Japan Studies Learning Goals

Japan Studies concentrators will develop a comprehensive understanding of Japan and its broader place in the field of international relations. Effectively designed courses and extra-curricular activities enable students to analyze Japan’s relationship with surrounding nations and the broader world. Students gain an understanding of the significance, both economically and strategically, of Japanese political economy and the Japanese people, in the broader world, and the implications of the Japanese case beyond its own borders. Students reach proficiency in Japanese language.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will be able to develop a comprehensive understanding of political, social, economic and cultural issues surrounding Japan;
2. Develop a critical understanding of Japan’s key role in the regional political economy of East Asia, as well as its central role in the broader global trade and financial systems;
3. Understand concrete features of the Japanese political economy, organizational behavior and culture well enough to apply Japan’s experience to international problems in other parts of the world, assessing the implications that Japan’s rapid economic development and policy innovation, as well as its occasional rigidity, may have for other advanced and developing nations;
4. Reach proficiency in the Japanese language at the intermediate mid-level or higher; and
5. Gain experience dealing with real-world policy issues relating to Japan, through participation in the US-Japan Yearbook project and other applied courses and extra-curricular activities.