Japanese Courses
(Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures) (JPNS)

JPNS Courses
This is a list of courses with the subject code JPNS. For more information, see Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) in the Catalog.

JPNS:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities, field trips). Requirements: first-semester standing.

JPNS:1001 First-Year Japanese: First Semester 5 s.h.

JPNS:1002 First-Year Japanese: Second Semester 5 s.h.

JPNS:1020 Intensive Kanji: Elementary 2 s.h.
Students learn elementary-level Kanji to strengthen their existing knowledge; recommended for students who have studied Japanese for at least one semester at the college level and/or those who plan to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the N4 or N5 level.

JPNS:1030 Japanese for Travelers 2 s.h.
Basic, practical language and social skills that travelers or visitors need in everyday situations, such as making self introductions, ordering food, asking for directions, and traveling by train; Japanese culture, manners and customs, major cities and tourist attractions; for students with no previous experience of Japanese who plan to travel in Japan or would like a practical introduction to the language and culture.

JPNS:1200 Special Topics in Japanese 3 s.h.
Topics vary.

JPNS:1506 Asian Humanities: Japan 3 s.h.
Introduction to premodern, modern, and contemporary Japanese culture; special attention given to the relationship of classical texts to contemporary novels, short stories, manga, anime, music, and film; students consider relationships of textual and visual cultures, high art and low art, moments of crisis and the everyday, the sacred and the profane, men and women. Taught in English. GE: Values and Culture.

JPNS:2001 Second-Year Japanese: First Semester 5 s.h.
Continuation of JPNS:1002. Offered fall semesters. Prerequisites: JPNS:1002. Requirements: undergraduate standing. GE: World Languages Third Level Proficiency.


JPNS:2020 Building Kanji Skills 1 s.h.
Designed as a supplement for students currently enrolled in or who have already taken second-year Japanese and who have no other background in languages that use Chinese characters; students develop strategies and skills to learn Kanji more effectively; recommended for students who would like additional instruction and practice with Kanji. Prerequisites: JPNS:1002.

JPNS:2127 Global Manuscript Cultures 3 s.h.
Manuscripts and global manuscript cultures from a comparative, interdisciplinary perspective; history of the book in the East and West; diverse material supports, physical formats, and written layouts of manuscripts of the 1st to 19th centuries, including social and cultural contexts; manuscript traditions of particular cultural spheres (Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, India, East Asia) and historical processes of diffusion, remediation, and obsolescence. Taught in English. GE: Historical Perspectives. Same as ASIA:2127, CLSA:2127.

JPNS:2175 Japanese Society and Culture 3 s.h.
Cultural anthropology of Japan, including historical tradition, religious ethos, social organization, human ecology, educational and political institutions; emphasis on how these aspects relate to and influence one another. GE: Values and Culture. Same as ANTH:2175.

JPNS:2250 Introduction to the Art of Japan 3 s.h.
Chronological survey of Japan's visual arts in their historical and cultural contexts from Neolithic age to present; extensive use of slides, films, other visual materials. Taught in English. Same as ARTH:2250.

JPNS:3001 Third-Year Japanese I 4 s.h.
Modern Japanese; focus on speaking, listening, reading, writing; materials related to everyday life and civilization in Japan. Offered fall semesters. Prerequisites: JPNS:2002 with a minimum grade of C.

JPNS:3002 Third-Year Japanese II 4 s.h.
Continuation of JPNS:3001. Offered spring semesters. Prerequisites: JPNS:3001 with a minimum grade of C.

JPNS:3020 Intensive Kanji: Intermediate I 2 s.h.
Students learn and strengthen their existing knowledge of Kanji; particularly recommended for third-year Japanese students and those who plan to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the N3 level. Prerequisites: JPNS:1002.

JPNS:3021 Intensive Kanji: Intermediate II 2 s.h.
Students learn upper- to intermediate-level Kanji to strengthen their existing knowledge; particularly recommended for third- or fourth-year Japanese students, and/or those who plan to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the N2 level.

JPNS:3022 Intensive Kanji: Advanced 2 s.h.
Students learn advanced-level Kanji to strengthen their existing knowledge; particularly recommended for fourth-year Japanese students, and/or those who plan to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the N1 level.

JPNS:3107 Classical Japanese: First Semester 3 s.h.
Introduction to vocabulary, grammar, and calligraphic scripts of classical Japanese through readings of primary literary and historic sources; instruction in English, readings in classical and modern Japanese. Prerequisites: JPNS:3002.
JPNS:3128 Introduction to Japanese Linguistics 3 s.h.
Basic structural features of the Japanese language; topics include typological and historical background, writing system, phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and language variation; recommended for students who wish to have a deeper understanding of the Japanese language as well as non-Indo-European languages. Taught in English. Prerequisites: JPNS:1002.

JPNS:3201 Workshop in Japanese Literary Translation 3 s.h.

JPNS:3202 Traditional Japanese Literature in Translation 3 s.h.
Early Japanese literature from 7th to 19th centuries including prose, poetry, drama, and Buddhist texts; students bring traditional Japanese culture to life through practice with experiences ranging from calligraphy, letter folding, and layering kimono patterns to courtly contests and bookbinding. Taught in English.

JPNS:3203 Modern Japanese Fiction in Translation 3 s.h.
Introduction to modern Japanese literature from 1868 to present; focus on representative short stories, novels, and manga; the modern advent of modern Japanese language and the modern novel; rise of autobiographical "I-novel"; Japanese bundan (literary establishment), high modernity, and ero goro nansensu (erotic grotesque nonsense); stories of the war and its endless postwar; the neo-traditional and the avant-garde; literature of economic collapse and internationalization. Taught in English.

JPNS:3204 Topics in Japanese Literature in Translation 3 s.h.
Topics vary. Taught in English.

JPNS:3205 Major Authors in Modern Japanese Literature 3 s.h.
Modern Japanese literary works in English translation; topics vary. Taught in English.

JPNS:3206 Warriors' Dreams 3 s.h.
Images of the warrior in traditional Japanese literature from ancient legendary heroes, medieval warrior monks, and ninja to the unifying generals, masterless samurai, and women revolutionaries of early modern Japan; students discover what is truth and what is fiction when encountering the warrior in popular culture today. Taught in English.

JPNS:3207 Japan Illuminated: Japanese Literature and Visual Culture 3 s.h.
How text and image have been used together to tell stories across 1,000 years of Japanese culture; students read and view illustrated handscrolls, calligraphy, maps, mandalas, early board games, woodblock prints, modern print media, manga and anime; emphasis on visual analysis and material culture. Taught in English.

JPNS:3208 Japanese Film 3 s.h.
History of Japanese cinema with particular attention paid to Japanese conventions and innovations that differ from classical Hollywood or European paradigms (benshi silent-film narrators, jidaigeki period films, wartime propaganda, postwar melodrama, avant-garde Japanese New Wave, rise of Japanese documentary, anime); screenings may include works by world famous directors (Mizoguchi, Ozu, Kurosawa) and recent masters (Nishikawa Miwa, Koreeda Hirokazu, Mitani Koki). Taught in English.

JPNS:3210 Japanese Theater 3 s.h.
Major forms of Japanese theater and performance including No and kyogen, the bunraku puppet theater, kabuki, shingeki "Western" theater, benshi film narration, butoh modern dance, counterculture and street theater of the 1960s, Japanese musicals; focus on textual analysis and performance practices; weekly screenings of theatrical performances and student-led staged readings of contemporary performances. Taught in English.

JPNS:3401 Language in Japanese Society 3 s.h.
Aspects of the Japanese language that reflect culture, social structures of Japan; communication styles and strategies, cross-cultural communication, language in media, metaphors. Prerequisites: JPNS:1002.

JPNS:3402 Japan: Culture and Communication 3 s.h.
How Japanese-speaking people communicate; what factors determine the way they speak; how they communicate nonverbally; how people convey messages and emotions in various social settings. Taught in English. Prerequisites: JPNS:1002.

JPNS:3500 Japanese for Professional Purposes I 3 s.h.
Introduction to essential linguistic skills and practical knowledge needed to effectively communicate in Japanese in various professional contexts and in socially appropriate manners; recommended for anyone interested in working in Japan or using Japanese at work. Prerequisites: JPNS:2002 with a minimum grade of B-. Corequisites: JPNS:3001.

JPNS:3501 Japanese for Professional Purposes II 3 s.h.
Continuation of JPNS:3500; advanced linguistic skills needed to become an effective communicator in various professional settings; develop a deeper understanding of Japanese business culture; improve intercultural communication and problem-solving skills; recommended for students interested in working in Japan or using Japanese at work. Prerequisites: JPNS:3500 with a minimum grade of B-.

JPNS:3601 Contemporary Japanese Culture 3 s.h.
Japanese media and culture including manga (comics), anime (animation), films, video games, television drama, fashion, music, sports, food, and contemporary art in the 20th and 21st centuries; students explore aspects of Japanese society relating to youth and otaku cultures, technology and humanity, gender and sexuality, power and violence, obscenity and censorship, beauty and fashion, and global consumption of and participation in Japanese pop culture. Taught in English.

JPNS:3700 Topics in Global Cinema 3 s.h.
Identification of new models and methods to investigate cinema's relationship to current global issues beyond traditional scholarly focus in Western Europe and the United States; exploration of an emerging field, moving away from the paradigm of national cinema and bringing together shared theoretical frameworks while acknowledging different historical and cultural contexts. Taught in English. Same as ASIA:3700, TRNS:3700, WLLC:3700.
JPNS:4001 Fourth-Year Japanese I 3 s.h.
Modern Japanese; focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening. Offered fall semesters. Prerequisites: JPNS:3002 with a minimum grade of C.

JPNS:4002 Fourth-Year Japanese II 3 s.h.
Continuation of JPNS:4001. Offered spring semesters. Prerequisites: JPNS:4001 with a minimum grade of C.

JPNS:4201 The Tale of Genji 3 s.h.
Close reading of Murasaki Shikibu's classic Tale of Genji; students come to know the characters by exploring the social and cultural context of the tale and discover the art, literature, and film that the Tale of Genji has inspired while tracking its reception through the history of Japan and across the globe. Taught in English.

JPNS:4610 Japan - Age of the Samurai 3 s.h.
Society, culture, and politics of feudal Japan; social class, gender, norms, and political and economic developments explored through cinema and literature. Taught in English. Same as HIST:4610.

JPNS:4615 Modern Japan 3 s.h.
Political, social, and cultural developments of Japanese feudalism; feature films, fiction. Taught in English. Same as HIST:4615.

JPNS:4620 Japan-U.S. Relations 3 s.h.
Political, social, economic, and cultural developments in Japan mid-19th century to late 20th century. Taught in English. Same as HIST:4620.

JPNS:5301 Japanese Linguistics 3 s.h.
Japanese language as linguistic system; basic linguistic terminology; sound systems, grammar, meanings, usages.

JPNS:5901 Practicum in Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language 1-3 s.h.
Teaching apprenticeship guided and supervised by a faculty member skilled in University curriculum and instruction.

JPNS:5902 Individual Japanese for Advanced Students arr.

JPNS:7101 Readings in Modern Japanese 3 s.h.
Readings in modern Japanese.