

Japanese Studies Degree Program

Mission Statement and Curricular Program

Mission Statement

The mission of the undergraduate degree program in Japanese Studies is to offer a broad range of coursework and research opportunities for students that is designed to develop an understanding of Japan on all of its dimensions: culture, society, language, art, political science, history, music and others.

The program is designed for two types of students:

- a. non-native speakers of Japanese: these students are enabled to master the Japanese language in its aspects of structure (Japanese linguistics), literature, and translation, in addition to the areas of study mentioned above.
- b. native speakers of Japanese: these students are enabled to master the English language in its aspects of structure (English linguistics), literature and translation, in addition to the areas of study mentioned above. Native speakers of Japanese are also enabled to develop explicit knowledge of Japanese language phonology, morphology, semantics and syntax.

This program, which has a significant multidisciplinary component, is designed for students who intend to pursue advanced degrees and/or careers in Japanese Studies or in related professional areas, including business, the arts, translation, and, in general, culture brokerage between Japan and the United States.

Curricular Program

The program offers a wide and full range of Japan related course in Japanese and Japanese linguistics, English and English linguistics, anthropology, political science, history, music, philosophy and art. This allows students a certain amount of room to develop specializations. The program offers a minor. The program is supported primarily by courses offered in History, Political Science, Art, Anthropology, and Japanese Language.

Support for the University Mission

Through its specific course offerings the program strongly supports the general education core and the University's mission as a comprehensive regional university with a special focus on the Asia and Pacific Region, of which Japan is one important part, that provides undergraduate research opportunities, a liberal arts foundation and preparation fo~ a

variety of careers. In addition, the program offers a number of courses that can be used to satisfy the requirement for some study of the Hawaiian and Pacific Rim Area.

Program Goals

1. Develop appropriate language ability in students:
 - a. Japanese language ability and expertise for non-native speakers of Japanese,
 - b. English language ability and expertise for native speakers of Japanese.
 - c. Through such language study, a deep appreciation and understanding of Japanese civilization. Understanding of Japanese cultural views (i.e., world view) of itself and non-Japanese.
2. Develop an appreciation of how the Japanese cultural background may influence the communications, styles of interaction, and family structure.
3. Develop an ability to integrate information from the different approaches to the study of Japan and shape it into an overall understanding Japanese language, culture and behavior.
4. Develop an understanding of field of study and research methods from some of the different approaches to the study of Japan (i.e., Political Science, Anthropology, Linguistics, etc.).
5. Develop critical thinking and interpretive skills that will allow the student to pass in Japanese society.
6. Develop the ability to write clearly and expressively about Japan and related issues, from one or more of the different approaches to Japan, using a style and format appropriate to that particular research approach. That is, for example, a student who takes the research approach of Political Science be able to write in the style appropriate to Political Science, etc.
7. Develop the skills to present the results of language study in such a way that it can be communicated to an appropriate audience. That is, non-native speakers of Japanese develop communicative competence in Japanese, and native speakers of Japanese develop communicative competence in English.
8. Become able to conduct library research into Japan and related issues and to present that information in written form, employing the theoretical orientations appropriate to the research approach, be it Political Science, Anthropology, Art, Music, History, Philosophy, and/or others.

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