

IPN 4010: Japanese Senior Seminar
Spring 2022

Class Meetings

9:15-10:20am, MWF Classroom: LH 202

Instructor

Wang, Yan Office: LH218 Phone: 551-6344. Email: ywang@carthage.edu
Office Hours: W. 2:30-4:30, MF 2:30-4:00 or by appointment

Course Description:

This course is a seminar designed for Japanese-majored students to guide them in development and completion of the senior thesis or project. Students will learn research methods and develop academic abilities to:

- ❖ Demonstrate basic language proficiency in an Asian language
- ❖ Demonstrate a broad cultural knowledge of Japan

Senior thesis:

- Choose a topic related to Japan (culture, social issues, language, literature etc.)
- Formulate research questions
- Conduct original research
- Collect data and utilize primary sources to make arguments
- Develop academic writing skills
- Demonstrate your ability of using your Japanese language skills in your research

Students will learn research methodologies, basic academic writing style, vocabularies, and formats in Japanese. Students should expect to undertake substantial work outside of class in the forms of targeted readings related to your project, identifying research questions, organizing your research strategy, and eventually completing the draft of the senior thesis by the end of the semester. While there will be lectures, we will work substantially in a seminar environment where exchange among us will be a key feature of the learning process.

The final objectives of the senior thesis:

- 1) To complete a stand-alone thesis that satisfies the Senior Thesis/Project requirements (20-25 pages, double space, among which, 3-5 pages must be written in Japanese. However, you can also write more than required or the whole thesis in Japanese, which will be 10-15 pages)
- 2) To give a 20 minutes presentation followed by 5-10-minute question-answers on the thesis

Senior project option:

The students may choose to conduct a senior project instead of senior thesis.

The following are some options for the senior projects:

- ❖ To translate children's literatures from Japanese to English, and from English to Japanese, and either self-publish them or present them to children in local schools.
- ❖ To write a fiction completely in Japanese. The fiction should be creative and reflect Japanese historical, social or cultural aspects.

- ❖ To choose a topic on a Japanese social issue or cultural concept, interview Japanese speakers, and collect data such as surveys or blogs, transcribe and summarize your data. The whole process should be conducted in Japanese.

If you have any new idea of other formats of senior projects, please discuss with me individually.

The main purpose of the projects is to demonstrate your Japanese proficiency and ability of applying your language skills into practical works.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

The final objectives of the senior project are

- To complete the project completely in Japanese (except translations) (8-10 pages, double space).
- To give a 20-minute presentation followed by 5-10-minute question-answers on your project.

Your writing must be your own original work, representing your current level of Japanese. Please refrain from using Google Translation, other similar software, or heavy editing from native speakers.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Writing:

- ❖ Summarize and paraphrase arguments in a research article with a specific topic in English
- ❖ Recognize an argument in cultural nuances in research article written in English
- ❖ Develop culturally interpretive ability to develop paragraphs with coherence and logic (sometimes in Japanese, usually in English)

Speaking

- ❖ Speak with confidence and certain competence using adequate pronunciation and semi-accurate tones and accents in Chinese/Japanese
- ❖ Convince an audience of the relevance and larger importance of the topic in English and use English to explain relevant Japanese concepts and terms

Cultural knowledge

- ❖ Recognize general trends in Japanese intellectual history and Japanese philosophical eras
- ❖ Apply sociolinguistic, historical, philosophical knowledge into undergraduate research

Prerequisite

JPN 4070, Study abroad in Japan, or satisfactory placement test scores

Course Requirements and Grades

Attendance and participation	10%
Drafts (proposal, 5, 10, 15 pages, first draft)	20%
Final draft	40%
Thesis presentation	30%
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Total	100%

Course Format:**Class/group meetings:**

- ❖ Learn research methods and resources
- ❖ Review thesis writing techniques
- ❖ Learn and practice Japanese academic writing skills
- ❖ Solve problems in the writing process
- ❖ Peer review and comment each other's writing

Individual meetings:

- ❖ Decide the topic
- ❖ Discuss the outline/framework
- ❖ Conduct research and discuss on resources
- ❖ Revise the draft

Additional requirements:

- Students are expected to schedule regular appointments with the writing center
- All the submissions should be proofread
- For the Japanese part, heavy editing by native Japanese speakers and translation software uses are not allowed, and the writing should reflect your current proficiency level.
- The students who are seeking double majors should contact the professors from the second major to discuss how to integrate the Japanese thesis with the other major requirements.

Tentative schedule

week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1 Feb.2-4	(No class)	Class meeting	Class meeting
Week 2 Feb.7-11	Class meeting	Individual meetings	Individual meetings
Week 3 Feb.14-18	Individual meetings	Class meeting	Individual meetings
Week 4 Feb.21-25	Individual meetings	Class meeting Workshop by library (TBD)	Individual meetings
Week 5 Feb.28-Mar.4	Individual meetings	Class meetings Proposal due	Individual meetings
Week 6 Mar.7-11	Individual meetings	Individual meetings	Individual meetings
Week 7 Mar.14-18	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 8 Mar.21-25	Individual meetings	Class meetings (5 pages due)	Individual meetings
Week 9 Mar.28 –Apr.1	Individual meetings	Individual meetings	Individual meetings
Week 10	Individual meetings	Class meetings (10 pages due)	Individual meetings

Apr.4-8			
Week 1 Apr.11-15	Individual meetings	Individual meetings	Easter Break
Week 12 Apr.18-22	Easter Break	Class meetings (First draft due)	Individual meetings
Week 13 Apr.25-29	Individual meetings	Individual meetings	Individual Meetings
Week 14 May 2-6	Individual meetings	Class meetings Second draft due	Optional meetings
Week 15 May 9-13	Optional meetings	Thesis presentation	Thesis presentation Final thesis due May 16th

STYLE GUIDE

1. TEXT LENGTH: 20-25 pages (3-5 pages in Japanese) (i.e., the paper exclusive of footnotes or endnotes, title page, abstract, bibliography, etc.)
2. MARGINS: 1 ½" at left; 1" all other sides
3. FONT: 12 pt. Times Roman
4. DOCUMENTATION: footnotes or endnotes
5. PAGE NUMBERING: consecutively through all materials, excluding title page.
6. ABSTRACT: 100-150 words of summary of your argument/contents. Must be the second page
7. REFERENCE: Using a standard system, either MLA or APA, but be consistent.
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY: again, using a standard system.
9. TITLE PAGE: must include paper title and author's name and completion date in caps and centered.

Senior Thesis Rubric--Categories

Category	A	B	C	D	F
ANALYTICAL CONSIDERATIONS					
Thesis Statement	Clear, well-defined, sharply focused	Defined, Focused	Pedestrian	Poorly defined or inconsistent	Absent
Evidence	Excellent evidence for thesis statement running through the entire thesis	Good evidence for thesis statement running through the entire thesis	Evidence for thesis statement, but inconsistent or of poorer quality.	Poor evidence for thesis statement, or tangential material	Lack of evidence and/or significant tangential material
Bibliographic Scope	Extensive; excellent use of both primary and secondary sources	Reasonable; good use of both primary and secondary sources.	Limited; undue reliance on either primary/secondary sources	Lacking; Thin in content, ignores either primary or secondary sources.	Lame
Analysis and Argument	Skillful, outstanding examples, flashes of brilliance	Decent, with appropriate examples	Reasonable, less convincing examples	Rudimentary, or missing appropriate examples	Absent
STRUCTURAL/MECHANICAL CONSIDERATIONS					

Mechanics	Excellent mechanics	Good mechanics	Adequate	Sloppy	Serious neglect
Organization	Excellent written, ideas well organized Sentence/paragraph order helpful, clear, and effective	Well written, ideas adequately organized; sentence and paragraph order clear	Major ideas evident, lack clarity or effectiveness.	Major ideas poorly organized and poorly presented.	Poorly written, ideas unclear, poorly organized, and do not flow in linear fashion
Introduction and Conclusion	Excellent conveys thesis scope, reiterates major points.	Effectively conveys thesis scope, reiterates major points.	Decently conveys thesis scope, reiterates major points.	Poorly conveys thesis scope, reiterates major points.	Fails to thesis scope and/or reiterate major points.
Style/Voice	Eloquently written, clear authorial voice	Clearer signs of authorial voice Better style	Pedestrian or utilitarian	Flat, Boring, Authorial Voice muted/absent	Absent

Covid-19 policy and expectations

1. Not to attend class when you're sick.
2. Not to attend class when you've been exposed to people who have or may have Covid-19.
3. To practice social distancing always, keeping at least 3 feet from everyone else.
4. To wear a mask—and wear it effectively—at all times

Tutoring assistance

Tutoring is available to assist you with any aspect of the class, including understanding readings, preparing for quizzes, and studying for exams. These resources are not engineered especially for struggling students; they are for everyone to maximize your academic growth potential. Please take advantage of them. For information and to book an appointment visit carthage.edu/tutoring.

Support services:

The Health and Counseling Center (HCC) supports students by addressing physical, mental, and emotional well-being. All services are free and confidential and are available to currently enrolled, full-time undergraduate students. Health services include the assessment and treatment of minor illness and injury. Diagnostic testing, complimentary over-the-counter medications, and referrals to off-campus providers are all available. Our licensed counselors help students with challenges that can be resolved with short-term, solution-focused counseling. Some topics discussed during counseling include depression and anxiety, traumatic experiences, gender and sexuality, relationship concerns, stress management, and academic challenges. More details - including info about appointments - can be found at carthage.edu/health-counseling.

[Uwill](#) is a free teletherapy platform for Carthage students. Uwill connects students with licensed therapists from all 50 states. Support is available in a variety of formats -- video, chat, messaging, or

phone. Counselors are available nights, weekends, and during holidays. Access is quick and easy: app.uwill.com.

Suggested email signature: Students receive free, immediate access to teletherapy through Uwill. It's private, secure & confidential. Click [here](#) to get started.

HCC Hours and Location

TARC 2240 / 262-551-5710

M-F 8:30-4:00

Health Services (in-person): Call to schedule a same-day appointment; walk-ins accepted

Counseling Services (in-person): Call to schedule an appointment; walk-ins accepted M-F 11:30-1:00

**Services, hours, and walk-in availability are subject to change*