Japanese Section Activities

Community Outreach / Experiential Learning
The Japanese program at the University of Memphis offers various outreach activities and experiential learning opportunities for students and the Memphis community. We work closely with K12 schools and local NPO’s such as the Memphis Botanic Garden. With funding support from Japanese companies and government agencies, we introduce Japanese culture to facilitate the community’s understanding of Japan and our multicultural society. The program’s Japanese students volunteer for various outreach events and internship programs, which give them an excellent opportunity to use what they learned in class for real purposes. For more information, please contact the program coordinator Ms. Sommer at asommer@memphis.edu www.facebook.com/japan.memphis

Weekly Japanese Language Table
The Japanese Language Table is an informal gathering where all students are invited to practice their Japanese every week and become friends with exchange students from Japan. Please contact Ms. Watanabe at swatanab@memphis.edu for the schedule.

Sunlit Café: Japanese Maid Café Club
You can learn about various aspects of Japanese Pop culture from cooking, fashion, and music to dance. Please contact the president of the club for more information: zdickey@memphis.edu

Anime 101: Japanese Animation Club
The Japanese Animation Club introduces Japanese anime to the students. Please contact the club for information: mrdckrsn@memphis.edu

Japanese Culture Club (JCC)
JCC provides many opportunities for students to learn about Japanese language and culture. Please contact the club for more information: memphisjcc@gmail.com

MANGA Library
The Japanese program has a student-operated Manga Library in the Student Lounge (241 Jones). Please contact cmuse@memphis.edu for details.

Japanese Language Faculty

YUKI MATSUDA, Associate Professor of Japanese, Japanese Program Coordinator.
Ph.D., 1997, University of Southern California.
Areas of Interest: Language pedagogy, Japanese linguistics, Media discourse

HIRONORI NISHI, Assistant Professor of Japanese.
Ph.D., 2016, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Areas of Interest: Japanese linguistics, Discourse analysis, Second language acquisition

MIYUKI KAMIYA Instructor of Japanese.
MA, 2009, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
Areas of Interest: Japanese linguistics, Language pedagogy

KAORI FUJII Adjunct Instructor

AKEMI SOMMER Adjunct Instructor
Coordinator of the Japan Outreach

YUKIKO TERADA Adjunct Instructor

SHINOBU WATANABE Adjunct instructor

Why Learn Japanese?

Studying Japanese brings career opportunities for international business. Indeed there is tremendous opportunity for someone who is fluent in Japanese in the State of Tennessee. There are 151 Japanese-owned companies in Tennessee, employing more than 38,000 Tennesseans, and account for cumulative capital investments of more than $9 billion. Also, both traditional and pop culture have become part of international culture. Studying Japanese will give you direct access to Japanese pop culture and traditional art forms such as tea ceremony, calligraphy, Zen garden, architecture, film, fashion, music, cuisine, animations, and literature.

The University of Memphis is the only institution in the mid-south region to offer the Japanese major and is one of the largest major programs in the U.S.
Japanese Major and Minor

THE MAJOR

Students majoring in Foreign Languages may choose Japanese as a single-language concentration or as part of a two or three-language concentration. A single-language concentration requires 24 upper-division hours in Japanese. A two-language concentration requires 27 upper-division hours in the department, with at least nine credit hours in each language. A three-language concentration requires at least 33 upper-division hours, with coursework chosen in consultation with the chair of the department.

THE MINOR

Students must take eighteen hours, including JAPN 1020, 2010, and 2020, plus nine upper-division JAPN hours.

COURSES OFFERED:

JAPN 1010 Elementary Japanese I (3): Basic skills fundamental to language proficiency and culture.
JAPN 1020 Elementary Japanese II (3): Further development of basic skills fundamental to language proficiency and culture. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 1010, or equivalent.
JAPN 2010 Intermediate Japanese I (3): Continued development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 1020, or equivalent.
JAPN 3301 Conversation/Composition I (3): PREREQUISITE: JAPN 2020, or equivalent.
JAPN 3302 Conversation and Composition II (3): PREREQUISITE: JAPN 3301, or equivalent.
JAPN 3401 Introduction to Japanese Literature (3): Japanese literature and culture through a selection of important literary works written since 1900. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 2020, or equivalent.
JAPN 3402 Directed Readings in Japanese Culture (3): Continued development of cultural competencies and language skills through a wide range of primary reading materials such as newspaper articles, comic books, biographies, and essays.
JAPN 3900 Japanese Culture and Society (3): Intensive language and culture course; travel to Japanese speaking country required. PREREQUISITE: permission of study abroad director.
JAPN 4401 Advanced Japanese I (3): Advanced development of language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) and cultural knowledge. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 3302 or permission of instructor.
JAPN 4402 Advanced Japanese II (3): Continuation of JAPN 4401. Further development of advanced language and cultural skills. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 4401 or permission of instructor.
JAPN 4501 Japanese Linguistics (3): Theory and hands-on data analysis in various aspects of Japanese linguistics, including the writing system, media discourse, and pragmatics. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 3301, 3302, or permission of instructor.
JAPN 4701/4702 Japanese for Professional Purposes (3): Focusing on the acquisition of communication skills and socio-cultural knowledge that are necessary to handle formal and professional situations in a Japanese speaking environment. PREREQUISITE: JAPN 3302, or permission of instructor.
JAPN 4780 Individual Studies in Japanese (3): Directed individual study in selected area of Japanese chosen in consultation with instructor. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours credit. PREREQUISITE: permission of instructor.
JAPN 4791-99 Special Topics in Japanese Language, Culture, or Literature (3): May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours credit. PREREQUISITE: permission of instructor. Cross-listing 7000 level.