

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
—HONORS OPPORTUNITIES—

Japanese—one of the most fascinating and challenging of languages—is the key to a dynamic culture, an extraordinarily rich literature, and the world’s second-largest economy. The Japanese program at ASU consists of about eighty undergraduate majors, many non-majors, and a growing number of MA students working closely with a skilled and dedicated faculty of specialists in language, literature, and culture. Our majors also take courses on Japan offered by a number of other departments. Alumni of the Japanese program are applying their knowledge of Japanese language and culture to careers in business, education, government, law, medicine, publishing, and many other fields.

ADVISING

Barrett Honors College students majoring in Japanese, or considering a Japanese major, should meet as soon as possible with one of the undergraduate academic advising specialists in the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC, formerly the Department of Languages & Literatures), Languages and Literatures Building, room 440 (480-965-6281); **and** with the honors faculty advisor for Japanese, Tony Chambers ([anthony.chambers@asu.edu](mailto:anthony.chambers@asu.edu); L&L room 422B).

The Japanese program has several distinctive aspects that majors and prospective majors should keep in mind.

1. Many students find it particularly exciting to study a non-Western language with a non-alphabetic writing system, precisely because such languages are different from what most of us are used to, and because they are challenging. Learning Japanese is very hard work, and very rewarding. Learning to read and write Japanese deepens a student’s understanding of the spoken language, and gives the student access to a huge body of literature and other writings on every conceivable subject.
2. We strongly encourage our majors spend a summer or—even better—a year studying in Japan at universities with which ASU has exchange agreements. Nothing can take the place of an extended, first-hand experience of Japanese culture in a Japanese-language environment. Graduation requirements are complicated for all students, however, and particularly so for those who study abroad. It’s essential that you meet regularly with a SILC advisor and with Tony Chambers to check and double-check requirements, course availability, and ASU credit for courses taken abroad. If you’re planning to study abroad, meet with them *before* you go and keep in touch while you’re in Japan. Of course it’s also essential that you maintain close contact with your advisors at the Barrett Honors College.
3. Students majoring in Japanese are required also to take at least six hours of course work in Chinese or Korean language and/or culture, in order to gain insight into the place of Japanese culture and language in East Asian civilization.

## FOOTNOTE 18

Courses available for Footnote 18 contracts may include:

JPN 313, 314, Third-Year Japanese  
JPN 321, Japanese Literature  
JPN 435, Advanced Readings  
JPN 485, Problems of Translation  
JPN 394, 494, Special Topics  
SLC 421, Japanese Literature in Translation  
Selected graduate courses, as appropriate.

See the course instructor and Tony Chambers for details.

## THESIS

Barrett Honors College students majoring in Japanese should take SLC421 (Japanese Literature in Translation) or JPN321 (Japanese Literature), or both, before the end of the junior year, particularly if they contemplate writing a thesis on a literary topic. Many students use part of their time in Japan to find a topic for an honors thesis and begin to gather ideas and material there. Whether you study in Japan or not, you should discuss possible thesis topics with Tony Chambers by the spring semester of your junior year; he will help you arrive at a manageable topic and identify faculty members who best match your research interests. These may include faculty in other departments, such as History and Religious Studies. Theses in Japanese Language and Literature are of two types: research on a topic in Japanese language or literature, and literary translation. A translation thesis typically consists of an English translation of a Japanese literary text, accompanied by a critical/analytical study of the text; this may be done in conjunction with JPN485, Problems of Translation, if the course is offered during the student's junior or senior year. (It will next be offered in Spring 2008.) While working on the thesis project students may register for JPN492; while writing the thesis, students must register for JPN493. Completing a thesis, whether in research or in translation, greatly strengthens a student's appeal to graduate schools and employers.

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