

Course Descriptions (ASP Home-Based for Fall 2022 Semester)

Japanese Level 1 (5 credits)

The first level of Japanese for beginners who have no formal training in the language. This course aims mainly at the development of speaking and listening skills, but also writing in hiragana, katakana and basic kanji. Approximately 300 vocabulary words will be introduced. At the end of the course, successful students will be able to function in Japanese in everyday situations such as making requests, stating reasons, describing things, etc. Also, approximately 40 kanji will be introduced. This course will cover Lessons 1 through 6 of Genki I, third edition.

Japanese Level 2 (5 credits)

The second level of elementary Japanese. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to adequately handle everyday conversation to meet basic communication needs in Japanese, including expressing opinions, and talking about experiences and giving advice. Also, approximately 70 kanji will be introduced. This course will cover Lessons 6 through 12 of Genki I, third edition.

Japanese Level 3 (5 credits)

The third level of elementary Japanese. Students will continue to develop their Japanese from the foundational skills established in the elementary level courses. The course focuses on extensive speaking and listening practice, introducing vocabulary, grammar and expressions. At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to adequately handle everyday conversation in Japanese, including saying what you can or cannot do, explaining about people or things in detail, apologizing, talking about hopes and wishes, and conveying hearsay. Also, approximately 90 kanji will be introduced. This course will cover Lessons 13 through 18 of Genki II third edition.

Japanese Level 4 (5 credits)

The fourth level of elementary Japanese. New students must pass a placement test in order to enroll. This course aims mainly to develop speaking and listening skills, but part of the class time is spent on practicing kanji characters. At the end of the course, successful students will have developed the skills of using various expressions needed in various situations commonly encountered in Japanese daily life, including honorific and humble expressions. Also, approximately 100 kanji will be introduced. This course will cover Lessons 18 through 23 of Genki II third edition.

Japanese Design: Aesthetics and Visual Culture (3 credits)

This course aims at understanding Japanese aesthetics, culture, and society through design. Students will examine a broad range of design examples reflective of the social, political, and economical culture of the time. The course will begin by exploring Japanese aesthetics and prewar design and continue by discussing contemporary design with regard to the emergence of design, “made in Japan,” pop culture, and “disaster and design.” Through lectures, discussions, and presentations, students will understand how traditional Japanese aesthetics are reflected in contemporary design and how individual Japanese designers uniquely delivered traditional aesthetics to international style.

Sexuality and Culture in Japan (3 credits)

Our erotic lives are profoundly shaped by history, social beliefs and institutional practices. In Japan today, sexuality is a dynamic and contested field. Topics for exploration in this course include changing aspects of mating, romance and marriage; sex education in Japanese schools and recent controversies over sex education policy and practice; conjugal sexual relations, contraceptive practice, and abortion; international romance and marriage; the exploitation and commodification of sexual and emotional relations; mizu shōbai (the after-dark "water trades") and eroticized servicing by hostesses and hosts; sexualized images in popular culture; and minority sexual and gender identities and practices and impacts of the imported cultural model of "LGBT."

Globalization, Culture and Identity in East Asia (3 credits)

Contemporary discussions of globalization will be put into historical perspective in this unique course, through an examination of the interactions of East Asian states have with each other and the rest of the world. Specifically, it focuses on how globalization affects the formation of culture and identity in East Asian nations. Students will examine the different ways in which East Asian communities interact and exchange ideas and culture and material goods. This course will also examine how different modes such as travel and tourism and globalizing forms of popular culture contribute to identity formation in East Asian nations.

International Negotiation: Resolving Conflict and Closing the Deal (3 credits)

What negotiation strategies do international companies employ while doing business in Japan? Students in this practical course will come to understand the importance of negotiation in all aspects of their lives and to recognize opportunities to negotiate. The class will aid students in developing the practical skills necessary to improve negotiation outcomes and boost confidence in negotiation skills through focused practice. Finally, students will be able to take advantage of the unusual diversity within the program to recognize the myriad ways in which culture affects the negotiation process and negotiation outcomes.