

ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR, B.A.— JAPANESE CONCENTRATION

Contact Information

Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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Japan is a democracy with a robust economy, advanced technology in fields including AI and robotics, and a major role in international relations. Japanese popular culture, from anime to video games, has been influential across the U.S. and across the globe. Friendships with Japanese, travel abroad, enjoying Japanese food locally, as well as the practice of martial arts and the love of Japanese popular media have motivated students to pursue the study of Japanese at Carolina. In the program, students enjoy meeting others with similar enthusiasms and often take part in extracurricular activities such as the Japan Club and the anime club (COUp).

Department Programs

Majors

- Asian Studies Major, B.A.—Interdisciplinary Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-general-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.—Arab Cultures Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-arab-cultures-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.—Chinese Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-chinese-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.—Japanese Concentration (p. 1)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.—Korean Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-korean-concentration/>)
- Asian Studies Major, B.A.—South Asian Studies Concentration (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-major-ba-south-asian-studies-concentration/>)

Minors

- Arabic Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/arabic-minor/>)
- Asian Studies Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/asian-studies-minor/>)

- Chinese Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/chinese-minor/>)
- Modern Hebrew Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/modern-hebrew-minor/>)
- Hindi-Urdu Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/hindi-urdu-minor/>)
- Japanese Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/japanese-minor/>)
- Korean Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/korean-minor/>)
- Middle Eastern Languages Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/middle-eastern-languages-minor/>)
- Persian Minor (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/persian-minor/>)

Graduate Programs

- M.A. in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (<http://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/asian-studies/>)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Asian studies program, students should be able to:

- Identify or analyze significant aspects of the target cultures by interpreting texts and media
- Demonstrate proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the target language
- Demonstrate experience in the use of the target language outside the language classroom

Requirements

In addition to the program requirements, students must

- earn a minimum final cumulative GPA of 2.000
- complete a minimum of 45 academic credit hours earned from UNC–Chapel Hill courses
- take at least half of their major core requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the major core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for major or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<http://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/general-education-curriculum-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
JAPN 305	Advanced Japanese I ¹	3
JAPN 306	Advanced Japanese II	3
At least three advanced Japanese courses from the list below		9
At least two culture courses from the list below ²		6
One more course that may be from either the advanced Japanese list or the culture list ²		3
Additional Requirements		
Japanese through level 4 ³		4
Total Hours		28

- ¹ Students whose initial language placement is above JAPN 305 should consult the department.
- ² No more than one first-year seminar or senior honors thesis course may be included among the culture courses.
- ³ The first three levels of Japanese (JAPN) can count toward the General Education Foundations requirement and have not been included as additional hours for the major.

Approved courses taken in UNC–Chapel Hill-sponsored study abroad programs may count in the concentration.

Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet core requirements for the concentration.

With the approval of the associate chair of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (ASIA 496 or JAPN 496) in the concentration in Japanese. To register for ASIA 496 or JAPN 496, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.

Advanced Japanese Courses

Code	Title	Hours
JAPN 401	Gateway to Mastering Japanese	3
JAPN 408	Japanese Journalism	3
JAPN 410	Topics in Contemporary Japanese Literature	3
JAPN 411	Food and Culture in Japan	3
JAPN 412	Making Music in Japan	3
JAPN 414	Manga as a Japanese Art and Culture	3
JAPN 415	Sports in Japanese Culture	3
JAPN 416	Understanding Japanese Business Culture and Its Practice	3
JAPN 417	Japanese Culture through Film and Literature	3
JAPN 490	Topics in Japanese Language and Literature	3
JAPN 521	Investigating Japanese Culture through TV Dramas	3
JAPN 590	Advanced Topics in Japanese Language and Literature	3

Culture Courses

Code	Title	Hours
ASIA 63	First-Year Seminar: Japanese Tea Culture	3
ASIA 233	Drugs, Sex, and Sovereignty in East Asia, 1800-1945	3
ASIA 692H	Senior Honors Thesis II	3
ASIA/CMPL 379	Cowboys, Samurai, and Rebels in Film and Fiction H	3
ASIA/CMPL/ WGST 380	Almost Despicable Heroines in Japanese and Western Literature	3
ASIA/CMPL 483	Cross-Currents in East-West Literature	3
HIST 271/ JAPN 231	Ancient and Medieval Japanese History and Culture	3
HIST 370/ JAPN 363	Samurai, Monks, and Pirates: History and Historiography of Japan's Long 16th Century	3
JAPN 160	Introduction to Japanese Literature in Translation	3
JAPN 162	Japanese Popular Culture	3
JAPN 246/ HIST 247	Early Modern Japanese History and Culture	3

JAPN 277	Empire of Sex: Eroticism, Mass Culture, and Geopolitics in Japan, 1945-Present	3
JAPN 375	The Culture of Modern, Imperial Japan, 1900-1945	3
JAPN 451	Swords, Tea Bowls, and Woodblock Prints: Exploring Japanese Material Culture	3
JAPN 482	Embodying Japan: The Cultures of Beauty, Sports, and Medicine in Japan	3
JAPN/LING 563	Structure of Japanese	3

H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans can be used as a guide to identify the courses required to complete the major and other requirements needed for degree completion within the expected eight semesters. The actual degree plan may differ depending on the course of study selected (second major, minor, etc.). Students should meet with their academic advisor to create a degree plan that is specific and unique to their interests. The sample plans represented in this catalog are intended for first-year students entering UNC–Chapel Hill in the fall term. Some courses may not be offered every term.

The Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies requires that *all* students with prior knowledge of Japanese take a placement test. Their beginning language course at UNC is decided by the placement result (not by test credit or transfer credit).

A student's initial placement is the most important determinant of how long it will take to complete the major. It's also important to be aware that almost all Japanese language courses are only offered in fall or spring, but not both.

Sample Plan One

This plan is for a student who either is a beginner in Japanese, or has some background but has placed into JAPN 101.

First Year		Hours
JAPN 101	Elementary Japanese I (fall only)	4
JAPN 102	Elementary Japanese II (spring only)	4
FYS or other major culture course		3
Hours		11
Sophomore Year		
JAPN 203	Intermediate Japanese I (fall only)	4
JAPN 204	Intermediate Japanese II (spring only)	4
Major culture course		3
Hours		11
Junior Year		
JAPN 305	Advanced Japanese I (fall only)	3
JAPN 306	Advanced Japanese II (spring only)	3
Major culture course		3
Hours		9
Senior Year		
JAPN 401	Gateway to Mastering Japanese (fall only)	3

JAPN 4--	JAPN 400-Level Elective (Two 4th-year language courses)	6
Hours		9
Total Hours		40

Sample Plan Two

This plan is for a student who either is a beginner in Japanese, or has some background but has placed into JAPN 101, and who does a summer study abroad program.

First Year	Hours
JAPN 101 Elementary Japanese I (fall only)	4
JAPN 102 Elementary Japanese II (spring only)	4
FYS or other major culture course	3
Summer after first year	
JAPN 203 Intermediate Japanese I (in UNC Summer in Tokyo program)	4
JAPN 204 Intermediate Japanese II (in UNC Summer in Tokyo program)	4
Hours	
	19
Sophomore Year	
JAPN 305 Advanced Japanese I (fall only)	3
JAPN 306 Advanced Japanese II (spring only)	3
Major culture course	3
Hours	
	9
Junior Year	
JAPN 401 Gateway to Mastering Japanese (fall only)	3
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course)	3
Hours	
	6
Senior Year	
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (Two 4th-year language courses)	6
Hours	
	6
Total Hours	
	40

Sample Plan Three

This plan is for a student who has placed into JAPN 102. Note that this scenario **will not always be possible** as it depends upon the offering of Elementary Japanese in the summer term, which happens in **some but not all years**.

First Year	Hours
Summer before first year	
JAPN 102 Elementary Japanese II (in second summer session)	4
First year	
JAPN 203 Intermediate Japanese I (fall only)	4
JAPN 204 Intermediate Japanese II (spring only)	4
FYS or other major culture course	3
Hours	
	15
Sophomore Year	
JAPN 305 Advanced Japanese I (fall only)	3
JAPN 306 Advanced Japanese II (spring only)	3

Major culture course	3
Hours	
	9

Junior Year

JAPN 401 Gateway to Mastering Japanese (fall only)	3
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course)	3

Hours	
	6

Senior Year

JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (Two 4th-year language courses)	6
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Hours	
	6

Total Hours	
	36

Sample Plan Four

This plan is for a student who has placed into JAPN 203.

First Year	Hours
JAPN 203 Intermediate Japanese I (fall only)	4
JAPN 204 Intermediate Japanese II (spring only)	4
FYS or other major culture course	3
Hours	
	11
Sophomore Year	
JAPN 305 Advanced Japanese I (fall only)	3
JAPN 306 Advanced Japanese II (spring only)	3
Major culture course	3
Hours	
	9
Junior Year	
JAPN 401 Gateway to Mastering Japanese (fall only)	3
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course)	3
Hours	
	6
Senior Year	
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (Two 4th-year language courses)	6
Hours	
	6
Total Hours	
	32

Sample Plan Five

This plan is for a student who has placed into JAPN 305.

First Year	Hours
JAPN 305 Advanced Japanese I (fall only)	3
JAPN 306 Advanced Japanese II (spring only)	3
Hours	
	6
Sophomore Year	
JAPN 401 Gateway to Mastering Japanese (fall only)	3
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (4th-year language course)	3
Major culture course	3
Hours	
	9
Junior Year	
JAPN 4-- JAPN 400-Level Elective (Two 4th-year language courses)	6
Hours	
	6

Senior Year

Major culture course	3
Hours	3
Total Hours	24

Special Opportunities in Asian Studies

Honors in Asian Studies

A candidate for honors in Asian studies will write a substantial paper under the guidance of a faculty member. While researching and writing the honors paper, the student will enroll in ASIA 691H and ASIA 692H. ASIA 692H may count as one of the interdisciplinary courses for the major; ASIA 691H will count for elective credit only. In the case of the concentrations in Arab cultures, Chinese, Japanese, Korean studies, and South Asian studies, ASIA 692H may count toward the major in the concentration.

A committee composed of at least two faculty members will examine the candidate. To be accepted as an honors candidate, a student must meet the University's requirement of a minimum overall grade point average of 3.3, secure the consent of a faculty member in the Asian studies field to act as advisor for the project, and submit a proposal to the associate chair of Asian studies for approval.

Departmental Involvement

The department sponsors a variety of cultural events — lectures, film series, performances, and more — as well as social and informational events where students can get to know each other and faculty members in an informal setting. Faculty members in the department serve as advisors to some of the many Asia-related student organizations on campus, such as the Japan Club, Chinese Conversation Club, Hebrew Table, and more.

Languages across the Curriculum

The department participates in the Languages across the Curriculum (LAC) program, offering a one-credit-hour discussion section that is conducted in Arabic, Chinese, or Hindi-Urdu but associated with a variety of courses offered in English, both in Asian studies and in such other departments as history or religious studies. This LAC recitation section offers students the opportunity to use their Arabic, Chinese, or Hindi-Urdu language skills in a broader intellectual context.

Libraries

The University has rich collections of books and periodicals on Asia in the relevant Asian languages, as well as in English and other Western languages. Experts in the collection development department for Davis Library are available to help students locate the materials they need. The University also has an outstanding collection of Asian films and other audiovisual materials, housed in the Media Resource Center at House Library.

Speaker Series

The department sponsors an annual speaker series. These events include lectures by prominent artists, scholars, and writers and are often cosponsored by other units on campus.

Study Abroad

UNC–Chapel Hill sponsors several study programs (summer, semester, and yearlong) in China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam. Asian studies majors are strongly encouraged to take

advantage of these opportunities to live and study in an Asian setting; UNC-approved study abroad programs also satisfy the experiential education requirement. For further information on these programs and other study abroad opportunities in Asia, contact the UNC Study Abroad Office.

Undergraduate Research

The department actively encourages undergraduate student research. Through classes, advising, and office hours, faculty members guide students toward defining areas of interest, conceptualizing research questions, identifying sources, and writing academic papers. Students may pursue research through independent studies, the senior honors thesis, and study abroad research opportunities such as the Burch Fellowship. Asian studies students have received a variety of competitive research support and travel awards, won regional contests for undergraduate papers, published papers in academic journals, and presented their work at such events as the Senior Colloquium in Asian Studies and the campuswide Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research in the spring.