The information presented here is as of 8/31/2011.

ASIAN STUDIES (Div. I & II, see explanation below)

Chair, Associate Professor CECILIA CHANG


The mission of the Department of Asian Studies is to help as many students as possible—both majors and non-majors—develop practical proficiency in Asian languages and, in the tradition of the liberal arts, acquire a meaningful understanding of important facets of one or more of the disciplines represented within Asian Studies (including anthropology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion, and sociology), so that they may realize their fullest intellectual and personal potential and be able to make useful contributions to society.

We offer courses in English in the field of Asian Studies as well as courses in Chinese and Japanese language, literature, and culture. Three distinct majors are offered: a major in Chinese; a major in Japanese; and an interdisciplinary Asian Studies major which allows students to choose from a wide range of courses in the anthropology, art, economics, history, languages, linguistics, literatures, music, politics, religion, and sociology of China, Taiwan, Japan, and other Asian countries. Students with questions about the Asian Studies majors or about Asian Studies course offerings should consult the chair. Please note: Courses with ASST prefix carry Division II credit and courses with CHIN and JAPN prefixes carry Division I credit unless otherwise noted.

THE MAJOR

All students wishing to major in the Department of Asian Studies are required to take and pass a total of eleven courses, as follows:

1) One course that explicitly compares at least two countries in Asia, such as ASST 126, ASST 201, ASST 245, ASST 250, ASST 256, ASST 269, ASST 270, or ASST 337. Or students may take instead a course on a country that is different from their country of primary focus.
2) Four semesters of Chinese or Japanese language (including no more than two 100-level courses).
3) At least one additional course in the language chosen above.

The requirements for each of these three tracks are indicated below:

3A) Asian Studies Major
   a. a three-course qualification in one of the disciplines represented within Asian Studies (anthropology/sociology, art history, economics, history, linguistics, literature, music, political science, religion).
   b. admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students who have maintained at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.
   c. three approved electives, which may include further language work.

3B) Chinese Major
   a. four additional semesters of Chinese language (300-level or higher)
   b. Chinese 412
   c. one approved course in Chinese literature or culture

3C) Japanese Major
   a. four additional semesters of Japanese language (300-level or higher)
   b. one approved course in Japanese literature, language (400-level), or culture
   c. one elective on Japan

STUDY ABROAD

Students intending to major in Asian Studies are encouraged to study in Asia during one or both semesters of their junior year. Williams faculty serve on the boards of several study abroad programs in China and Japan. Opportunities to study in India, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and other Asian countries are also available. Prospective Asian Studies majors who are planning to study abroad should discuss their plans with their advisor as far in advance as possible. Up to eight courses taken overseas can count toward graduation, and up to four courses taken off campus may be counted toward the major.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS

Students interested in writing an honors thesis in Asian Studies, Chinese, or Japanese should submit a proposal to the department chair before they pre-register for senior courses in the spring of their junior year. The proposal should include a statement of the topic, a general description of the types of materials available for study and how the study will be carried out, and the name of the faculty member who will serve as advisor. Admission to the honors thesis program will normally be limited to students who have maintained at least a B+ average in their courses for the major.

Students admitted to the program should register for ASST 493-W31-494, CHIN 493-W31-494, or JAPN 493-W31-494. They will be expected to turn in the final draft of their thesis shortly after spring break and to discuss their results formally with their faculty grader. Their final grades in the three courses listed above and the award of Honors, Highest Honors, or no honors will be determined by the quality of the thesis and the student's performance in the oral defense.

THE ASIAN STUDIES ENDOWMENT

The Linen summer grants for study abroad, the Linen visiting professorships, and several other programmatic activities in the department are supported by an endowment for Asian Studies established by family and friends in memory of James A. Linen III, Class of 1934, Trustee of the College from 1948 to 1953 and from 1963 to 1982.

COURSES IN ASIAN STUDIES (Div. II)

ASST 103(F) Asian Art Survey: From the Land of the Buddha to the World of the Geisha (Same as ArtH 103) (See under ARTH 103 for full description.)

ASST 115 The World of the Mongol Empire (Same as History 115) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W) (See under HIST 115 for full description.)

ASST 117T Clash of Empires: China and the West, 1800-1900 (Same as History 117T) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W) (See under HIST 117 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

ASST 118 “Ten Years of Madness”: The Chinese Cultural Revolution (Same as History 118) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W) (See under HIST 118 for full description.)

ASST 121T The Two Koreas (Same as History 121T) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W) (See under HIST 121T for full description.)

ASST 126 Musics of Asia (Same as Music 126) (Not offered 2011-2012) (D) (See under MUS 126 for full description.)

ASST 128S Chinese Music and Intercultural Influence: From the Silk Road to Korea and Japan (Same as Music 128) (D) (See under MUS 128 for full description.)

ASST 201 Asia and the World (Same as International Studies 101 and Political Science 100) (Not offered 2011-2012) (See under PSCI 100 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

ASST 212(S) Transforming the “Middle Kingdom”: China, 2000 BCE-1600 (Same as History 212) (D) (See under HIST 212 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

ASST 213 Modern China, 1600-Present (Same as History 213) (Not offered 2011-2012) (D) (See under HIST 213 for full description.) Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

ASST 217 Early Modern Japan (Same as History 217 and Japanese 217) (Not offered 2011-2012) (See under HIST 217 for full description.)

Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.
No prerequisites.

Format: seminar. Requirements: attendance (including film screenings) and class participation, short quizzes, leading discussion, short responses, one 5-page paper, one long paper.

In this course, students will gain an understanding of the key political, social, and cultural developments in 20th-century Korean history through close readings of short stories, novels, and films. We will examine works produced during the era of Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945), including enlightenment and socialist literature, and propaganda films produced in the 1930s and 1940s to promote the assimilation of Koreans as loyal Imperial subjects during WWII. Post-liberation topics will include the Korean War, the consequences of national division, and democratization movements from the 1940s through the 1980s. Along the way we will consider how these historical moments are reflected in literature and film, how artistic production was hampered under decades of censorship, first under Japanese colonialism and later under the dictatorships of Park Chung Hee (1961-1979) and Chun Doo Hwan (1980-1987), and how literature and film were transformed by freedom from censorship and the transition to democratic government in the 1990s. Looking at both contemporary and retroactive representations of colonial Korea and life under the Park regime will reveal to us the nature and extent of that censorship. Throughout the course, we will also examine the century through the theme of gender. We will look at the influences of Neo-Confucianism, colonialism, the “New Woman” phenomenon of the 1920s and 1930s, the U.S. military presence during and after the Korean War, North-South tensions, rapid industrial and economic growth in the 1960s and 1970s, and the age of global capitalism in the 1990s on gender relations and constructions of masculinity and femininity. All readings are in English, and all films include English subtitles. No knowledge of the Korean language is required.

Format: seminar. Requirements: attendance (including film screenings) and class participation, short quizzes, leading discussion, short responses, one 5-page paper, one long paper.


Hour: 1:10-2:25 MR

ENROLLMENT LIMIT: 15 (EXPECTED: 12)

Preference given to seniors.

Hour: 1:10-2:25 MR

Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.
COURSES IN CHINESE (Div. I)

The department regularly offers four levels of instruction in Modern Standard Chinese (Mandarin), designed to enable the student to become proficient in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as introductory courses in Cantonese, Taiwanese, Classical Chinese, and Chinese linguistics. The course numbering system for Chinese is sequential. Students move from Chinese 101-102 to 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, and 402. Independent study (Chinese 497, 498) may be offered depending on student needs and available resources. Those students entering with proficiency in Chinese should see the Coordinator concerning placement.

The department also offers courses on Chinese literature and culture in English translation for students who wish to become acquainted with the major achievements in Chinese literary, intellectual and cultural history. For the purpose of the distribution requirement, all courses in Chinese are considered Division I unless otherwise noted.

STUDY ABROAD

Students majoring in Chinese are strongly encouraged to study in mainland China or Taiwan during one or both semesters of their junior year, during the summer, or over Winter Study. It is important that students interested in any of these options consult as early as possible with the department and the Dean’s Office concerning acceptable programs.

CHN 101(F)-W88-102(S) Basic Chinese (D)

An introduction to Mandarin, the language with the largest number of native speakers in the world, which is the official language of China and Taiwan, and one of the official languages of Singapore. The course objectives are for the student to develop simple, practical conversational skills and acquire basic proficiency in reading and writing in both the traditional and the simplified script at about the 500-character level. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Both audio and video materials will be employed extensively. This is an EDI course. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural difference inform and are informed by different linguistic contexts and practices.

Format: semester, 3 hours of class per week, examination, and laboratory period performance. Evaluation: quizzes, in-class exercises, proctored tests, and an oral and written final exam. Credit granted only if both semesters and the winter study sustaining program are taken. May not be taken on a pass/fail basis.

Prerequisites: Chinese 102 or permission of instructor.

CHN 151 Basic Cantonese (Not offered 2010-2011)

An introduction to Standard Cantonese, a major regional language of southern China which is spoken by over 50 million people in Hong Kong, Macao, Guangdong, and Guangxi as well as by many overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia, Hawaii, and North America. Due to the pervasive influence of Hong Kong as well as the economic transformation of Guangdong Province, Cantonese is becoming steadily more widespread over the past few decades. Our focus will be on developing basic listening and speaking skills, though we will also study some of the special characters which have been used for centuries to write colloquial Cantonese. Since students will ordinarily possess prior proficiency in Mandarin, a closely related language, we should be able to cover in one semester about as much as is covered in the first two to three semesters of Mandarin.

Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, unit tests, and an oral and written final exam.

Prerequisites: Chinese 202 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 8).

KUBLER

CHN 210(F), 202(S) Intermediate Chinese (D)

These courses are designed to consolidate the foundations built in Basic Chinese and continue developing students’ skills in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Upon completion of the courses, students should be able to speak Chinese with fluency on everyday topics, reach a literacy level of 1000 characters (approximately 1200 common words written in both traditional and simplified characters), read materials written in simple Standard Written Chinese, and produce both orally and in writing short compositions on everyday topics. Conducted in Mandarin. This is an EDI course. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural differences inform and are informed by different linguistic contexts and practices.

Evaluation will be based on regular written and oral unit tests, a midterm, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Chinese 102 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 12 (expected: 10 per section).

First Semester: YU
Second Semester: NUGENT

CHN 210(F) Cultures of China: Conflicts and Continuities (Same as History 220) (D)

This course provides a broad introduction to the cultures of China from earliest times to the contemporary era. The use of the plural “cultures” here is important. The notion that Chinese culture, especially in “pre-modern” times, is a monolithic and unchanging entity is one that has been appealing to interests as diverse as Western imperialist powers and the Chinese Communist Party. It is, however, a notion that is more fiction than fact, one of many that can be told about the area we now call China. This course is organized around a number of topics ranging across different periods and cultures in China, including the following: language, protest, order, and (dis)order, commerce, the supernatural, reclusion, individualism, and beauty. Lectures and discussions will focus on texts from a wide range of time periods and genres, from ancient poems to modern films, from Buddhist sutras to the writings of Mao Zedong. This course functions as an EDI course in a number of ways. Throughout, we will compare the different cultures broadly considered Chinese to understand the ways in which they interacted, influenced each other, and came into conflict. We will also examine issues of power and privilege as we analyze how different interests used cultural structures and power to gain and maintain their power in society. No previous knowledge of China or Chinese expected. All readings in English.

Format: lecture. Requirements: short response papers, two longer papers (1700-2300 words), and a final exam.


First Semester: YU
Second Semester: NUGENT

CHN 219 Popular Culture in Modern China (Not offered 2011-2012)

This course adopts a general approach to introducing students to a variety of forms of popular culture in modern and contemporary China. The forms of popular culture studied include popular readings (fiction, newspapers, magazines), advertisements, propaganda posters, popular music, television shows, film, and popular religious movements. We will explore such themes as the definitions of “popular culture,” globalization and cultural trends, the encoding and decoding strategies of a popular “text,” as well as the political, ideological and sociological messages behind a popular “text.” All readings in English.

Format: lecture/discussion. Evaluation will be based on attendance, in-class participation, oral presentations, two short response papers, and one final research paper.

No prerequisites; open to all. No Chinese language required, though students with Chinese language background are encouraged to work with Chinese sources if they wish. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 20). Preference given to Chinese or Asian Studies majors, and then to sophomores and juniors.

YU

CHN 223(S) Ethnic Minorities in China: Past and Present (Same as Anthropology 223) (D)

By 2000, of the 1.3 billion population of China, more than 100 million were ethnic minorities (shaoshu minzu). Most of the minority groups reside in autonomous regions and districts, which constitute 64% of China’s total acreage. This course introduces students to the multiethnic aspect of China’s past and present. We will address topics such as the minority–group identification project; the definition of minzu; government policy toward and the current situation of the fifty–five official ethnic minority groups; historical sino–centric views about “foreigners” and “barbarians”; ideas of “diversity,” “unity,” and “sinicization”; and the roles that “barbarians” have played in China’s long history. All readings will be in English.
This is an EDI course. We will explore various meanings of “diversity” and “being ethnic” in the Chinese context and compare them with students’ own experiences through class discussions and an essay assignment.

Format: lecture/discussion. Evaluation will be based on attendance, in-class participation and presentations, two short response papers, one mid-term, and one final paper.

No prerequisites. Knowledge of Chinese language is required, though students with Chinese language background are encouraged to work with Chinese sources if they wish. 

Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15). Preference is given to Chinese and Asian Studies majors, and then to first-year students.

Hour: 2:35-3:50 TF

CHN 224 Cultural Foundations: The Literature and History of Early China (Same as Comparative Literature 220 and History 315) (Not offered 2011-2012)

The early history of China witnessed many of humankind’s most influential accomplishments, from the development of a civil bureaucracy to the invention of printing, the compass, and gunpowder. It also saw the composition and spread of literary works and styles that continue to be both read and emulated up to the present day not only in China but throughout the world. The acute awareness of early history and literature that runs through modern Chinese culture, in its many manifestations and locales, is arguably unrivaled in the modern world. To understand modern China, one must understand the past that continues to shape it today. The traditional view in China was that “literature, history and philosophy cannot be separated.”

From the 2nd millennium B.C. to the late 18th century A.D., a particular social and economic structure—what historians call the “ancient Chinese society”—emerged. This course explores the key debates of this period and analyzes them in their historical and cultural context. In the first class we will extend discussions of the term, “ancient Chinese society,” and consider the ways Chinese societies and modern scholarship says about early China, but what the people living in that period and culture had to say about themselves and their world. This is an EDI course and we will examine in detail the diverse cultural forces that have historically played a part in China’s self-definition. All readings in English.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: three short papers (1700-2300 words), and final exam. Participation in class discussions expected. 

No prerequisites. No enrollment limit (expected: 15). Open to all.

CHN 228 Traditional Chinese Poetry (Same as Comparative Literature 225) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W) (D)

Poetry was the dominant form of literature in China for most of the pre-modern period. It could be used to justify the overthrow of dynasties or to court a beloved; Chinese poets sang about communing with the gods and about breathing algae, sometimes in the same poem. In this course we will read and discuss poems from the first 2000 of the Chinese literary tradition. Some of the issues we will explore include the ways in which poems present the world and make arguments about it; how Chinese poets construct different notions of the self through their poetry and how poetry can give voice to conflicts between the self and the community, and between the state and other sources of social capital. We will also look at Chinese theories of literature and poetry and compare them with dominant Western models. This is an EDI course and we will be concerned throughout with differences in the way Chinese and other cultures thought about and utilized poetry. We will examine the implicit biases inherent in the ways Western scholars in particular have analyzed and translated Chinese poetry. All readings in English translation.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: numerous short response papers, two longer papers (1700-2300 words), and a final exam; participation in class discussions required.

No prerequisites; no previous experience with poetry or Chinese required; open to all. Enrollment limit: 19 (expected: 19). Preference given to Chinese majors.

CHN 235 China on Screen (Same as Comparative Literature 235) (Not offered 2011-2012)

From short films shown in teahouses in the late 19th century to international blockbusters in the early 21st, Chinese films have served as an important medium for both the internal development of Chinese culture and the transmission of that culture to the world. In this course we will survey a wide range of works from socially progressive films of the 1930s and 1940s to the martial arts hits of the last decade. These will include not only films from mainland China, but from Hong Kong and Taiwan as well. We will use these films as a way to talk about such issues as visual culture, nationalism, technology, sexuality, social change, and the representation of China on the world stage. All readings in English and all films are subtitled in English.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: one short paper (5-7 pages), one longer paper (10-12 pages), take-home midterm, and final exam. Participation in class discussions expected.

No prerequisites. Enrollment limit: 30 (expected: 30). Preference to Asian Studies majors and then to juniors and seniors.

CHN 251T Crises and Critiques: The Literature and Intellectual History of Early 20th Century China (Same as Comparative Literature 256T and History 215T) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W) (D)

The first fifty years of the 20th century saw unprecedented changes in almost every sphere of Chinese society. A political system that had survived in some form for over two millennia abruptly disintegrated. New ideas challenged orthodox intellectual culture in profound and complex ways. Chinese intellectuals questioned the value of inherited traditions while simultaneously enacting new possibilities of Chinese life. This course will analyze new cultural and historical possibilities of intellectual culture in China. We will examine in detail the diverse cultural forces that have historically played a part in China’s self-definition. All readings will be in English translation.

Format: tutorial. Requirements: students will meet with the instructor in pairs for an hour each week. Every other week the student will write and present orally a 5- to 7-page paper on the assigned topic of that week. In alternative weeks, the student will write a 2-page critique of the fellow student’s paper. There will also be a final paper dealing with the issues addressed during the course. Evaluation will be based on written work and analysis of the fellow student’s work.


CHN 274F Chinese Calligraphy: Theory and Practice (Same as ArtHist 274)

(See under ART Hist 274 for full description.)

CHN 301F, 302S Upper-Intermediate Chinese (D)

Although the oral skills will continue to receive attention, there is at this level increased emphasis on reading and writing. A major goal of the course will be developing students’ reading proficiency in standard written Chinese. The grammar and vocabulary of which differ considerably from the colloquial written Chinese which was introduced during the first two years of instruction. About half of the course will be devoted to newspaper reading, with the remainder consisting of several modules that may include short selections from modern Chinese fiction, films, or other types of performance literature. Both simplified and traditional character texts will be used. Conducted in Mandarin. This is an EDI course. In addition to involving immersion in a classroom Chinese environment, much of our focus will be on the ways that various cultural issues are perceived and addressed differently (and, in many instances, in similar ways) in China and the US. 

Requirements: two 75-minute classes plus two conversation sessions; primarily reading and discussion; students are required to write a short essay every other week. Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Chinese 202 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: none (expected: 15). Preference given to Chinese majors.

Hour: 1:10-2:25 TF

Conferences: 11:00-11:50 MW, 12:00-12:50 MW

Conf: 11:00-11:50 MW, 12:00-12:50 MW

CHN 352 Bridging Theory and Practice: Teaching Chinese as a Second Language (Not offered 2011-2012)

This course introduces students to the principles of second language acquisition (SLA), a field of study that investigates how people learn a foreign language and provides a basis for understanding research related to foreign language learning and teaching. Theoretical issues to be covered include what it means to know a language, how one becomes proficient in a foreign language, factors that affect the learning process, and the role of one’s native language. We will also examine what SLA research has discovered about teaching grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and writing. In this course students will explore ways in which SLA theories can be applied to facilitate acquisition of Chinese in terms of learning strategies and curriculum design. This course will be useful to both students who want to improve their own learning of Chinese and those who plan to teach or conduct research on Chinese. All readings in English with some examples in Chinese.

Format: lecture/discussion. Evaluation will be based on class participation, several oral presentations and short papers, and a final research project.

Prerequisites: Chinese 101 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 20 (expected: 15). C. CHANG

CHN 401F, 402S Advanced Chinese (D)

This course is designed to enhance the Chinese language proficiency of students who are already at relatively advanced levels. A wide assortment of materials is used including (for speaking/comprehension) audiotapes, videotapes, and films featuring Chinese speakers from various segments of society; and for (reading) newspaper and magazine articles dealing with Chinese politics and economics as well as contemporary Chinese literature. Conducted in Mandarin. This is an EDI course. In addition to involving immersion in a classroom Chinese environment, much of our focus will be on the ways that various cultural issues are perceived and addressed differently (and, in many instances, in similar ways) in China and the US.

Class Format: 75-minute classes plus a conversation session.

Requirements/Evaluation: evaluation will be based on classroom performance, short essays every other week, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Chinese 302 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limit: 13 (expected: 13). Preference given to Chinese majors.

Hour: 2:35-3:50 MR

Conferences: 12:00-12:50 M, F 1:10-2:00 F

Hour: 2:35-3:50 MR

Conferences: 12:00-12:50 M, F 1:10-2:00 F
CHIN 404 Advanced Readings in Chinese Cultural and Social Issues (Not offered 2011-2012)

Using selections from Chinese literary works, as well as journalistic and academic articles, this advanced reading course is designed to further develop students’ abilities to analyze and discuss in Mandarin complex issues related to Chinese cultural and social issues. Acquisition of specialized vocabulary and improving proficiency in formal discourse, both oral and written, are two primary aims of this course.

Format: lecture; two 75-minute classes plus a conversation session; primarily reading and discussion. Evaluation based on class performance, homework, quizzes, tests, and a final project.

Prerequisites: Chinese 402 or permission of instructor; open to first-year students. Preference given to Chinese majors.

CHIN 412(F) Introduction to Classical Chinese

Classical or “Literary” Chinese was the standard written language of China from around the seventh century BC until the 1920s and served for many centuries as an important written language in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam as well. Moreover, remnants of Classical Chinese are still used frequently in Modern Chinese, in both writing (e.g., newspaper, road signs and academic writing) and speech (e.g., proverbs and aphorisms). This course will serve as an introduction to the basic grammar and vocabulary of Classical Chinese. We will focus on philosophical, political, and historical anecdotes from works from the Spring and Autumn period (770-481 B.C.) through the Han Dynasty (202 B.C.-220 A.D.), as they served as the foundation for the language. While the main objective is to develop reading proficiency in Classical Chinese, the course will also serve to enhance proficiency in Modern Chinese through classroom discussion in Mandarin, translation of Classical Chinese into Modern Chinese, and comparison of Classical Chinese and Modern Chinese vocabulary and grammar. Conducted primarily in Mandarin.

Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, tests, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Chinese 302 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 12).

CR: 1:10-2:25 MR

CHIN 413(S) Intermediate Classical Chinese: Ideas of Authority in Classical Chinese Literature

This course builds on the base of vocabulary and grammar established in Chinese 412 to introduce students to a much broader range of Classical Chinese texts and genres. The works we will read include poetic, philosophical, and historical texts that all deal in some way with evolving ideas of authority in the Chinese tradition. Our focus in this course will be not only on careful translation and grammatical analysis of these texts, but also on the ideas they express and the different rhetorical and linguistic modes they use to construct their arguments. Students will also be introduced to the major dictionaries and other resources for reading and translating Classical Chinese. All primary readings will be in Classical Chinese. Translation will be primarily into English and classroom discussion will be in English. However, students are expected to have sufficient proficiency in modern Chinese to read commentaries and notes on the texts written in that language.

Format: translation and discussion. Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Chinese 412 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 15).

CR: 9:55-11:10 TR

CHIN 431 Introduction to Chinese Linguistics (Not offered 2011-2012)

Is Chinese—whose nouns “lack” number and whose verbs have no tense—a monosyllabic, “primitive” language? Are the Chinese characters a system of logical symbols or “idiographs,” which indicate meaning directly without regard to sound? Should (and could) the characters be done away with and alphabetized? Are Cantonese, Hakka, and Taiwanese dialects or languages? And what is the relationship between Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese? These are some of the questions we will be taking up in this one-semester introduction to the history and study of the Chinese language. Topics to be covered include: the phonological, syntactical, and lexical structure of Modern Standard Chinese; the Chinese writing system; the modern Chinese dialects; the history of the Chinese language; sociolinguistic aspects of Chinese; language and politics in the Chinese-speaking countries.

Readings in English and Chinese, with class discussion primarily in Mandarin.

Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, two short papers, and one longer paper.

Prerequisites: Chinese 302 or permission of instructor.

KUBLER

CHIN 493(F)-W31-494(S) Senior Thesis

Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

CHIN 497(F), 498(S) Independent Study

For students who have completed Chinese 402 and Chinese 412 or equivalent. Interested students must contact the Coordinator of the Chinese Program one semester in advance and present a proposal to the Coordinator or the professor with whom they wish to study during pre-registration week.

COURSES IN JAPANESE (Div. I)

The department regularly offers four levels of language instruction in Modern Japanese, designed to enable the student to become proficient in aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Courses on Japanese literature in translation and film are also offered. The course numbering system for Japanese is sequential. Students move from Japanese 101-102 to 201, 202, 301, 302, 401, 402 and, if appropriate, 403 and 404. Independent study (Japanese 497, 498) may be offered for students who have completed 402 or the equivalent, depending on student needs and available resources. Students interested in pursuing independent study must contact the Coordinator of the Japanese Program one semester in advance and present a proposal to the professor with whom they wish to study by the first day of pre-registration week. Those students entering with proficiency in Japanese should see the Coordinator concerning placement. For the purpose of the distribution requirement, all courses in Japanese are considered Division I unless otherwise noted.

STUDY ABROAD

Students majoring in Japanese are encouraged to consider study in Japan at some point in their Williams career—during one or both semesters of their junior year, during the summer, or over Winter Study. It is important that students interested in any of these options consult carefully with the department and the Dean’s Office starting at an early date.

JAPN 101(F)-W38-102(S) Elementary Japanese (D)

An introduction to modern spoken and written Japanese, the course will emphasize oral skills in the fall semester, with somewhat more reading and writing in the spring. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Computer-assisted learning materials will be used extensively. Classes consist of a combination of “act” classes, conducted exclusively in Japanese, where students use the language in various types of drills and communicative activities, and “fact” classes, conducted in Japanese and English, where students learn about the language and culture. This is an EDI course. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural difference inform and are informed by different linguistic contexts and practices.

Evaluation will be based on daily classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.

No enrollment limit (expected: 15). Credit granted only if both semesters and the winter study sustaining program are taken.

First Semester: YAMAMOTO (lecture), YAGI (conferences)

Second Semester: YAMAMOTO (lecture), YAGI (conferences)

Hour: 9:55-11:10 TR

JAPN 110(F) Bridging Japanese for Non-beginners I (D)

This course is designed for students who have prior experience in Japanese (i.e. high school Japanese courses), but are not quite ready for intensive training at the intermediate level. It aims to enhance foundations and build up proficiency in all the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, which is critical for success in intermediate Japanese and beyond. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Classes consist of a combination of “act” classes, conducted exclusively in Japanese, where students use the language in various types of drills and communicative activities, and “fact” classes, conducted in Japanese and English, where students learn about the language and culture. This is an EDI course. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural difference inform and are informed by different linguistic contexts and practices.

Students should be already familiar with two phonetic syllabaries, hiragana and katakana. Classes meet for one hour, three times a week.

Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 5).

Hour: 11:00-12:15 MWF

YAMAMOTO

JAPN 152(F) Japanese Film (Same as Comparative Literature 152)

(See under COMP 152 for full description.)

C. BOLTON

JAPN 200(S) Bridging Japanese for Non-beginners II (D)

This course is designed for students who have prior experience in Japanese (i.e. high school Japanese courses), but are not quite ready for intensive training at the intermediate level. It aims to enhance foundations and build up proficiency in all the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, which is critical for success in intermediate Japanese and beyond. The relationship between language and culture and the sociolinguistically appropriate use of language will be stressed throughout. Classes consist of a combination of “act” classes, conducted exclusively in Japanese, where students use the language in various types of drills and communicative activities, and “fact” classes, conducted in Japanese and English, where students learn about the language and culture. This is an EDI course. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural difference inform and are informed by different linguistic contexts and practices.

Students should be already familiar with two phonetic syllabaries, hiragana and katakana, and have knowledge of approximately 100 kanji. Classes meet for one hour, three times a week.

Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 5).

Hour: 11:00-12:15 MWF

YAMAMOTO
This course is a continuation of First-Year Japanese 101-102, further developing the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The same general methodology will be used. Upon completing the course, students will have been introduced to most of the major structural patterns of contemporary Japanese and will be able to read simple expository prose. This course will be an introduction to the world of the Western stage. Throughout the course we will address issues of how cultural difference informs and are informed by different linguistic contents and practices. Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.

Prerequisites: Japanese 101-102 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 10).

First Semester: YAMADA (lecture), YAGI (conferences)  
Second Semester: YAGI (lecture), ABE (conferences)

JAPN 217 Early Modern Japan (Same as Asian Studies 217 and History 217) (Not offered 2011-2012)

(See under HIST 217 for full description.)

Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

JAPN 218 Modern Japan (Same as Asian Studies 218 and History 218) (Not offered 2011-2012)

(See under HIST 218 for full description.)

Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

JAPN 220(F) Introduction to Linguistic Analysis

This course provides an opportunity to gain an understanding of the nature of human language and its patterns. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to analyze speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word and sentence structures (morphology and syntax) and meaning (semantics) using simple data from English and other languages like Japanese and Chinese, and to apply analytical thinking to various linguistic phenomena including historical change and contextual variation.

Format: lecture. Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, assignments, a midterm and a final exam.

No prerequisites; previous knowledge of linguistics or of particular foreign languages is required; open to all students. No enrollment limit (expected: 15).

Distributional Requirements: Division I

Time: 2:35-3:50 MR

ABE

JAPN 222 Introduction to Postwar Japanese Cinema to 1960 (Same as Comparative Literature 222) (Not offered 2011-2012)

This course is an introduction to Japanese postwar cinema. The film screenings will be arranged chronologically, starting from 1948 and move forward until the 1960s. Due to time limitations the course will not be comprehensive but it will be critical, with an examination of major, pioneering Japanese directors and some of their seminal films, their visual and narrative styles. Analytical attention will be paid to the cultural and historical background of the films before, during and after WWII, and the influence of the American Occupation after 1945. There will be an exploration of the complexity and depth of the thematic topics that recur across time, and how Japanese cinematic representation derived and departed from filmmaking in the West, all the while contributing to defining the film art form in the twentieth century.

All films will be shown with English subtitles; no knowledge of Japanese is required.

Format: lecture and discussion. Requirements: critical (2-3) page responses after each screening and one research essay (10-15 pages) at the end of the term. Attendance at weekly screenings is mandatory.

No prerequisites; open to all. Enrollment limit: 15.

Required reading text: Donald Richie, A Hundred Years of Japanese Film: A Concise History, with a Selective Guide to DVDs and Videos and Harp of Burma.

F. STEWART

JAPN 223 Physical Theatre Japan (Same as Theatre 233) (Not offered 2011-2012) (D)

Japanese nô, an elaborate composition of poetry, dance and chanting, dates back not as a mere relic, but as a thriving cultural institution. Nô performers train decades before they attain professional status, and professional performers enjoy the patronage of thousands of student amateurs who dedicate themselves to lifetime study of one or more of the constituent arts (singing, dancing, or instrumental accompanying) and who are the core of their audiences.

Through readings, discussions and hands-on training, this course looks into both the historical circumstances and the intrinsic properties of the art that have allowed it to attract and cultivate a dedicated following of patron-practitioners. We will also look into how this product of a Japanese cultural milieu has been able to transcend that milieu, compelling western theatre artists (from Eugene O’Neill to Eugenio Barba) and composers (from Benjamin Britten to David Byrne) to look to it for sources of inspiration. Finally we consider the diaspora of nô as a performed art outside Japan, in and languages other than Japanese.

Throughout the semester, we will delve into the training, history and literature of nô, and investigate how it operates as theatre, how it tells its stories. Along the way, students will learn, rehearse, and be expected to perform one or more basic dances (shimai) and songs (uta) from traditional or emerging repertoire. No experience in dancing or singing is necessary—just an ounce or two of courage! Readings will include English translations of several nô plays (Japanese versions are also available upon request). Other readings offer departure points for our discussions. Where possible, I will endeavor to provide optional opportunities to attend live performances that illustrate the principles at play in our readings and discussions.

Format: seminar. Requirements: active participation in discussions and training sessions; in-class performances; several abstracts and other short written assignments. Final projects may take the form of either a creative work or a research paper, and will be designed in direct consultation with the instructor. Some rehearsals outside of regularly scheduled class periods may also be required.

Prerequisite: sophomore standing or higher (waived with permission of the instructor). Material and Lab fee (for rehearsal fan and tabi): $75.

O’CONNOR

JAPN 224 Issues in Contemporary Japan through Literature and Film (Same as Comparative Literature 224) (Not offered 2011-2012)

Tuancy, hikikomori (reclusion), otaku (nerdy obsessiveness), neet (willful disengagement), enjokôshii (dates for hire), parasite singles, working poor, low birth-rate, aging and senior care—these are some of the issues actively discussed and debated in contemporary Japanese society. This course explores ways in which these and other societal phenomena are depicted through literature, film, and other media, and thereby poses questions at the crossroads of popular/youth-culture, national identity, and the shifting narratives of minority and gender. All films, films, and other media will be in English, or subtitled in English. Some materials may also be available in Japanese for those interested.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: active class participation, presentations, two short essays, and one final project paper.

No prerequisites; open to all. Enrollment limit: 15 (expected: 15). Preference to Japanese majors, then Asian Studies majors, and then seniors.

KAGAYA

JAPN 252 The Masks of Japanese Literature (Same as Comparative Literature 252) (Not offered 2011-2012) (D)

(See under COMP 252 for full description.)

C. BOLTON

JAPN 254 Japanese Literature and the End of the World (Same as Comparative Literature 264) (Not offered 2011-2012)

(See under COMP 264 for full description.)

C. BOLTON

JAPN 255(S) Love and Death in Modern Japanese Literature (Same as Comparative Literature 255) (D)

(See under COMP 255 for full description.)

C. BOLTON

JAPN 266 Confession and Deception in Japanese Literature (Same as Comparative Literature 266) (Not offered 2011-2012)

(See under COMP 266 for full description.)

C. BOLTON

JAPN 267 Japanese Theatre and its Contemporary Context (Same as Comparative Literature 267) (Not offered 2011-2012)

Japan’s rich and varied performance traditions, old and new, born of different historical settings, coexist to this day and compete for the attention of audiences, domestically and abroad. The forms to be considered (Nohgaku, Kabuki, Bunraku, Shingeki and Butoh, among others) are all dynamic. Each has transformed itself in response to evolving social conditions. This course examines these performance traditions, considers how each reflects the social, cultural, and political context of its birth, and poses the question: “Of what relevance is this to a contemporary audience?” Some of the other questions we will explore include: How have these performing traditions transformed themselves throughout history? What do we mean by ‘traditional’ vs. ‘contemporary’? How are traditional and contemporary performance genres interacting with each other? And how have the central themes of these works evolved? All readings and discussion will be in English.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: active class participation, presentations, written journals, two short papers, and one longer paper.

No prerequisites. Enrollment limit: 15 (expected: 15). Preference to majors, then Asian Studies majors, and then seniors.

KAGAYA

JAPN 270(S) Japanese Art and Culture (Same as ArtH 270)

(See under ARTH 270 for full description.)

JANG

JAPN 271 Transitional Japanese Literature into the Twentieth Century (Same as Comparative Literature 269) (Not offered 2011-2012)

After more than two centuries of National Seclusion, Japan’s modern era began suddenly in the middle of the nineteenth century, with the unexpected arrival of Commodore Perry, the destabilization of the 250-year old shogunal government, and the violent restoration of Imperial rule. Rapid and radical changes followed in every aspect of society, from fashion to philosophy. We will explore how such changes have been expressed through literature, film and performance. We will trace how the authors of literary and other artistic works perceived, integrated and at times rejected experiences of the new and the foreign. All readings and discussions will be in English.

Format: lecture/discussion. Requirements: evaluation will be based on active class participation, presentations, written journals, two short and one longer paper.

No prerequisites; open to all. Enrollment limit: 15 (expected: 15). Preference given to majors first and then seniors and juniors.

KAGAYA
JAPN 276  Premodern Japanese Literature and Performance (Same as Comparative Literature 278) (Not offered 2011-2012)
Prerequisites: any one of Japanese 400’s courses or permission of instructor; open to all.
Format: seminar. Requirements: evaluation will be based on daily preparation and in-class performance, a weekly journal, and a final research paper.

This course also aims to develop a high level of speaking proficiency through discussion and narrative discourse. This is an EDI course because students are immersed in a Japanese language environment and the course materials will involve critical thinking and discussion of two diverse cultures, Japan and the US.

Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.
Prerequisites: Japanese 202 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 10).
Hour: 8:30-9:45 MWF 8:30-9:45 MWF
First Semester: YAMADA  Second Semester: ABE

JAPN 301(F), 302(S)  Upper-Intermediate Japanese (D)
This course is a continuation of Japanese 201, 202, further developing the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The same general methodology will be used. Upon completing the course, students will have been introduced to all the major structural patterns of contemporary Japanese and will have begun to emphasize vocabulary building through the study of situationally oriented materials stressing communicative competence. The reading of expository prose of intermediate difficulty will also receive some attention. This is an EDI course. In addition to involving immersion in a classroom Japanese environment, much of our focus will be on the ways that various cultural issues are perceived and addressed differently (and, in many instances, in similar ways) in Japan and the US.
Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.
Prerequisites: Japanese 202 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 10).
Hour: 8:30-9:45 MWF 8:30-9:45 MWF
First Semester: YAMADA  Second Semester: ABE

JAPN 321  History of U.S.-Japan Relations (Same as Asian Studies 321 and History 321) (Not offered 2011-2012) (D)
(See under HIST 321 for full description.) SINIAWER
Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

JAPN 390  The 1930s in Comparative Perspective: Germany, Italy, and Japan (Same as Asian Studies 390 and History 390) (Not offered 2011-2012) (D)
(See under HIST 390 for full description.) SINIAWER

JAPN 401, 402  Advanced Japanese (Not offered 2011-2012) (D)
A continuation of Japanese 302, developing speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in the discussion of social issues in current Japan. Topics may vary according to the level of the students. This is an EDI course. In addition to involving immersion in a classroom Japanese environment, much of our focus will be on the ways that various cultural issues are perceived and addressed differently (and, in many instances, in similar ways) in Japan and the US.
Evaluation will be based on daily performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm, and a final exam.
Prerequisites: Japanese 302 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 8).
Hour: 12:00-12:50 MWF
ABE

JAPN 403(F)  Advanced Seminar in Japanese I (D)
This course provides advanced training in listening, speaking, reading and writing Japanese, making use of materials such as newspapers, magazine articles, television broadcasts, and on-line materials that focus on current issues in Japan. This is an EDI course. In addition to involving immersion in a classroom Japanese environment, much of our focus will be on the ways that various cultural issues are perceived and addressed differently (and, in many instances, in similar ways) in Japan and the US.
Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm and a final exam.
Prerequisites: Japanese 402 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 5).
Hour: 12:00-12:50 MWF
ABE

JAPN 404(S)  Advanced Seminar in Japanese II (D)
This course is designed for advanced Japanese language students. The goal is for students to be able to carry on extended discourse—such as a discussion, a speech, or an interview—in a culturally appropriate manner; to read authentic materials such as newspapers, magazine articles and literary works with ease; and to make presentations and write research papers on issues of interest. The course also makes use of video-conferencing and pod-casting and will focus on current social, cultural, educational, and political issues in Japan. This course, which is conducted entirely in Japanese, has the EDI designation since students are immersed in a Japanese language environment and the course materials will involve critical thinking and discussion of two diverse cultures, Japan and the U.S.
Evaluation will be based on classroom performance, homework, quizzes, a midterm and a final exam.
Prerequisites: Japanese 403 or permission of instructor. No enrollment limit (expected: 5).
Hour: 12:00-12:50 MWF
ABE

JAPN 406(F)  Thematic Reading and Writing in Japanese II (D)
This course is designed for the advanced students of Japanese who want to develop their reading and writing skills intensively. Students will be exposed to various genres of readings on the themes of modern and pre-modern Japanese society in contrast to those of the U.S. Research and writing skills will be developed in conjunction with student projects. This course also aims to develop a high level of speaking proficiency through discussion and narrative discourse. This is an EDI course because students are immersed in a Japanese environment in class and will learn how to express their ideas and opinions using Japanese discourse patterns both in texts and dialogues. This requires reflective thinking over different cultural perspectives between Japan and the U.S. or whatever cultural heritage each student may have.
Evaluation will be based on daily performance and in-class performance, a weekly journal, and a final research paper.
Prerequisites: any one of Japanese 400’s courses or permission of instructor; open to all. Enrollment limit: 5 (expected: 5). Preference given to majors first and then seniors and juniors.
Hour: 7:00-9:40 p.m. M
YAMAMOTO

JAPN 486T  Historical Memory of the Pacific War (Same as Asian Studies 486T and History 486T) (Not offered 2011-2012) (W)
(See under HIST 486 for full description.) SINIAWER
Satisfies one semester of the Division II distribution requirement.

JAPN 493(F)-W31-494(S)  Senior Thesis
Satisfies one semester of the Division I distribution requirement.

JAPN 497(F), 498(S)  Independent Study
For students who have completed Japanese 402 or the equivalent.