

Japanese Minor

A working knowledge of Japanese is increasingly becoming an important tool in the world of international business and foreign affairs. Hence, Sacramento State offers a minor program in Japanese language. Coursework in Japanese may be applied toward other specially designed minors and majors such as Asian Studies, Anthropology, Humanities and Religious Studies, International Business, and International Affairs. Students who minor in Japanese come from a variety of majors including Engineering, Computer Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Business, Criminal Justice, Communication, Kinesiology, Graphic Design, Philosophy, History, Art, English and Asian Studies.

Minor Requirements

- To attain the Japanese Minor, four advanced language courses (taught in Japanese) must be completed for a total of 12 units.
- Recommended courses are JAPN 116A, 116B, 110 & 150 See “Course Offerings” for details on each course.
- The prerequisite for the Japanese Minor is JAPN 2B, or the second-semester of second-year Japanese (or the equivalent). Students without prior language training should start with the first-year sequence of courses – JAPN 1A & JAPN 1B — offered in the fall and spring terms, respectively.

Suggested Roadmap Toward Minor

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
First-Year Japanese	JAPN 1A	JAPN 1B
Second-Year Japanese	JAPN 2A	JAPN 2B
Third-Year Japanese	JAPN 116A (required)	JAPN 116B (recommended)
Fourth-Year Japanese	JAPN 110 or JAPN 150 (required)	JAPN 110 or JAPN 115 (required)

Note:

1. Students who wish to complete the Japanese Minor in one year may take two advanced languages classes concurrently, though it is not recommended. We recommend taking two years to complete the minor. Please consult your instructor.
2. JAPN 120 (Japanese Civilization) may also be used towards the Minor, although it is taught in English. However, language students may read some of the material in Japanese (where available).
3. In special circumstances JAPN 199 (Special Problems) can be applied to the Japanese Minor.
4. Units earned through Study Abroad Programs in Japan (Waseda University, Tsukuba University, and Yokohama National University) can also be applied to the Japanese Minor as long as they are upper-division level courses. Consult your instructor prior to and after your study abroad in Japan.

Learning Outcome for Japanese Minor

Attaining the minor in Japanese requires completing four advanced language courses taught in Japanese. Thus, by the end of the minor program the majority of the students are expected to demonstrate Intermediate Mid level proficiency. This is a standard determined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages that outlines what a student should be able to do with language “on demand.”

The Japanese Minor takes a holistic approach to language proficiency and recognizes the complex interrelatedness of comprehension and comprehensibility, vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. Four desired learning outcomes are listed as follows (not prioritized):

Communication in Japanese

Students are able to 1) engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions (Interpersonal Communication); 2) understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics (Interpretive Communication); and 3) present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners and of readers on a variety of topics (Presentational).

Communication in the three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational), defined in the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning* (1999), is foundational to the Japanese language program’s learning outcomes. An emphasis on the three modes of communication allows students to develop an awareness of other people’s world-views, unique lifestyles, and patterns of behavior, all learned when communicating in a foreign language.

Acquire Cultural Knowledge and Understanding

Students identify, analyze, and discuss Japanese cultural practices and interpersonal relations (related to greetings, gift giving, etc.), as well as tangible and intangible cultural products (texts, traditions, etc.). Students also critically explore relationships between practices, products, and perspectives along with the assumptions that underlie them. The underlying rationale for the focus on cultural competency is the belief in the inextricability of language and culture—and that learning both is crucial to language education.

Develop Insight into the Nature of Japanese and the Native Language

Students acquire the ability to analyze the linguistic features of Japanese and language in general through comparisons with their native language. Each language has its own distinctive characteristics, and linguistic/cultural comparison both raises awareness of and gives students an opportunity to reflect on their own language systems. Study of a new language system and the way such a system expresses meanings in culturally appropriate ways also gives students insight into the nature of language, linguistic and grammatical concepts, and the communicative functions of language in society. Research shows that language study improves reading and writing skills, enhances creativity, diversifies thinking, and improves critical thinking skills.

Connections with Other Disciplines

Foreign language learning expands the educational experience of all students when language students share their knowledge of and about Japanese with other disciplines in the curriculum either formally or informally. Access to information in a foreign language empowers students with knowledge and new perspectives, and efforts to connect Japanese language learning with other parts of students’ academic lives opens doors to information and experiences that enriches students’ university and life experience in general.

Assessment Tool in the Japanese Minor Program

Individual /Group Projects

In each Minor course, students conduct 3-4 individual or group projects. They plan and develop these projects through face-to-face consultations with the instructor and peers, and present their projects in class. At the end of each semester, students submit reflective essays and peer-assessment reports on the projects. Students are encouraged to reflect on their completed projects and improve their quality over the course of four semesters. Past projects include cultural presentations, poster sessions on selected subjects, bilingual webpages, reflective journal writing, interview projects, song writing and performance, speeches, plays, video projects, filmmaking, etc.

E-Portfolios

In each Minor course, students built their own e-portfolios to showcase their best work in Japanese. By the end of the Japanese Minor, students can use their e-Portfolio for future job search and employment opportunities.

SacCT Japanese language proficiency online exercises and test

The Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) is the standard tool used globally to assess Japanese language ability. SacCT Japanese language proficiency online exercises and exams used throughout the Minor program are designed to resemble those on the JLPT, therefore training students for this important exam.

Learning Outcome for First-Year Japanese

Based on Novice High (See [CAN-DO BENCHMARKS/ACTFL](#))

Upon completion of JAPN 1B or JAPN 1C, students should be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- **SPEAKING**– (interpersonal) manage a number of uncomplicated communicative tasks in straightforward social situations and express meaning by creating with the language, in part by combining and recombining known elements and conversational input to produce responses typically consisting of sentences and strings of sentences; (presentational) present basic information on familiar topics using language practiced using phrases and simple sentences.
- **WRITING**- manage practical writing needs (e.g., simple messages and letters) and to create with the language and communicate simple facts and ideas in a series of loosely connected sentences on topics of personal interest and social needs.
- **LISTENING**- demonstrate understanding of information from sentence-length speech, one utterance at a time, in basic personal and social contexts, though comprehension may be uneven.
- **READING**- demonstrate understanding of information from the simplest connected texts dealing with a limited number of personal and social needs, although there may be misunderstandings.
- **CULTURE**- investigate, explain, and reflect on the relationship between the products, the practices, and perspectives of the culture studied.

Learning Outcome for Second-Year Japanese

Based on Intermediate Low (See [CAN-DO BENCHMARKS/ACTFL](#))

- **Interpersonal Communication**
I can participate in conversations on a number of familiar topics using simple sentences.
I can handle short social interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering simple questions.
- **Presentational Speaking**
I can present information on most familiar topics using a series of simple sentences.
- **Presentational Writing**
I can write briefly about most familiar topics and present information using a series of simple sentences.
- **Interpretive Listening**
I can understand the main idea in short, simple messages and presentations on familiar topics.
I can understand the main idea of simple conversations that I overhear.
- **Interpretive Reading**
I can understand the main idea of short and simple texts when the topic is familiar.

Fall 2019 Schedule

<u>Course</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Mtg. Days</u>	<u>Start & End Time</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
JAPN 1A (80643)	01	5	MRP 2005 DH 107	MW TR	9-9:50AM 9-10:15AM	K. Masuyama
JAPN 1A (80604)	02	5	EUR 102 EUR 102	MW TR	11-11:50AM 10:30-11:45AM	K. Masuyama
JAPN 1A (80605)	03	5	MRP 2032 MRP 2032	MW TR	2-2:50AM 1:30-2:45AM	K. Vassil
JAPN 1A (85636)	04	5	YSM 135 MRP 2000	MW TR	12-15:50PM 12-1:15PM	K. Vassil
JAPN 2A (80273)	01	4	MRP 2005	MTWR	8-8:50AM	TBA
JAPN 116A (81030)	01	3	SHS 143 WEB/ONLINE	MW F	12-1:15PM 12-12:50PM	K. Masuyama
JAPN 150 (80910)	01	3	MND 4005	TR	3-4:15PM	K. Masuyama
JAPN 199 (85637)	01	1-3	N/A	N/A	N/A	K. Masuyama

Fall 2019 Course Offering (*please note scheduling pattern*)

JAPN 1A (4 sections), JAPN 2A (1 section), JAPN 116A (3rd year Japanese), JAPN 150, and JAPN 199 will be offered in Fall 2019. For students with prior language training (high school, community college, another university), a placement test is required. Please contact Dr. Kazue Masuyama or Dr. Kristina Vassil.

Lower Division Courses

JAPN 1A - Elementary Japanese – 4 Sections (5 units)

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Fall 2018)
- Textbook: *Genki Textbook & Workbook (2nd Ed.)*
- Start Studying Hiragana – visit [Usagi-chan's page!](#)
- [Hiragana Flashcards](#)
- [Katakana Flashcards](#)

Hiragana (part of the Japanese writing system) instruction will begin on Day 1. It is **highly recommended** that you start learning Hiragana **before** the first day of class. For those who have taken Japanese in high school, community college, or a different university, you must take a placement test. It is used as an advising tool.

JAPN 2A – Intermediate Japanese – 1 Section (4 units)

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Fall 2018)
- Textbook: [Genki Textbook & Workbook \(2nd ed.\)](#)
- [Genki Grammar & Kanji List, Vol. 1](#)
- Schedule: Posted at [SacCT](#) or request from instructor via email.

JAPN 2A is considered **the most important course** for Japanese language learners. You have invested a lot of time learning first-year Japanese. You have a solid foundation. In JAPN 2A you reinforce what you learned in JAPN 1A, solidifying skills and gaining fluency. Everything you have studied so far starts to come together. You may make mistakes and feel embarrassed, but this is a natural part of the learning process. Eventually you will gain tremendously. JAPN 2A offers a safe environment to embark on your journey towards intermediate Japanese.

Students who have taken Japanese for more than 3 years in high school and/or earned an AP score of 4, or those who have completed first-year Japanese at a community college and/or a different university (or the equivalent) may take this course. Students who have not taken first-year Japanese at Sac State must take a placement test. Instructors will use it as an advising tool.

Upper Division Courses

Students minoring in Japanese should begin with JAPN116A. It is highly recommend that you take JAPN 116A (Fall 2018) and JAPN 116B (Spring 2019). This sequence provides a solid foundation towards advanced Japanese.

JAPN 116A – Language & Culture of Japan – 1 Section (3 units)

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Fall 2018)
- Textbook: [Tobira: Gateway to Advanced Japanese: Learning Through Content & Multimedia](#)
[Tobira: Power Up Your Kanji](#)
- Genko Grammar/Kanji Points: [Genki Vol. 1](#) & [Genki Vol. 2](#)

JAPN 116A teaches language through content, which means that language skills are attained through the study Japanese culture and society. For example, you will learn new vocabulary and grammar while studying about Japanese geography, religion, education, popular culture, etc. You will also be exposed to more Kanji and Katakana by reading authentic and semi-authentic materials. Note that the learning method in *Tobira* is a step up from the grammar-and practice-based structure of the *Genki* textbooks. However, do not let the *Tobira* textbook intimidate you. Continue to review the grammar in *Genki* while learning new material. Instructors will do their best to offer you a high-quality learning opportunity!

Review what you have learned in JAPN 2A and 2B before starting JAPN 116B. Because this course focuses on Content Learning through authentic and semi-authentic materials, it is critical to have strong reading skills.

JAPN 150 – Advanced Grammar & Conversation – 1 Section (3 units)

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Fall 2018)
- Textbook: Teacher-made materials. Uploaded to [SacCT](#)

JAPN 150, which alternates with JAPN 110, is normally offered in the spring semester. However, this year JAPN 150 is offered in Fall 2019 and JAPN 110 the following Spring. JAPN 150 focuses on special topics (advanced self-introductions, earthquakes and the environment, and cultural topics such as Japanese games, songs, dramas, etc.) while reinforcing the foundation necessary for passing the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT, scheduled for 12/4/2016). For more information on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), [CLICK HERE](#). JAPN150 will also cover effective ways to make speeches in Japanese, and students will have the opportunity to participate in a speech contest in San Francisco in November 2016. In general, JAPN 150 focuses primarily on language *application* since the majority of students have completed JAPN 116A and JAPN 116B. It is NOT recommended that JAPN 116A and JAPN 150 be taken concurrently (unless you are an advanced Japanese language learner). Please discuss this option with your instructor.

JAPN 194 – Field Experience/Internship (1-3 units)

Resources:

- Contact Dr. Masuyama. You can earn credit for working in Tokyo during the summer for [International Cooperative Education](#)

Directed fieldwork in projects, which use language skills, developed through previous study of Japanese. The projects may include interpreting and translating for public and/or private agencies in Sacramento or other projects approved by the faculty supervisor (all work will be monitored by Japanese Area faculty). The student must submit written reports to his/her supervisor. May be taken more than once for credit.

JAPN 199 – Special Problems (1-3)

Resources:

- Independent Studies

Individual projects, or directed reading. Open only to students competent to carry on independent study. Department petition is required.

Spring Course Offering (*please note scheduling pattern*)

JAPN 1B, JAPN 2B, JAPN 110, JAPN 116B, JAPN 120 & JAPN 199 (subject to change).

JAPN 1B* – Elementary Japanese (5 units)

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Spring 2019)
- Textbook: *Genki Textbook & Workbook (2nd Ed.)*
- [Genki Grammar & Kanji List, Vol. 1](#)

Continuation of JAPN 1A, with emphasis on speaking, vocabulary, reading, grammar, speech patterns, and cultural knowledge. The Kana and Kanji writing systems, geography, and aspects of Japanese customs and manners are included. [*Fulfills the CSUS Foreign Language Graduation Requirement.](#)

JAPN 2B – Intermediate Japanese (5 units)

Resources:

- [Course Syllabus](#) (Spring 2019)
- Textbook: [Genki Grammar & Kanji List, Vol. 2](#)

Continuation of JAPN 2A. Further development of speaking, reading, grammar, and composition skills.

JAPN 110 – Introduction to Japanese Literature (3 units)

Resources:

- Pre-requisite: JAPN 2B (or equivalent)
- [Course Syllabus](#) (Spring 2019)
- Focuses on reading literatures in Japanese and demonstrating your understanding orally and in writing.
- Equivalent to 3rd & 4th year Japanese language (combined course).
- Note: Taking JAPN 110 & JAPN 116B concurrently in manageable but intensive and requires substantial effort Consult with instructor.

Introduction to Japanese literature from the 10th century to the present. The various forms of Japanese classic and contemporary literature will be surveyed through the selective reading of representative works. Class will be conducted in both Japanese and English.

JAPN 116B – Language & Culture of the Japanese (3 units)

Resources:

- Pre-requisite: JAPN 116A (or equivalent)
- [Course Syllabus](#) (Spring 2019)
- Textbook: TBA
- Equivalent to 3rd & 4th year Japanese language (combined course)
- Note: Taking JAPN 116B & JAPN 110 concurrently in manageable but intensive and requires substantial effort Consult with instructor.

Continuation of JAPN 116A in more advanced modern Japanese.

JAPN 120 – Japanese Civilization (3 units)

Resources:

- Syllabus: TBA
- Textbook: TBA

Explore traditional and contemporary Japan through a variety of topics including geographical setting, historical development, language, literature, aesthetics, customs and manner, communication, pop-culture, economic development, politics and globalization. Taught in English.

JAPN 194 – Field Experience/Internship (1-3 units)

Resources:

- Contact Dr. Masuyama. You can earn credit for working in Tokyo during the summer for [International Cooperative Education](#)

Directed fieldwork in projects, which use language skills, developed through previous study of Japanese. The projects may include interpreting and translating for public and/or private agencies in Sacramento or other projects approved by the faculty supervisor (all work will be monitored by Japanese Area faculty). The student must submit written reports to his/her supervisor. May be taken more than once for credit.

JAPN 199 – Special Problems (1-3)

Resources:

- Independent Studies

Individual projects, or directed reading. Open only to students competent to carry on independent study. Department petition is required.

Peer Language Practitioners Program (PLP)

Room: MRP 2032T

Website: www.csus.edu/plp

[PLP Sign-Up Form](#)

Email: wllsa03@csus.edu

Thomas Swift Japanese Minor Travel Scholarship

The purpose of the scholarship fund was created to support students with a minor in Japanese language. Learn more about the late [Dr. Swift](#) and [his works](#). For more information on requirements as well as the application process, students are required to apply through the [Sac State Scholarship Portal](#).

Study Abroad In Japan

Why Study in Japan?

- Studying in Japan by the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (JFLA). This [site](#) contains very useful links on study in Japan for all degrees.
- All about [Studying Abroad](#) in Japan by American Association of Teachers of Japanese ([AATJ](#))
- Japan Student Services Organization ([JASSO](#)), which sponsors student-related programs and scholarships for international students studying in Japan.
- Study in Japan by the [General Consulate of Japan at San Francisco - List of University Degree Courses Offered](#) in English (M.A. and Doctor's degree) & [Global 30](#) (PDF) (undergraduate degree in Japan).

Partners through [CSU International Program](#) (one-year program)

- [Waseda University](#)
- [Tsukuba University](#)

Sacramento State Program (one semester or one year)

- [Yokohama National University Junior Year Overseas Program \(JOY\)](#)

Faculty-Led Travel Study

[Ehime University](#)
[Dr. Masuyama's Ehime Page](#)

Other Partner Universities

We also have a ceremonial partnership – we hope to develop a student exchange program.
[University of Shizuoka](#)

Special Events

- [Festival of the Arts – Japan Day](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities](#)
- [World Language Day](#)
- [Japanese Speech Contest](#)

Important Links & Resources

Japan Club – [CSUS Page](#)

Japan Club - [Facebook](#)

Japan Club – [Calendar](#)

[Japan Foundation Los Angeles](#) (JFLA for Japanese language learners)

[JFLA](#) – useful links

Travel Information

[Tokyo 2020 Olympics](#)

[National Geographic Discover Japan Contest](#)

[Visit Japan](#)

[Travel Planner](#) & – [Official Homepage](#) Japan Tourism Organization (JNTO)

[Travel Tips](#) – CNN Travel

[Japan Rail Pass](#)

[Japanese Currency Info](#)

[Tessei: The 7 Minute Miracle of the Bullet Train Cleaning Crew \(YouTube\)](#)

Faculty Bio – Full-Time Faculty

Dr. Kazue Masuyama, Program Area Head

Faculty Office: MRP 2061

email: masuyama@csus.edu

Office Hours: TBA

[Faculty Page](#)



Ph.D., State University of New York, Buffalo

Areas of specialty: language pedagogy and curriculum development, language assessment, global education, translation, and Japanese calligraphy.

Prof. Masuyama is appointed as the Chief Reader for [College Board Advanced Placement Japanese Language & Culture Examination](#), starting from July 2018. She also serves as a Principal Investigator, [California Capital World Language Project](#). Her current project is a translation of a WWII diary of an issei woman from [Florin](#), California.

Dr. Kristina Vassil, Associate Professor

Faculty Office: MRP 2063 email: vassil@csus.edu

Office Hours: TBA



Ph.D., University of Michigan

Areas of specialty: Modern Japanese literature, researching the history of prewar Japanese migration to the U.S., Asian American literature and culture, and Japanese language pedagogy.

Eliot Kelly, Part-Time Faculty

Faculty Office: MRP 2015 email: eliot.kelly@csus.edu

Office Hours: TBA

[Website](#)



M.A., San Francisco State University

Areas of interest include Second Language Acquisition, Rakugo, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and Japanese Physical Culture. He currently holds a black belt in [Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu](#) and has numerous victories including championship titles and honors. Sensei Kelly has owned and operated his own Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu [training center](#) in El Dorado Hills, California since 2009.