Japanese Studies (BA)

Major Academic Advisors: Yasufumi Iwasaki (BH 139C) & Keiko Koda (BH 166); Undergraduate Coordinator: Sue Connelly (BH 160) Website: https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/modlang/index.html

The undergraduate major in Japanese Studies promotes advanced proficiency in the Japanese language and a deep understanding of Japanese culture. Students are expected to use their language skills to analyze a variety of cultural narratives, such as films (i.e., Honey and Clover), anime (e.g., My Neighbor Totoro), manga (e.g., Boys over Flowers), literature (e.g., Murakami Haruki, Yoshimoto Banana), virtual games. As a confluence of tradition and cutting-edge technology, contemporary Japanese culture exhibits many unique features, both visible and invisible. Through guided reflection on those features, students are also expected to achieve a better understanding of the self as cultural being. The ultimate goal of the program is to enhance students’ transcultural competence that enables them to negotiate communication across languages and cultures as a way of enriching their lives personally and professionally.

Students who complete primary and additional majors in Japanese Studies have built successful careers in a variety of fields such as government, entrepreneurship and business, law, technology and engineering, media, public health, health policy, and health professionals, nonprofit organizations, entertainment and creative arts, education, translation, interpretation, and more.

Students who arrive at Carnegie Mellon with previous language study and/or who have a high Advanced Placement score, Cambridge GCE Advanced Level, or a high internal placement exam score will be able to begin taking courses toward the major earlier in their undergraduate career. Study abroad programs are highly recommended as they create it opportunities for exposure to language and culture, as well as accelerate progress toward the major.

Outside the classroom there are numerous activities to promote language practice and intercultural exchange, such as internships and tutoring opportunities, assignments with native speakers, weekly Japanese language tables, as well as participation in special cultural events.

This is a suggested schedule for the first 2 years for a Primary Major. It is also available as an Additional Major and a Minor. If time does not permit a major or minor, students with one 300-level class at Carnegie Mellon, a student abroad experience, and a successful oral interview may earn a Foreign Languages and Cultures Certificate.

The remainder of the Major and GenEd can be completed in the junior and senior year.

1st semester

• Complete 2: 76-101, Interpretation & Argument 79-104, Global Histories 36-201 or 36-200, Statistics Freshman Seminar
• 99-101 or 99-102, C@CM
• 82-171, Elementary Japanese I*
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**

2nd semester

• Complete 2: 76-101, Interpretation & Argument 79-104, Global Histories 36-201 or 36-200, Statistics Freshman Seminar
• 82-172, Elementary Japanese II*
• 82-273, Intro Japanese Lng. & Clt.
• xx-xxx, Elective**

3rd semester

• 82-271, Intermediate Japanese I
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**

4th semester

• 82-272, Intermediate Japanese II
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**
• xx-xxx, Elective**

*In Fall 2017, 82-173 & 82-174, which are each 9 units and correspond to the first and second halves of 82-171, respectively, are offered in addition to 82-171 in order to accommodate true beginners without any familiarity with Asian writing systems. https://www.cmu.edu/dietrich/modlang/undergraduate/placement/index.html

**Elective: This space can be used for a pre-requisite course, another GenEd course, major course, or for a course you are interested in.

Academic Advisory Center (4/6/2018)