourth-year advanced-level study including independent study options. Also, the program offers courses specifically designed to improve the target language proficiency in specialized areas such as science and technology, and business, and courses on Japanese culture, linguistics (taught in English), and on the teaching of Japanese as a foreign language (taught in Japanese).

Acceptance Information

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite and required courses.

Application should be made when the student has completed the prerequisite courses, or during the semester in which they will be completed.

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

Japanese

About our Faculty

Dr. Mitsuaki Shimojo's research centers on the function of syntax in discourse, with a focus on Japanese syntax.

Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Programs for study abroad are available. Study abroad is particularly encouraged for majors and minors. For more information, see [Study Abroad Programs](#).

Serious students are strongly encouraged to take Japan-related courses across the university curriculum, and to study in Japan for a summer or a full academic year.

Of interest to students enrolled in Japanese language courses is the Asian Studies Program, which offers a major in Asian Studies and a minor in Asian studies. For information, contact Dr. Kristin Stapleton, Director, 714 Clemens Hall at (716) 645-3474 or kstaple@buffalo.edu.

Career Information and Further Study

The language and culture courses offered are useful to students who aspire to an East Asia-related academic or professional career in education, government, communications, business, or and other fields in the United States and abroad.

Degree Options

Many students opt to combine a minor in Japanese with a major in social sciences, engineering, the humanities, the sciences, or management. A special major in Japanese studies can be arranged in consultation with the program director and the director of special majors (in the College of Arts and Sciences Student Advisement and Services office). Students interested in Japanese linguistics may want to pursue a special major in language and linguistics with a concentration in Japanese. For more information, contact the program director, Mitsuaki Shimojo, in the Department of Linguistics, (716) 645-0131.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: Minor

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Linguistics](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

Japanese - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite and required courses.

Advising Note

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Application should be made after the prerequisite courses have been completed or during the semester in which they are completed.

Students with advanced Japanese language proficiency and/or study abroad credits should consult with the program director to arrange an appropriate program.

Prerequisite Courses

[JPN 101](#) First-year Japanese (or equivalent proficiency)

[JPN 102](#) First-year Japanese (or equivalent proficiency)

Required Courses

[JPN 201](#) Second-year Japanese

[JPN 202](#) Second-year Japanese

[JPN 301](#) Third-year Japanese

[JPN 302](#) Third-year Japanese

Two Japan-related or Japanese language courses, which may include one course from another department.

JPN 101: First-Year Japanese

Credits: 5

Type: LEC

Develops basic language skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. The course is team-taught, and it is not open to native speakers.

JPN 102: First-Year Japanese

Credits: 5

Pre-requisites: [JPN 101](#)

Type: LEC

Develops basic language skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening. The course is team-taught, and it is not open to native speakers.

JPN 201: Second-Year Japanese

Credits: 4

Type: LEC

A sequel to [JPN 102](#). Develops four-skills proficiency and expands knowledge of grammar. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 202: Second-Year Japanese

Credits: 4

Pre-requisites: [JPN 201](#)

Type: LEC

A sequel to [JPN 102](#). Develops four-skills proficiency and expands knowledge of grammar. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 211: Introduction to Japan

Credits: 3

Type: LEC

Introduces Japanese culture and society, and is taught in English.

JPN 301: Third-Year Japanese

Credits: 4

Type: LEC

Further develops four-skills proficiency, and reinforces and expands grammar and communication skills. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 302: Third-Year Japanese

Credits: 4

Pre-requisites: [JPN 301](#)

Type: LEC

Further develops four-skills proficiency, and reinforces and expands grammar and communication skills. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 361: Technical Japanese I

Credits: 4

Semester(s): Fall

Type: DIS

Introduction to technical and scientific Japanese. Further development of four-skills proficiency, with a focus on specialized vocabulary and concepts of science and technology, as well as scientific issues in society. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 362: Technical Japanese II

Credits: 4

Semester(s): Spring

Pre-requisites: [JPN 361](#)

Type: DIS

A sequel to [JPN 361](#). Further development of four-skills proficiency, with a focus on specialized vocabulary and concepts of science and technology, as well as scientific issues in society. Not open to

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native speakers.

JPN 371: Business Japanese

Credits: 4
Type: LEC

Presents readings and conversations based on Japanese business culture. Introduces cultural aspects of business as well as strategies for business conversation. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 372: Business Japanese

Credits: 4
Type: LEC

A sequel to [JPN 371](#). Presents readings and conversations based on Japanese business culture. Introduces cultural aspects of business as well as strategies for business conversation. Not open to native speakers.

JPN 401: Fourth-Year Japanese

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

A sequel to [JPN 302](#). Continues development of four-skills proficiency; further reinforces and expands communication skills through discussion and readings on Japanese culture and society.

JPN 402: Fourth-Year Japanese

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [JPN 401](#)
Type: SEM

A sequel to [JPN 401](#). Continues development of four-skills proficiency; further reinforces and expands communication skills through discussion and readings on Japanese culture and society.

JPN 411: Introduction to Japanese Linguistics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces major areas of linguistic description of Japanese and functions of the language in relation to social structures and interpersonal relationships. Taught in English.

JPN 451: Teaching Japanese As a Foreign Language

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Introduces curricula, instructional materials, methods, classroom techniques, and evaluation strategies associated with the teaching of Japanese as a foreign language. Students acquire practical experience by participating in teaching demonstrations and class observation.

JPN 481: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Course content varies per semester.

JPN 482: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Course content varies per semester.

JPN 494: Senior Capstone Course

Credits: 3
Type: TUT

Course for senior-level majors intended to provide a learning experience that integrates knowledge from lower-level courses. Topics may vary.

JPN 496: Internship/Practicum

Credits: 3
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Hands-on experience in language and cultural studies at institutions and organizations in Western New York and/or nationwide.

JPN 498: Undergraduate Research

Credits: 1-8
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Students collaborate with faculty research mentors on an ongoing project or conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty member. This experience provides students with an inquiry-based learning opportunity and engages them as active learners in a research setting.

JPN 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-8
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Designed for advanced students of Japanese.