Japanese

Courses

Visit online course listings to view semester offerings for L05 Japan (https://courses.wustl.edu/CourseInfo.aspx?sch=L&dept=L05&crslvl=1:4).

L05 Japan 103D First-Level Modern Japanese I
An introduction to spoken Japanese following a systematic study of grammatical structures presented in context. Emphasis is on developing skills in oral communication through performance. Students with some previous Japanese language background must take the placement examination.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 104D First-Level Modern Japanese II
Continuation of Japan 103D. An introduction to spoken Japanese following a systematic study of grammatical structures presented in context. Emphasis is on developing skills in oral communication through performance. Prerequisite: L05 103D (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 150 First-Year Seminar: Exploring East Asian Classics
This first-year seminar introduces students to major works of the Chinese, Korean, and Japanese traditions. Although written centuries in the past, these texts still reverberate with meaning today and offer important means to understand the often chaotic and confusing events occurring daily around us. What is the self? What is the relationship between the individual and society? How do we live an ethical life? What is literature and film for engaging the past. Film screenings are mandatory.
Same as L04 Chinese 150
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA, IS

L05 Japan 213 Second-Level Modern Japanese I
Continued development of communication skills with special emphasis on speaking. Students develop reading/writing skills with an additional 300 kanji during the year. Prerequisite: L05 104D (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 214 Second-Level Modern Japanese II
Continuation of Japan 213. Continued development of communication skills with special emphasis on speaking. Students develop reading/writing skills with an additional 300 kanji during the year. Prerequisite: L05 213 (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 221 Topics in Japanese Literature and Culture
A topics course on Japanese literature and culture. Subject matter varies by semester; consult current semester listings for topic.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H

L05 Japan 226C Japanese Civilization
The development of Japanese culture from antiquity to the present: an overview of Japanese cultural history, focusing on the interplay of crucial aspects of contemporary Japanese society and Japanese social psychology.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L05 Japan 294 Images of East Asia
A variety of topics offered individually which reflect the images of East Asian cultures. Subject matter varies by semester; consult current semester listings for topic.
Same as L03 East Asia 294
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H

L05 Japan 2980 Undergraduate Internship in Japanese
Students receive credit for a faculty-directed and approved internship. Registration requires completion of the Learning Agreement, which the student obtains from the Career Center and which must be filled out and signed by the Career Center and the faculty sponsor prior to beginning internship work. Credit should correspond to actual time spent in work activities (e.g., eight to ten hours a week for thirteen or fourteen weeks to receive 3 units of credit; 1 or 2 credits for fewer hours). Credit/no credit only.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.
L05 Japan 299 Independent Study
Prerequisite: Japan 213 and permission of the department.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

L05 Japan 320C Japan Since 1868
For some, the word Japan evokes Hello Kitty, animated films, cartoons, and sushi. For others, it makes them think of the Nanjing Atrocity, “comfort women,” the Bataan Death March, and problematic textbooks. Still others will think of woodblock prints, tea ceremonies, and cherry blossoms or perhaps of Sony Walkmans and Toyota automobiles. At the same time, still others may have no image of Japan at all. Tracing the story of Japan’s transformations—from preindustrial peasant society managed by samurai-bureaucrats into an expansionist nation-state and then into its current paradoxical guise of a peaceful nation of culture led by conservative nationalists—provides the means for deepening our understandings of historical change in one region and grappling with the methods and aims of the discipline of history.
Same as L22 History 320C
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H

L05 Japan 324 A User’s Guide to Japanese Poetry
This course introduces the art and craft of Japanese poetry, one of the world’s great literary traditions. Exploring the many styles of traditional verse—the poetic diary, linked verse, haiku and others—and their historical contexts, we gain insights into Japanese aesthetics and study the unique conventions of Japanese poetic production that have evolved over a span of some 1500 years. The course also incorporates a “haiku workshop,” where we engage in group-centered poetry writing and critiquing. No prior knowledge of Japanese is required.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 326 Samurai, Rebels and Bandits: The Japanese Period Film
Tales of heroism, crime, revolt and political intrigue. Bloody battles, betrayal, madness and flashing swords. This is the world of jidaigeki eiga, the Japanese period film. In this course, we analyze the complex (and often flamboyant) narrative, visual and thematic structures of films about the age of the samurai. We discuss jidaigeki representations of violence and masculinity, self-sacrifice and rebellion, and the invention of tradition as well as critical uses of history. In addition to the historical content of the films, we study the historical contexts that shaped jidaigeki film production and discuss relevant transformations in Japanese cinema and society. Period films have been shaped by and exert strong influences on Japanese theater, oral storytelling, popular literature, comics, and international film culture, all of which are helpful for understanding the films. As we track changes in jidaigeki style and subject matter, the course introduces theories for interpreting narrative structure, genre repetition and innovation, intertextuality, and representations of “the past.” All readings are in English. No knowledge of Japanese required. No prerequisites. Required screenings Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Same as L53 Film 326
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: IS EN: H

L05 Japan 332C Japanese Literature: Beginnings to 19th Century
This survey of Japanese literature covers antiquity to the early 19th century. Emphasis on the ideological and cultural contexts for the emergence of a variety of traditions, including poetry, diaries, narrative, and theater. Fulfills premodern literature requirement for EALC degrees. No knowledge of Japanese language is required. Sophomore standing and above recommended.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L05 Japan 333C The Modern Voice in Japanese Literature
This survey explores the emerging modern voice in Japanese literature, with emphasis on prose fiction. After a brief introduction to earlier centuries, we focus on the short stories and novels of the 20th century. Among the authors considered are Natsume Soseki, Nagai Kafu, Tanizaki Jun’ichiro, and Nobel laureates Kawabata Yasunari and Oe Kenzaburo. Discussions center on issues of modernity, gender, and literary self-representation. Fulfills modern literature requirement for EALC degrees. No knowledge of Japanese language required.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: ETH EN: H

L05 Japan 336 The Floating World in Japanese Literature
This survey of Japanese literature covers the 17th to the 19th century. Primary focus is on the Genroku era (1688-1703), which witnessed the growth of lively urban centers and the emergence of a robust literary voice. Emphasis on the ideological and cultural contexts for the development of a variety of new innovations in the genres of poetry (haiku), theater (kabuki and bunraku) and prose (kana zoshi). Recommended for both Japanese and Chinese majors. No knowledge of Japanese language is required. Sophomore standing and above recommended.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Art: HUM

L05 Japan 3412 Japanese Art
Surveying the arts of Japan from prehistory to present, this course focuses especially on early modern, modern and contemporary art. Emphasizing painting, sculpture, architecture and print culture, the course also explores the tea ceremony, fashion, calligraphy, garden design and ceramics. Major course themes include collectors and collecting, relationships between artists and patrons, the role of political and military culture or art, contact with China, artistic responses to the West, and the effects of gender and social status on art.
Same as L01 Art-Arch 3412
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: AH, GFAH BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L05 Japan 346 Japanese Literature in Translation: Mystery Fiction
In this course we explore the tantalizing, thrilling, and sometimes macabre genre of mystery fiction in Japan. Emerging in the late 19th century, largely in response to the disruptions of industrialization, the mystery genre offered writers a way to make sense of a chaotic, unfamiliar world. The genre has also allowed a means of social critique and radical experimentation. We consider the works of Edogawa Rampo, Matsumoto Seicho, Miyabe Miyuki, Kirino Natsuo, and others. All readings in English. No prior knowledge of Japanese required.
L05 Japan 3482 The Floating World of Japanese Prints
The relationship between Japanese printmaking and popular culture from 1600 to 1900. Woodblock and copperplate printmaking techniques, key masters, kabuki drama, pleasure quarters, fiction, travel, modernization will be explored. Prerequisite: L01 111, Intro to Asian Art, or background in printmaking or Japanese culture. Same as L01 Art-Arch 3482
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: AH, GFAH BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 365 Topics in Modern Japanese Literature: Mirrors and Masks: Gender and Sexuality in Japanese Literature
This course will ask students to consider presentations of gender and sexuality in Japan throughout its literary history, beginning from its oldest and most foundational text, The Kojiki, and working up through modern literature, including pop culture such as manga and anime. Students will be asked to think critically across centuries by juxtaposing the ancient against the modern, and they will also be asked to critically consider terms like "homosexual," "male," "queer," and a plethora of others as they relate to cultures so temporally, spatially, and philosophically removed from contemporary English-speaking context. How do we conceive of gender across time? What about sexuality? What counts as "queer" in a society with differently structured norms and conceptions of gender and sexuality? What are the dangers of fetishizing the Other and who counts as the Other, especially when taken into consideration alongside popular Orientalist views of East Asia? This class and all readings will also be available through the library.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM

L05 Japan 390 EALC Seminar: East Asian Buddhism
This course traces the expansion of Buddhism from its origins in the Indian subcontinent through China, Korea and Japan, identifying both continuities and local developments as seen in the encounter/clash with preexisting traditions. We will adopt a multidisciplinary approach and explore the history, literature, philosophy, and practice of Buddhism in East Asia. Primary readings (all in English) are drawn from a wide range of genres - canonical scriptures, tale literature, hagiographic narratives, and archeological materials. We will also rely extensively on the rich visual and material heritage of Buddhism, looking at common archeological materials. We will also rely extensively on the rich

L05 Japan 412 Third-Level Modern Japanese I
Emphasis on further development of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Prerequisite: L05 214 (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination. Credit: 4 units for undergraduate students, 3 units for graduate students.

L05 Japan 413 Third-Level Modern Japanese II
Continuation of Japan 412. Emphasis on further development of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Prerequisite: L05 412 (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination. Credit: 4 units for undergraduate students, 3 units for graduate students.

L05 Japan 431 Renegades and Radicals: The Japanese New Wave
In 1960, the major studio Shochiku promoted a new crop of directors as the "Japanese New Wave" in response to declining theater attendance, a booming youth culture, and the international success of the French Nouvelle Vague. This course provides an introduction to those iconoclastic filmmakers, who went on to break with major studios and revolutionize oppositional filmmaking in Japan. We analyze the challenging politics and aesthetics of these confrontational films for what they tell us about Japan's modern history and cinema. The films provoke as well as entertain, providing trenchant (sometimes absurd) commentaries on postwar Japanese society and its transformations. Themes include: the legacy of WWII and Japanese imperialism; the student movement; juvenile delinquency; sexual liberation; and Tokyo subcultures. Directors include: Oshima Nagisa, Shinoda Masahiro, Terayama Shuji, Masumura Yasuzo, Suzuki Seijun, Matsumoto Toshio, and others. No knowledge of Japanese necessary. Mandatory weekly screening: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Same as L53 Film 431
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L05 Japan 443 Memory, Tears and Longing: East Asian Melodrama Film
Excessive emotion, unreasonable sacrifice, hidden truth, untimely knowledge, and forbidden desire — the power of melodrama and its moving representations have fueled the popularity of hundreds, if not thousands, of books, plays and films. Melodrama has variously been defined as a genre, a logic, an affect, and a mode, applied to diverse media, divergent cultural traditions, and different historical contexts. The course provides a survey of East Asian melodrama films — as well as films that challenge conventional definitions of melodrama — by pairing Japanese, Korean, and Chinese-language productions with key critical texts in melodrama studies. We will see classics such as Tokyo Story, Two Stage Sisters, and The Housemaid. We will examine melodrama's complex ties to modernity, tradition, and cultural transformation in East Asia; special emphasis will be placed on representations of the family, historical change, gender and sexuality. In addition to historical background and film studies concepts, we will also consider a range of approaches for thinking about the aesthetics and politics of emotion. No prerequisites. No prior knowledge of East Asian culture or language necessary. Mandatory weekly scheduled screening.
Same as L53 Film 443
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD BU: HUM, IS EN: H
L05 Japan 445 Japanese Fiction: Meiji Women Writers (Writing-Intensive Seminar)
The Meiji Period (1868-1912) in Japan was a time of tumultuous change. During the era Japan made sweeping reforms to its government, educational system, and social structures. Meiji men were encouraged to "modernize" along Western lines, while women were expected to serve as "repositories of the past." Most women prized the elegant traditions and saw these as important markers of cultural identity. But not all were willing to completely abdicate their place in the modernizing impulse. This writing intensive course will examine these women's literary works, paying attention to the way they developed strategies to both "serve the nation" and find an outlet for their own creative voice. Works to consider include the short fiction of Higuchi Ichiyo, Shimizu Shin'ichi, and Tamura Toshiko, the poetry of Yosano Akiko, the essays of Kishida Toshiko, and the translations of Wakamatsu Shizuko. All readings are available in English translation, and students need not be familiar with Japanese, although background in Japanese studies, women's studies, or literary studies will be helpful. This is a Writing-Intensive Seminar. Prerequisite: Junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 441 Topics in Modern Japanese Literature
A topics course on modern Japanese literature; subject matter varies by semester. Prerequisite: Junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 446 The Japanese Theater
An investigation, using English materials, of the major developments and forms of the Japanese theater, from Noh and its antecedents to the rise of a modern drama. In this course we are less concerned with the performative aspects of theatrical arts (though these will be introduced via videos) than with the ways in which dramatic texts influenced and borrowed from the literary tradition. Readings from major theatrical texts, secondary studies on Japanese theater, and literary sources. Prerequisite: junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Art: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 448 Japanese Poetry
A comprehensive survey of Japanese poetry from the 8th century to the present day. Topics include the development of the great tradition of court poetry in the Heian period (ca. 800-1200) and its full flowering during the medieval period (ca. 1200-1600), the influence of the Zen aesthetic, the emergence of linked verse and haiku, and the transformation of the classical tradition with the advent of the modern era. All works will be read in English translation, although knowledge of Japanese will be useful. Graduate students and Japanese majors will be expected to read original materials extensively. Prerequisite: Junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. Art: HUM

L05 Japan 4482 Japanese Prints: Courtesans, Actors and Travelers
Woodblock prints of the 18th and 19th centuries and their relationship to literature and popular culture. Topics include the life of the pleasure quarters, sexuality and the "erotic," parody, kabuki theater, and the representation of women. Prerequisite: 3 units in Japanese painting, or permission of instructor. Same as L01 Art-Arch 4482 Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM Art: AH, HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 449 Modern Japanese Women Writers: Writing-Intensive Seminar
Japanese women have been scripted by Western (male) imagination as gentle, self-effacing creatures. From their (re)emergence in the late 19th century to their dominance in the late 20th, Japanese women writers have presented an image of their countrywomen as anything but demure. Struggling to define their voices against ever-shifting expectations and social contexts, the women they create in their fiction are valiant, if not at times violent. This course examines the various manifestations of the female image in female-authored modern Japanese fiction. Writers to be considered are Higuchi Ichiyo, Hirabayashi Taiko, Uno Chiyō, Enchi Fumiko, Yamada Eimi, and others. A selection of novels and shorter fiction will be available in English translation, and students need not be familiar with Japanese. Prior course work in literature/women's studies may be helpful. This is a Writing-Intensive Seminar. Prerequisite: Junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD, WI EN: H

L05 Japan 4491 Modern Japanese Women Writers
Japanese women have been scripted by Western (male) imagination as gentle, self-effacing creatures. From their (re)emergence in the late 19th century to their dominance in the late 20th, Japanese women writers have presented an image of their countrywomen as anything but demure. Struggling to define their voices against ever-shifting expectations and social contexts, the women they create in their fiction are valiant, if not at times violent. This course examines the various manifestations of the female image in female-authored modern Japanese fiction. Writers considered are Higuchi Ichiyo, Hirabayashi Taiko, Uno Chiyō, Enchi Fumiko, Yamada Eimi, and others. A selection of novels and shorter fiction are available in English translation, and students need not be familiar with Japanese. Prior course work in literature/women's studies may be helpful. Prerequisite: Junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD, WI EN: H

L05 Japan 450 Masterworks of Early Japanese Literature: The Tale of Genji and its Afterlives
An intensive study of one of the central texts of classical Japanese literature. Selection of texts rotate among works including: The Tale of Genji, court diaries, poetry anthologies, Noh drama, The Tale of the Heike, setsuwa collections, and medieval memoirs. In addition to exploring the historical, literary, and cultural significance of the work from its genesis to the present age, students engage in a close reading of the text and an investigation of the primary theoretical issues and approaches associated with the work both in Japan and abroad. Prior knowledge of early Japanese literature or history is recommended. Texts will be read in English translation. Prerequisite: Junior level or above or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H
L05 Japan 458 Fourth-Level Modern Japanese I
Mastery of more sophisticated skills in spoken and written Japanese. Newspaper articles, editorials, essays, short stories, and so on, are selected for readings and discussions in accordance with the interests and needs of participating students. Prerequisite: L05 413 (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 459 Fourth-Level Modern Japanese II
Continuation of Japan 458. Mastery of more sophisticated skills in both spoken and written Japanese. Newspaper articles, editorials, essays, short stories, and so on, are selected for readings and discussions in accordance with the interests and needs of participating students. Required of all students desiring subsequent tutorial assistance from the department. Prerequisite: L05 458 (grade of B- or better) or placement by examination.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 460 Premodern Japanese I
Readings in classical literary texts using materials from standard modern annotated editions. Kambun introduced in second semester. Prerequisites or Corequisites: L05 412 and L05 413.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 461 Premodern Japanese II
A continuation of Japan 460. Readings in classical literary texts using materials from standard modern annotated editions as well as the introduction of skills necessary for reading original texts, including kambun and hentaigana. Prerequisite: L05 413 (or concurrent registration) or L05 460.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 464 Japanese Textual Analysis
This course introduces the advanced student of Japanese to a variety of prose narratives in the modern language. Readings, which include literary texts and topical essays on aspects of Japanese society and culture, reflect the needs and interests of the enrolled students. Focus is on close reading and syntactic analysis of the selected texts. Regular translation exercises gauge the mastery of grammar, syntax, and idiomatic usages. All readings are in Japanese, with class discussion conducted predominantly in English. A final translation project, to be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor, is required.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD EN: H

L05 Japan 471 Topics in Japanese Culture
A topics course on Japanese culture; topics vary by semester. Same as L03 East Asia 471
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Art: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 486 Independent Work for Senior Honors
This course is taken in the fall semester. Prerequisites: senior standing, eligibility for honors, and permission of the department.
Credit 3 units.

L05 Japan 487 Independent Work for Senior Honors
This course is taken in the spring semester. Prerequisites: senior standing, eligibility for honors, and permission of the department.
Credit 3 units.

L05 Japan 491 Topics in Japanese Literature & History:
A topics course on Japanese literature and history. Subject matter varies by semester; consult current semester listings for topic. Prerequisite: junior level or above or permission of instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 4911 Modern Japan and the Invention of Tradition
A discourse of “uniqueness” has been a prominent feature of Japanese culture in the 20th century, both before and after the Pacific War. This course explores the domain of nativist expression in modern Japan. While focusing on literary texts by writers such as Kawabata and Tanizaki, we also consider a range of artistic, cinematic, and cultural production. Considerable attention is paid to “Nihonjinron,” an important — and bestselling — genre of “Japanese uniqueness” writing. Our goal is to make sense of the complex intersection of traditionalism and modernism in 20th-century Japan, and to consider the larger question of modern nationhood and the construction of national identity.
Same as L03 East Asia 4911
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: HUM, IS EN: H

L05 Japan 499 Guided Readings in Japanese
Course usually taken after successful completion of Japan 459. May be repeated once. Prerequisite: Senior or graduate level or permission of instructor.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.