About the Program
The Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Program, a component of the Asian Studies Program (see Asian Studies in this Bulletin), offers majors, minors and courses of interest to all undergraduates at Puget Sound. Grounded in a strong foundation of languages, the program draws on the broad expertise of the Asian Studies faculty and complements the Asian Studies Program’s Interdisciplinary Minor and Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar designation in offering students a focused and comprehensive understanding of the languages, cultures, and literatures of China and Japan. The program offers two majors, two minors, courses in the core curriculum, and Chinese and Japanese language courses that fulfill requirements toward the Asian Studies minor and meet the university’s foreign language requirement.

ALC offers majors in Chinese Language and Culture, Japanese Language and Culture and Japanese Language and Literature, as well as minors in Chinese and Japanese. The goals of the language curriculum are based on the proficiency guidelines of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). Each major is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in language and culture through intensive language training and broad exposure to the cultural traditions of China and Japan. The curriculum systematically prepares students through highly structured and interactive classroom instruction and a wide variety of learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

Students who graduate from the Asian Language & Cultures Program will be able to:
1. Communicate effectively with native speakers of Chinese and/or Japanese in a variety of situations using culturally appropriate language.
2. Read and understand the gist of authentic materials, such as news summaries and short essays, with the aid of dictionaries and other resources.
3. Write expository and expressive essays in the target language on a variety of topics.
4. Implement tools to become independent, self-sufficient learners of the target language beyond the classroom.
5. Demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the literary and cultural traditions of China and/or Japan, and understand those traditions within the East Asian and world contexts.
6. Analyze and discuss coherently Chinese and/or Japanese literary and cultural works.
7. Write logically and clearly in English about Chinese and/or Japanese literary and cultural traditions.
8. Apply critical thinking, research and learning skills to be successful in their academic, professional and personal lives after graduation.

Choice of Majors
Students may select from two major areas of study:
1. Chinese
2. Japanese

General Requirements for the Major or Minor
General university degree requirements stipulate that (1) at least four units of the major or three units of the minor be taken in residence at Puget Sound; (2) students earn a GPA of at least 2.0 in courses taken for the major or minor; (3) all courses taken for a major or minor must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the major and minor degree requirements listed below.

Requirements for the Major
Each major consists of 10 units.
1. Courses taken for an ALC major may not be used to satisfy requirements for a second ALC major or a minor.
2. Only courses in which a student has received a grade of C- or better may be counted toward the major or minor.
3. Each student must coordinate his or her program with an ALC faculty member. Variation of requirements is possible, as arranged by petition to the Director of Asian Studies.

Requirements for the Major in Chinese (BA)
1. Concentration in language and culture
   a. Six units in Chinese language, of which at least one must be at the 300 level and taken on the Tacoma campus.
   b. Four units of Chinese culture, of which at least two must be at the 300 level or above, taken on the Tacoma campus. Of the four, at least three must be chosen from the following courses: ALC 215, 225, 325, 345; ARTH 245, 343, 344; IPE 388; PG 378, 379; PHIL 305; REL 234. An additional unit may be chosen from the following courses: ALC 205; ARTH 278, 370, 371; HIST 349; HUM 330; PG 323; REL 332; SOAN 395.

Requirements for the Major in Japanese (BA)
1. Concentration in language and culture
   a. Six units in Japanese language, of which at least one must be at the 300 level and taken on the Tacoma campus.
   b. Four units of Japanese culture, of which at least two must be at the 300 level or above, taken on the Tacoma campus. Of the four, at least three must be chosen from the following courses: ALC 310, 320, 330, ARTH 368; HIST 245; PG 372; REL 233, 300, 328; SOAN 304. An additional unit may be chosen from the following courses: ALC 205; ARTH 278, 370, 371; HIST 349; HUM 330, 335; PG 323; REL 332.

2. Concentration in language and literature
   a. Seven units in Japanese language, of which at least two must be at the 300 level, and one must be either JAPN 325, 360, 380, or 385.
   b. Three units from the following: ALC 205, 310, 320, 330.

Requirements for the Minor (5 units)
Completion of a minimum of five units in one language is required for the minor in Chinese or Japanese.

Interdisciplinary Minor in Asian Studies
All students majoring in the Asian languages are strongly encouraged to augment these majors with the Interdisciplinary Minor in Asian Studies offered by the Asian Studies Program, thereby enhancing their major with a deeper and broader comprehension of Asian cultures and societies. Up to two courses taken for the ALC majors may be applied to the Asian Studies Minor. See requirements under the Asian Studies listing.
Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar
Students pursuing the Asian Studies Minor who demonstrate academic excellence and complete a one-semester senior thesis will achieve the added designation Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar (DAS). See requirements under the Asian Studies listing.

International Experience
Not all international experiences are suited for Asian Languages and Cultures majors and minors; therefore, only pre-approved study-abroad coursework may be counted toward degrees in the program. To ensure that credit will transfer, a student wishing to apply study-abroad credit toward a major should consult ALC faculty prior to enrollment. Students with demonstrated financial need who are selected for any Chinese or Japanese language program in Asia are eligible for financial support through the Charles Garnet Trimble Endowment in Chinese Studies.

Language Houses
Knowing that a residential atmosphere provides strong support for language learning, students are encouraged to create their own living-language programs. Students have the opportunity to organize a group of language learners and apply to live in university-owned houses on campus where they may communicate in Chinese or Japanese and share their enthusiasm for the cultures they study in a small group environment. For further information and application deadlines, contact Residence Life.

Spring Festivals
The Asian Languages and Cultures program organizes festivals each spring celebrating the cultures of China and Japan. The Chinese festival coincides with the Chinese Lunar New Year and features a number of activities including calligraphy and tea workshops, traditional cultural displays, and community-based events. Japan Week occurs during the spring cherry blossom season and features movies, speakers, performances, and student-led activities. All Puget Sound students are encouraged to participate in these events.

Transfer of Units and Placement
Students with previous high school language study may be able to begin their language coursework at Puget Sound beyond the introductory level. Heritage students and those with other international experiences, such as study abroad, living with exchange students or other intensive studies should have their language proficiency evaluated by a faculty member. Consult program advisors in the particular language.

Advanced Placement Examinations (AP) with a score of four or five apply toward majors or minors for a maximum of one unit at the 200 level.

Asian language coursework completed at other accredited institutions may be accepted toward major areas of concentration for a maximum of four units, with two going toward the language component, and two more units going toward non-language courses. For the minor, only two units of language may be accepted.

ALC transfer students, especially those who have experienced prolonged periods since their last language coursework, will be evaluated on an individual basis. The Asian Languages and Cultures program does not accept or award credit for distance learning courses. The program also reserves the right to exclude a course from a major or minor based on the age of the course.

Course Offerings
Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see “Frequency of Course Offerings” on page 18. The proper course sequence of foreign language instruction is Elementary Level 101, 102, Intermediate Level 201, 202. A student who has received a C (2.00) grade or better in any course of this sequence or its equivalent cannot subsequently receive credit for a course which appears before it in the sequence.


SSI1 130 Transgressive Desires in Chinese Fiction
SSI1 145 Anime Bodies: Metamorphoses and Identity

Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC)

205 Introduction to Asian Literature  This course uses literary works to explore the art, culture, and society of Asia. Regional focuses may include East Asia, South Asia, or Southeast Asia. Genres under study may include fiction, poetry, drama, essays, and autobiography. Themes and assigned texts vary by instructor. Satisfies the Artistic Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.

225 Visualized Fiction: Cinematic Adaptations of Traditional Chinese Literature  Classical Chinese literature has contributed the inspiration and source materials for a host of modern cultural products. This course is designed to help students develop an awareness of the importance, uses and the significance of classical Chinese literature in modern cultural production. In this course, students study classical texts in English translation and their modern and contemporary film adaptations. In the process, students try to understand what about the original classics appeals to modern cultural producers, and what cultural, social, and political purposes they might serve in different modern contexts. The goals of this course are 1) to develop an overall understanding of major Chinese literary genres; 2) to examine why traditional Chinese literature still matters to us today and why literary works from the past have been used by the West and recycled in our modern cultural production; 3) to demonstrate critical thinking through written and oral expression; 4) to retrieve and use written information critically and effectively. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.

310 Death and Desire in Pre-modern Japanese Literature  One of the most prominent themes of early Japanese literature is a longing for and deep appreciation of beauty coupled with a poignant understanding of its perishability. In this class students read classical Japanese literature from the mid-eighth to the mid-eighteenth century and analyze the works in the context of these major themes of desire and death. In such varied works as “The Tale of the Genji”, “Chûshingura” (the story of the 47 ronin), and the memoirs of Medieval recluses, students explore the different shapes that desire and death take, and how the treatment of these themes changes alongside developments in Japanese culture. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.

320 Self and Society in Modern Japanese Literature  This course is a survey of modern Japanese literature with an emphasis on Japanese writers in the late nineteenth through the twentieth centuries who struggled with questions of identity. The course is organized chronologically and focuses on some of the major authors of the modern period, including Natsume Sôseki, Tanizaki Jun’ichiro, Kawabata Yasunari, and Mishima Yukio. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.

325 Chinese Cinema: Ideology and the Box Office  Chinese-language films produced in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Chinese diaspora have been global powerhouses, winning major international
awards and capturing remarkable box office receipts. With a long and intricate history, Chinese-language cinema is not only one of the most important forms of cultural productions within the region, it also has assumed an increasingly important role in the global cultural industry and imagination. This course introduces students to the broad historical scope of the Chinese-language cinema, covering three major traditions of Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The films examined in the course powerfully capture the ethos of their times, from the early twentieth century to the present. They address important issues such as gender, modernity, national identity, ethnicity, and globalization. While these issues define the contemporary societies under study, they also condition the making of the films. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, Power graduation requirement. Offered occasionally.

330 Writing the Margins in Contemporary Japanese Literature
The examination of the self and its representation that has dominated Japanese literature since the Meiji period (1868-1912) took on a new urgency and tone in Japan’s post-war period, with many authors exploring identities that challenged the established order. For some, that challenge was expressed through transgression and violence; for others, it was embodied in characters who lived outside of the boundaries of social acceptance. During a post-war period of general economic prosperity in which the Japanese government has famously taken pride in being a “homogenous” society, the country’s contemporary literature is consistently and remarkably populated by characters who live on the margins of that homogenous identity. This course will explore the dominant themes of the most important modern and post-modern authors of Japan, including Œ Kenzaburo, Murakami Haruki, Murakami Ryû, and Yoshimoto Banana, with particular emphasis on these marginalized characters and what they say about the “center” and the self. The goals of this course are 1) to become familiar with the most critically acclaimed literary voices of the post-war period; 2) to identify dominant themes in the literature of the period and examine what they say about what it means to be human; 3) to develop skills in critical reading, thinking and writing. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.

345 Revenge and Retribution
Since antiquity, many cultures have turned to revenge as a means of restoring justice. Stories about getting even through revenge abound in both highbrow and popular Chinese literature. The themes of revenge and retribution have lent themselves effectively to various literary genres throughout Chinese history, from historical biographies and classical tales to vernacular short stories and plays, extending all the way into twentieth-century ballet and film. Literature has served as an important site of inquiry into the morality and mechanisms of revenge and retribution, sometimes offering conclusions that are a good deal more ambiguous than legal and philosophical discourses about the same question. This course works through four organizing themes: The Collective (assassination and self-destruction for a larger cause); The Individual (revenge and redemption in interpersonal relationships); Modern Man and Nation Building (from the Republican Period to Socialism); and Transnational Interpretations of “China’s Hamlet.” By the end of the course students should be able to identify the relevant genres, produce effective oral and written analyses of the material, and critically and cogently reflect on how Chinese conceptions of revenge and retribution might help them think through their own beliefs about revenge, justice, forgiveness, and identity. Satisfies the Humanistic Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.

Chinese (CHIN)

101 First Year Chinese
Introduction to the fundamentals of Mandarin Chinese in four basic skills: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is on the development of communicative skills, in both oral and written language. Does not satisfy the Language graduation requirement, except in conjunction with successful completion of CHIN 102. Offered fall semester.

102 First Year Chinese
Introduction to the fundamentals of Mandarin Chinese in four basic skills: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is on the development of communicative skills, in both oral and written language. Prerequisite: CHIN 101 or permission of the instructor. Does not satisfy the Language graduation requirement, except in conjunction with successful completion of CHIN 101 or CHIN 201. Offered spring semester.

201 Second Year Chinese
Development of oral and written fluency at the intermediate level. Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic sentence patterns and their application in day-to-day situations. Oral and written assignments on a variety of topics are included to enhance students’ control of grammatical forms and communicative skills. Prerequisite: CHIN 102 or permission of the instructor. Satisfies the Language graduation requirement. Offered fall semester.

202 Second Year Chinese
Development of oral and written fluency at the intermediate level. Emphasis is on the acquisition of basic sentence patterns and their application in day-to-day situations. Oral and written assignments on a variety of topics are included to enhance students’ control of grammatical forms and communicative skills. Prerequisite: CHIN 201 or permission of the instructor. Satisfies the Language graduation requirement. Offered spring semester.

216 Chinese Corner: Conversation
0.25 activity units. Chinese Corner is an opportunity for Chinese language learners of intermediate level or above to practice Mandarin on a weekly basis in a non-classroom setting. The goals of this activity course are for learners to increase their oral communication skills and comprehension, get help with homework, acquire a deeper understanding of Chinese culture, and interact with other speakers. Prerequisite: CHIN 202 or equivalent. May be repeated for credit. Pass/Fail Required.

230 Grammar and Articulation
This course focuses on patterns, translation, and the use of linguistic structures to articulate ideas in public speaking and composition writing. Course material includes a multimedia component and a grammar review. Students who have completed 300-level courses may enroll for credit. Prerequisite: CHIN 202 or permission of instructor. Satisfies the Language graduation requirement. Offered every other year.

250 Culture and Communication
This course aims to develop increased accuracy in communication skills utilizing Mandarin Chinese in a cultural context. Emphasis is on oral fluency, comprehension, and the language used in daily life. Course material includes study of films and songs with class activities and discussions geared toward further understanding of the society in which the language is spoken. Prerequisite: CHIN 202 or permission of instructor. Students who have completed 300-level courses may enroll for credit. Satisfies the Language graduation requirement. Offered every other year.

301 Across the Strait: Cultures of China and Taiwan
Chinese language studies with specific concerns on issues related to popular culture as well as contemporary social and political conditions. This course includes a grammar review and a multimedia component, and aims for development of oral and written fluency at the advanced level with emphasis on reading, writing, and group discussion. Prerequisite: CHIN 230, 250, or 260, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.
303 Greater China: Commerce and the Media  Chinese language studies in the world of business and media. Areas of exploration include China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and their transpacific Chinese-speaking network. This course includes a grammar review and a multimedia component, and aims for development of oral and written fluency at the advanced level with emphasis on reading, writing, and group discussion. Prerequisite: CHIN 230, 250, or 260, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

305 From Bamboo Grove to Cyberspace: Chinese Literary Texts Now and Then  Chinese language studies focusing on classical and contemporary literary texts that are available in either traditional or electronic format. This course includes a grammar review and a multimedia component, and aims for development of oral and written fluency at the advanced level with emphasis on reading, writing, and group discussion. Prerequisite: CHIN 230, 250, or 260, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

307 Through the Cinematic Lens: Old and New China in Film  This Chinese language studies course explores traditional values and contemporary issues via films produced in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The course includes a grammar review and a multimedia component, and aims for development of oral and written fluency at the advanced level with emphasis on reading, writing, and group discussion. Prerequisite: CHIN 230, 250, or 260, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

309 Phoenix Claws and Lion’s Head: Food and Chinese Culture  Chinese language studies explores topics related to food in Chinese culture. This course includes a grammar review and a multimedia component, and aims for development of oral and written fluency at the advanced level with emphasis on reading, writing, and group discussion. Prerequisite: CHIN 230, 250, or 260, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

311 Chinese Thought: From the Dao to Mao  In this modern Chinese language course students improve reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through an exploration of sources related to Chinese thought. Sources are drawn from Confucian, Daoist, and Buddhist texts as well as those produced by modern political and intellectual movements. This course includes a grammar review and a multimedia component, and aims for development of oral and written fluency at the advanced level with emphasis on reading, writing, and group discussion. Prerequisite: CHIN 230, 250, or 260, or permission of instructor. Offered every other year.

495 Independent Study  Independent study is available to those students who wish to continue their learning in an area after completing the regularly offered courses in that area. May be repeated for credit. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.

Japanese (JAPN)

101 First Year Japanese  Introduction and development of the four basic language skills: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Acquisition of two native scripts, Hiragana and Katakana, is emphasized in 101. Emphasis is on basic sentence patterns with basic vocabulary and development of communicative skills in everyday situations. Prerequisite: JAPN 101 or permission of the instructor. Does not satisfy the Language graduation requirement, except in conjunction with successful completion of JAPN 101 or JAPN 201. Offered spring semester.

102 First Year Japanese  Introduction and development of the four basic language skills: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is on basic sentence patterns with basic vocabulary and development of communicative skills in everyday situations. Prerequisite: JAPN 101 or permission of the instructor. Does not satisfy the Language graduation requirement, except in conjunction with successful completion of JAPN 101 or JAPN 201. Offered spring semester.
315 Kanji in Context II In this course, students focus on strengthening their kanji-based vocabulary at intermediate and higher levels to improve reading and writing. Stroke order and formation are emphasized. Class discussion will improve speaking and listening skills and also may include grammar review. Prerequisite: JAPN 202 or equivalent. Offered occasionally.

325 Shibuya Scramble Crossing: Developing Listening Skill Through TV Drama This course is designed to further advance high intermediate Japanese learners’ listening skills and to improve their vocabulary, sentence patterns and expressions as well as deepen their understanding of Japanese culture. Students explore contemporary Japanese usage and culture through Japanese TV dramas including animation and everyday listening materials. Although the focus is on listening, exposure to authentic Japanese materials will enhance students’ communicative competence in their four language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing). Prerequisite: JAPN 311 with a minimum course grade of C- or equivalent. Offered every other year.

350 Japanese Travelogue: Japanese through Geography and Culture This course is the pre-advanced Japanese language course. The focus of this course is on preparing students to be able to handle academic report writing and oral presentation in Japanese through Japanese geography and culture. Japan has 47 prefectures and is divided into 8 regions. Students will learn an approachable and wide-ranging survey of the geography and culture of each region of Japan as they examine authentic materials. This class is carefully designed for students to learn about the geographical setting of Japan, the people’s way of life, and the nature of Japanese society as if students were traveling across Japan. Prerequisite: JAPN 311 with a minimum course grade of C- or equivalent.

360 Japanese Through Fiction and Film Students strengthen all four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking by using original Japanese materials that appear in both written form and as films. Students first read an original novel or short story, building vocabulary and kanji. Later they view the film made of the story, working on listening comprehension. Activities include weekly writing assignments on readings, kanji and vocabulary quizzes, class discussion of the books and films, and writing English subtitles for the movies. Prerequisite: JAPN 311 with a minimum course grade of C- or equivalent. Offered every other year.

380 Reading Modern Japanese Prose Students strengthen reading and writing skills by reading a wide variety of Japanese prose, including newspaper articles and editorials, and nonfiction and fiction. Activities include writing assignments and class discussion of the readings, and a significant final research paper and presentation. The final weeks of the class are devoted to peer review of completed work on the research paper, and student presentations of research. Prerequisite: JAPN 311 with a minimum course grade of C- or equivalent. Offered every other year.

385 Not Lost in Translation: English to Japanese Translation This course is designed to develop high intermediate level translation skills from English to Japanese. Students have an overview of the considerations that the translator should take into account when approaching texts. Particular attention is paid to understanding the sentence structural differences between English and Japanese, cross-cultural differences in stylistics, making the appropriate choice of words and phrases, and further advancing students’ expressions in the Japanese language. Although the focus is on acquiring translation skills, exposure to authentic Japanese materials enhances students’ communicative competence in their four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) as well as deepens their understanding of Japanese culture. Prerequisite: JAPN 311 with a minimum course grade of C- or equivalent. Offered every other year.

495/496 Independent Study Variable credit up to 1.00 unit. Research under the close supervision of a faculty member on a topic agreed upon. Application and proposal to be submitted to the department chair and faculty research advisor. Recommended for majors prior to the senior research semester. May be repeated for credit up to 4.00 units. Cannot be audited. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.