Japanese

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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: grade of B- or better in Japan 103D.
Credit 5 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

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: grade of B- or better in 104D 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: grade of B- or better in Japan 213 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 280 Soph Seminar: The Public Servant and Other Heroes: A Political and Social History of Japan Thru Film
This course is an examination of key turning points in Japan from the mid-19th century to the present. It focuses on the important role that bureaucracies, staffed by public servants, have played in shaping the political and social life on the archipelago and in the region. We will engage representations of political and social life in Japan by making use of its rich visual culture by viewing and discussing Japanese films. The assigned films, which will be screened in Japanese with English subtitles, will likely include The Twilight Samurai, To Live, and Shin Godzilla, among others. These films provide representations of how people in Japan have responded to crises, including revolution, war, and natural disasters. Through written and visual materials, students will gain a better understanding of history in Japan, public service, and the utility of film for engaging the past. Film screenings are mandatory.
Same as L97 GS (IAS) 280
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: BA, IS

L05 Japan 294 Images of East Asia
A variety of topics offered individually which reflect the images of East Asian cultures.
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 a 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. Required of all Japanese majors and recommended for all Chinese majors. 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: HUM 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, TanizakiJun'ichiro, and Nobel laureates Kawabata Yasunari and Oe Kenzaburo. Discussions center on issues of modernity, gender, and literary self-representation. Required of all Japanese majors and recommended for all Chinese majors. 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 EdogawaRampo, Matsumoto Seicho, Miyabe Miyuki, Kirino Natsuo, and others. All readings in English. No prior knowledge of Japanese required.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM BU: IS EN: H UColl: CD

L05 Japan 390 Kitchen, Studio, Factory: Making in East Asia
How do artisans approach the task of making? If different cultures of making exist, what forms do they take and why? In this course, we will explore these and other questions concerning the central human activity that is the production of material objects. From a Korean rice wine brewer to a Japanese clockmaker and to the Shanzhai cellphone manufacturers, makers in East Asia have distinguished themselves as skillful practitioners throughout history. The aim of this course is to understand their ways of production — and how these, in turn, evolved alongside broader changes in society and culture. We begin by appreciating the challenges of studying making cultures and the importance of material, hands-on research, which involves, for instance, cooking with historical recipes. We then investigate the history of artisanship in relation to social structures and statecraft and the many ways in which it unfolded in Korea, Japan, and China and across various artifacts, from kimchi and porcelain to steam engines and Van Gogh paintings. For the term project, students have the option of reworking a historical recipe or artifact from East Asia before the modern era. During this process, their will learn by doing and explore the tacit knowledge involved in the creation and maintenance...
of craft practices. This course is primarily for sophomores and juniors with a major or minor in the Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures. Other students may enroll with permission. No prior knowledge of East Asia is required.

Same as L81 EALC 3900
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD EN: H

L05 Japan 412 Third-Level Modern Japanese I

Emphasis on further development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in Japan 214 or placement by examination. Credit 4 units for undergraduates, 3 units for graduate students.
Credit variable, maximum 4 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 413 Third-Level Modern Japanese II

Continuation of Japan 412. Emphasis on further development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Prerequisite: minimum grade of B- in Japan 412 or placement by examination. Credit 4 units for undergraduates, 3 units for graduate students.
Credit variable, maximum 4 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS BU: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 418 Sexuality and Gender in East Asian Religions

In this course we will explore the role of women in the religious traditions of China, Japan and Korea, with a focus on Buddhism, Daoism, Shamanism, Shinto and the so-called "New Religions." We will begin by considering the images of women (whether mythical or historical) in traditional religious scriptures and historical or literary texts. We will then focus on what we know of the actual experience and practice of various types of religious women — nuns and abbesses, shamans and mediums, hermits and reclusees, and ordinary laywomen — both historically and in more recent times. Class materials will include literary and religious texts, historical and ethnological studies, biographies and memoirs, and occasional videos and films. Prerequisites: This class will be conducted as a seminar, with minimal lectures, substantial reading and writing, and lots of class discussion. For this reason, students who are not either upper-level undergraduates or graduate students, or who have little or no background in East Asian religion of culture, will need to obtain the instructor's permission before enrolling.
Same as L23 Re St 418
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SC, SD Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

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 EN: H

L05 Japan 445 Japanese Fiction: Images of Demonic Women (Writing-Intensive Seminar)

Demonic goddesses, bird-women, sexy shamans, and snaky sorceresses have slipped and slithered their way through the pages of Japanese myth, history, and narrative from time immemorial. Their presence in modern Japanese fiction has largely been treated as either suggestive of an author's nostalgia for a mythic past or an aberrant fantasy. In this writing-intensive course, we will examine the way the trope of the demonic woman has been used as a discrete literary strategy to either bolster or defy the modern national subject. Among the authors considered will be Izumi Kyoka, Kawabata Yasunari, Enchi Fumiko, and Oba Minako. All readings will be in English translation. Knowledge of Japanese language or literature is not required, although some familiarity will naturally prove helpful. Prerequisites: Junior standing or above and some background in literature or Japanese studies.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, WI Arch: HUM Art: HUM EN: H

L05 Japan 4451 Topics in Modern Japanese Literature

This is a topics course on modern Japanese literature. Subject matter varies by semester; consult current semester listings for topic. Prerequisites: Junior standing and 6 units of literature.
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 standing 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 eighth 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 are read in English translation, although knowledge of Japanese is useful. Graduate students and Japanese majors are expected to read original materials extensively. Prerequisites: junior standing and 6 units of literature course work.
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 considered are Higuchi Ichiyo, Hirabayashi Taiko, Uno Chiyô, Enchi Fumiko, Yamada Eimi and others. A selection of novels and shorter fiction is available in English translation, and students need not be familiar with Japanese. Prerequisites: 6 units of literature/women's studies and junior standing, or permission of the instructor.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: HUM, LCD, SD EN: H

L05 Japan 450 Masterworks of Early Japanese Literature
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. Prerequisite: junior standing. Prior knowledge of early Japanese literature or history is recommended. Texts are read in English translation.
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, etc., are selected for readings and discussions in accordance with the interests and needs of participating students. Prerequisite: grade of B- or better in Japan 413 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, etc., 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: grade of B- or better in Japan 458, or placement by examination.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS 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. Prerequisite: Japan 412-413 or concurrent registration.
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. Prerequisites: Japan 413 or concurrent registration: Japan 460 or equivalent.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, LS 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, chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor, is required. Prerequisite: Japan 458 or instructor's permission. 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: 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
Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of the instructor and the department chair. Course usually taken after successful completion of Japan 459. May be repeated once. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.