

## Japanese Studies Major Proposal

### Rationale

The Japanese Studies Program in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has witnessed dramatic growth since 2001, with enrollment rising to 430 in AY 2016-17. Alumni have gone on to graduate work in related fields at Harvard, Columbia, Duke, Berkeley, Johns Hopkins, UC San Diego and more; others have taken jobs with Japan's mission to the UN and such major corporations as Goldman Sachs in Tokyo and Japan's public broadcasting service, NHK. Graduates have also enjoyed an unusual degree of success with the highly competitive JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program.

The Japanese Studies Program currently offers only a minor. Students seeking greater engagement may pursue a major in Global Studies with a concentration in AMES on an East Asian track. This option is ideal for those interested in a fully interdisciplinary approach that explores connections between Japan and the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Asia-Pacific. The Japanese Studies Program, too, encourages interdisciplinary and trans-national approaches. However, students with little exposure to Japanese language, history, and culture through secondary school may require a greater focus on Japan than AMES provides. Some will also prefer extensive training in Cultural Studies methodologies. The proposed Japanese major is designed to serve these groups. A Japanese major within MDLL will encourage students to explore the extensive cultural, intellectual, historic, political, and economic links with all the areas represented by the department's programs—including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian cultural spheres—taking a broadly transnational approach.

The proposed major responds to students' needs. In Spring 2017, the program surveyed students enrolled in its courses. We asked those who had not yet declared a major: "How likely *would you be* to major (or double major) in Japanese Studies?" and asked those who had already declared a major: "How likely *would you have been* to major (or double major) in Japanese Studies? Of 86 respondents, **51 students** responded "Likely" or "Highly Likely."

A Japanese Studies major will help W&M compete for the best applicants. In lacking one, W&M lags our 25 peer institutions, 14 of which offer a major, including schools with undergraduate enrollments like W&M's, such as Washington-Saint Louis, Notre Dame, and Wake Forest. Several other institutions whose applicant pools overlap significantly with our own offer a major, including Duke, Colgate, and U Penn.

A Japanese major will also help W&M better serve Virginia. About 2,500 students are enrolled in Japanese language courses in secondary education statewide. Those who wish to pursue this interest at university have few in-state options. Among state institutions, only UVA offers a major in Japanese Studies. W&M's vision statement identifies internationalization as one of three areas in which the College innovates. Japan is the world's third-largest economy and one of the US's most important allies and trade partners. It also exerts an outsized "soft-power" influence through the boundless appeal of Japanese popular culture. Japan is therefore critical to W&M's internationalization and to our students' futures.

## Proposed Major Requirements

REQUIRED CREDIT HOURS: 33, including: 1) 27 credits from JAPN courses beyond 202, 9 of those credits from classes taught in Japanese and, 2) 6 credits from outside the department. Credits distributed as follows:

Methods Class (3 credits)

*Introduction to Japanese Studies* (JAPN 205)

Literature or Cinema Survey (3 credits)

One of:

*Classical Japanese Literature in Translation* (JAPN 209)

*Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature* (JAPN 210)

*Japanese Cinema* (JAPN 311)

(The others may be counted as JAPN Electives.)

Continuing Japanese-Language Study (9 credits)

Nine credits taught in Japanese beyond 202; courses include:

*Upper Intermediate Japanese I* (JAPN 301)

*Upper Intermediate Japanese II* (JAPN 302)

*Directed Readings in Japanese Literature* (JAPN 305)

*Topics in Japanese Culture* (JAPN 307; when taught in Japanese)

*Advanced Japanese I* (JAPN 401)

*Advanced Japanese II* (JAPN 402)

*Advanced Topics in Japanese Literature and Culture* (JAPN 410)

*Independent Study* (JAPN 411; when taught in Japanese)

Capstone Experience (3 credits)

*Advanced Seminar in Japanese Studies* (JAPN 450)

JAPN Electives (9 credits)

Three additional courses in Japanese Studies (excluding 101, 102, 201, 202). JAPN 100 and JAPN 150 may be counted.

History Survey (3 credits)

One of:

*Survey of East Asian Civilization to 1600* (HIST 141)

*Survey of East Asian Civilization since 1600* (HIST 142)

*Modern Japanese History* (HIST 331)

Interdisciplinary Elective (3 credits)

One additional course outside JAPN, with advisor's approval. Suggested courses include:

AMES 390 *Topics in AMES* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)

ANTH 347 *Japanese Society*

ANTH 348 *Contemporary Issues in Japanese Society*

ANTH 350 *Special Topics in Anthropology* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)

ARTH 255 *The Art of East Asia*  
GOVT 336 *Governments and Politics of China and Japan*  
HIST 211 *Topics in History* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)  
HIST 212 *Topics in History* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)  
HIST 265 *Postwar Japan*  
HIST 311 *Topics in History* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)  
HIST 312 *Topics in History* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)  
HIST 331 *Modern Japanese History* (if not counted as “History Survey”)  
HIST 467 *Independent Study* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)  
HIST 468 *Independent Study* (Japanese/East Asian topics only)  
RELG 215 *History of Religion in East Asia*  
RELG 366 *Buddhism in Japan*

All majors are encouraged to study abroad in Japan after completing at least JAPN 102. Up to 9 credits may be counted from courses taken at universities in Japan and applied toward JAPN or Interdisciplinary Electives, as appropriate, with approval.

Note: All courses are currently on the books except the capstone.