The Academic Minor

Many departments have designed academic minors for the convenience of undergraduate students.

A minor is a structured group of courses that leads to considerable knowledge and understanding of a subject, although with less depth than a major. Some employers consider minors desirable, and the corresponding major requirements at the University may stipulate a minor. Some students choose to complement their major program with a minor in a related field or even in an entirely different field of interest. Students interested in pursuing an academic minor should contact their college dean’s office and the department responsible for the minor program for guidance and advising.

Please note that undergraduate students can only complete a minor in addition to and as a complement to a major. The University does not award stand-alone minors.

Minor in Japan Studies

The Japan Studies minor complements existing majors and prepares students with the skills that are required to work with Japan given its integral place in international business. Students will also become well-versed in the culture and geography of Japan, its history, arts, and environment. This background will prepare students for Japan-related careers in the United States and abroad.

This 25-hour program consists of (1) 16 hours of Japanese language courses, (2) 6 hours of Japanese cultural studies, and (3) 3 hours of elective courses on contemporary East Asian history, politics, and society.

The Japan Studies Program maintains a University of Kentucky Summer Field Station at Yatsushiro (Kyushu) on the campus of the IEC Kyushu International College for summer field research and instruction. Summer field seminars are offered at this site each year. Details at: www.uwplatt.edu/geography/japan.

1. Japanese Language Courses (16 hours)
   JPN 101 Beginning Japanese I ............................................................... 4
   JPN 102 Beginning Japanese II ............................................................. 4
   JPN 201 Intermediate Japanese I .......................................................... 4
   JPN 202 Intermediate Japanese II ......................................................... 4

2. Japanese Cultural Studies (6 hours)
   GEO/JPN 334 Environment, Society and Economy of Japan ............... 3
   JPN 283 Japanese Film ................................................................. 3
   JPN 320 Introduction to Japanese Culture, Pre-Modern to 1868 ............ 3
   JPN 321 Introduction to Japanese Culture, Meiji (1868) to Present ....... 3

3. Contemporary East Asian History, Politics, and Society (3 hours)
   HIS 295 East Asia to 1800 ................................................................. 3
   HIS 296 East Asia Since 1600 ......................................................... 3
   HIS 597 Westerners in East Asia, 1839 to the Present ..................... 3
   ANT 326 Peoples of East Asia ........................................................... 3
   PS 419G The Governments and Politics of Eastern Asia .................. 3
   GEO 333 Geography of East Asia .................................................... 3
   COM 525 Advanced Issues in Organizational Communication (Subtitle required) ................................................................. 3
   JPN 395 Independent Work in Japanese ............................................. 1-6
   JPN 405 Seminar in Japanese and Asian Studies (Subtitle required) ..... 3
   JPN 421G Contemporary Literary and Visual Arts of Japan ............... 3
   GEO/JPN 491G Japanese Landscapes .............................................. 3
   JPN 520 Japanese Linguistics and Society ....................................... 3
   GEO/JPN 551 Japanese Multinational Corporations ......................... 3

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