

**Proposal for
Japan Studies Option
In B.A. in History Degree**

PURPOSE:

To establish a Japan Studies option in the existing B.A. in History Degree in the Department of History & Philosophy at Montana State University—Bozeman to begin in the spring of 2006. The necessity for the Japan Studies option stems from the excellent student participation in the existing Japan Studies non-teaching minor, from outstanding enrollments in Japanese language and history courses, from the quality of the award-winning faculty, from the need for further curricular rationalization of existing Japan-related courses, and from the hope of keeping with the spirit of this land-grant institution by meeting the challenges of the changing outlook for the state of Montana. In line with the rich heritage of giving Montanans and people throughout the west the intellectual and informational tools needed to succeed, the Japan Studies option will further prepare students for the current Pacific Century.

VISION:

Initially, the Japan Studies option, although administered by History & Philosophy, promises to integrate the Japanese language curriculum more naturally into the Department of Modern Languages. To date, of the principal languages represented in Modern Languages, Japanese is the only one that does not offer an undergraduate minor or major option. It goes without saying that this is due not to a lack of commitment in Modern Languages or History & Philosophy but to the original faculty configuration. To remedy this situation without making additional faculty hires, the Japan Studies option will offer an interdisciplinary curriculum for the many students interested in Japan-related studies, including language. Second, the Dean of the College of Letters and Science has instructed faculty in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology to craft a Japan Foundation grant for “seed money” to use for an additional line in Japanese cultural anthropology. Once hired in the fall of 2007, this faculty member would be embedded in the Sociology and Anthropology curriculum, as well as in the interdisciplinary Japan Studies option. The success of the Japan Studies non-teaching minor has demonstrated that interdisciplinary programs can work effectively, and that students benefit from the wide range of intellectual perspectives. Third, the Japan Studies option will be knit together from courses currently available at MSU—Bozeman, with the exception of the courses that a new line in Japanese cultural anthropology would generate.

RATIONALE:

According to the MLA (Modern Language Association), nationwide enrollments in Japanese language classes in 2002 increased by a robust 21%. Here at MSU—Bozeman these statistics also hold true, with Japanese language classes, particularly at the elementary level, increasing dramatically. In the fall of 1999, when the Japan Studies program got underway, there were about 15 students enrolled in Elementary Japanese. In the fall of 2003, that enrollment had increased to 52 students: a 250% increase. Total Japanese language enrollments at MSU—Bozeman have increased from 38 students in 1999 to 141 students in 2003. Moreover, when “History of Japan”

(HIST 115D) was taught at MSU—Bozeman in the Fall 2000, 37 students enrolled. Now, the class consistently enrolls close to 120 students.

OBJECTIVES AND NEEDS

Goals and Objectives

The Japan Studies option promises to equip students with the linguistic skills and understanding of Japanese culture and history necessary to succeed in Japan and in Japanese contexts.

Intellectual Basis for the Curriculum

Economic relations with Japan have become a ray of hope in Montana's future, and with a variety of exchange programs already intact, the Japan Studies option will set MSU—Bozeman's graduates apart from their peers, whether they wish to pursue scientific or humanistic research in Japan or to succeed in Japan's business environment. Over the past five years, the Japan Studies program has provided life-altering opportunities for MSU—Bozeman students: one student went to Nagasaki University on a Fulbright Grant and is now a PhD student at Columbia University, while many others have gone to Japan to find employment teaching English. The Japan Studies option will only continue to increase student opportunities. To put it succinctly, in the past it has been individuals and companies knowledgeable about Japan and its language that have succeeded in that country. Those without this expertise are left to complain about Japan's closed markets and lack of opportunities. We do not want MSU—Bozeman students left complaining. The Japan Studies option promises to complement other majors on campus. Whether business students, scientists, or humanists, knowledge of a foreign country and its language are the primary skills required for meaningful interaction and the creation of collaborative opportunities.

Course of Study

To facilitate such knowledge of Japan, the proposed curriculum will take the form of the following worksheet:

JAPAN STUDIES OPTION*

(A proposed worksheet for a new undergraduate option in History)

Japanese Language Mastery

Take all of the following

- ___ Elementary Japanese I (MLJ 101)**
- ___ Elementary Japanese II (MLJ 102)**
- ___ Intermediate Japanese I (MLJ 219)**
- ___ Intermediate Japanese II (MLJ 220)**
- ___ Advanced Reading & Grammar (MLJ 350)
- ___ Advanced Communication & Composition (MLJ 351)

History and Literature Surveys

Take all of the following

- ___ History of Japan (HIST 115)**
- ___ Introduction to Japanese Literature (MLJ 315)**

Advanced History*Take two of the following*

- Age of the Shoguns (HIST 371)
- Japan's Long Nineteenth Century (HIST 372)
- Japanese Women's History (HIST 409)
- Ecology and Nature in Japan (HIST 465)

Advanced Literature*Take two of the following*

- Japanese Culture & Civilization (MLJ 301)
- Classical Japanese Literature (MLJ 320)
- Modern Japanese Literature (MLJ 321)
- Women in Japanese Literature and Culture (MLJ 341)
- Text and Cinema (MLJ 361)
- Japanese Representations of WWII (MLJ XXX)***
- Japanese Film and Animé (MLJ XXX)***

Asian Neighbors*Take one of the following*

- Modern Asia (HIST 109)**
- Asian Religions (RELS 202)**
- Philosophies of Asia (PHIL 220)**
- Survey of Asian Art (ART 302)**
- Modern China (HIST 374)**
- Modern South Asia (HIST 375)**
- Women in Asia (HIST 467)**

Capstone Research Project

- HIST or MLJ 489/490 Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity

*The "Japanese Language & Civilization" major requires 47 credits in Japan-related courses. Students must have a total of at least 120 credits to graduate. Of these, 42 credits must be in upper-division courses (300 level or higher). The major will be housed jointly in the Department of History & Philosophy and the Department of Modern Languages.

** Only these courses may be substituted by similar courses taken in Japan under student exchange programs, and only with the expressed consent of the program director.

***Courses yet to be approved by Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Capstone: As with the Japan Studies non-teaching minor, students will complete a capstone project, at this point configured as an "Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity" (HIST 489/490 or MLJ 489/490) with a Japan Studies faculty or, if the major enrolls enough students, a joint Modern Languages and History & Philosophy seminar designed to consolidate and rationalize the student's intellectual experience. With the "capstone," students will be allowed to probe more deeply their interests in Japan. Projects could be an original exploration of a famous literary work, an analysis of the development of nanotechnology in Japan's scientific community, or an economic assessment of the role of Japan in Montana's changing financial outlook. The production of "original" scholarship is essential if students are to succeed once they

graduate from MSU—Bozeman. Above, I mentioned that a Japan Studies student had landed a Fulbright Grant. That same student used his “capstone” research project as a writing sample to get into Columbia University’s PhD program. Meaningful undergraduate research has long been at the center of the Japan Studies program and will continue to be stressed.

Total Credits: This is a total of forty-seven (47) credits, which is comparable to the other options in the B.A. in History.

ADEQUACY, ACCREDITATION, AND ASSESSMENT ISSUES

Faculty

The most important resources for the new major will be the faculty. With two tenure-track Japan Studies faculty on campus, at least three other faculty that teach in Asian Studies, one adjunct instructor in Japanese language, and good prospects for a future line in Japanese cultural anthropology, MSU—Bozeman has the resources to offer an option in Japan Studies. MSU—Bozeman also has an excellent Office of International Programs that encourages students to participate in the Kumamoto and other exchange programs; Modern Languages has considerable expertise in multimedia language instruction. Because Japan Studies is an interdisciplinary program, moreover, as new faculty come to MSU—Bozeman, or as existing faculty offer courses related to Japan, those courses will be integrated as options in the major worksheet. It is the interdisciplinary nature of this program that sets it apart from other programs in the state and, to a large extent, in the western region.

MSU—Bozeman Libraries

Currently, the resources available for this program are held at the Montana State University Library in Bozeman. Although major holes once existed in the MSU—Bozeman library’s collection, those holes have been largely filled by the efforts of Japan Studies faculty, library acquisitions faculty, and two generous Japan Foundation grants. In the fall of 1999 alone, about \$4000 worth of Japan-related books and resources were ordered by Japan Studies faculty upon their arrival in Bozeman. The next year, with the guidance of MSU—Bozeman libraries, the Japan Studies program landed a Japan Foundation Library Support grant to add nearly \$10,000 worth of new books to the MSU-Bozeman libraries. The thrust of the first Japan Foundation grant focused on undergraduate education. Therefore, translated documents, up-to-date “white papers,” translated diaries and literary works, national pollution and environmental impact statements, and supporting secondary material ranging from economics to history were prioritized. These materials were in place by the fall of 2000, and have allowed students to do original research in their respective interests. The next year, the Japan Studies program landed another Japan Foundation Library Support grant, this one for an additional \$10,000 in Japanese-language reference material. The faculty intend to continue to apply for such library grants.

Exchange Programs in Japan

MSU—Bozeman currently has exchange programs established with Kumamoto Gakuen University, Kumamoto Prefectural University, Kumamoto University, and Kansai Gaidai University. As they have been with the Japan Studies non-teaching minor, students will be strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester in Japan, where they may

continue their language training and take other courses related to Japan Studies. These programs are relatively inexpensive for students and therefore are a rare opportunity; they should be considered among the most valuable resources available to the Japan Studies option. Moreover, because this exchange works both ways, the Japan Studies option will benefit from Japanese exchange students on campus. Since the creation of the Japan Studies non-teaching minor some five years ago, MSU—Bozeman's exchange relations with Japan have joined the most active programs offered by the Office of International Programs.

Administration

1. **Major Advisor:** The Director for the Japan Studies option and Japan Studies non-teaching minor will alternate every three years among Japan Studies faculty; the language component of the major will be overseen by the Curriculum Coordinator of Japanese Language Instruction in Modern Languages, as will relevant language-studies issues related to overseas programs. The Director's job will be:

- A. Evaluate prospective courses/transfer credits that might count in the major.
- B. Approve all "capstone" projects prior to their initiation.
- C. Work as a liaison with participating Schools and Departments, as well as the Office of International Programs and participating universities in Japan.
- D. Evaluate student records to see whether the necessary requirements have been met for graduation with the "option" and "non-teaching minor."

2. **Based in the Department of History & Philosophy:** It has been the case that the Japan Studies non-teaching minor was administered by both Modern Languages and History & Philosophy. However, for the sake of administrative rationalization and simplicity, with the initiation of the Japan Studies option, both programs will be housed in History & Philosophy. However, the Director for the program will come from any department and, logically, Modern Languages will retain the right to manage language-related issues.

IMPACT ON FACULTY, FACILITIES, COSTS, STUDENTS AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS ON CAMPUS

Business Plan

Initially, there will be no additional administrative costs associated with the Japan Studies option, because it will be housed in the Department of History & Philosophy office. However, to meet current student demand, an additional section of Elementary Japanese (MLJ 102) will need to be taught on a permanent basis. Basically, this means three sections of Elementary Japanese in the fall semester and two in the spring; one section of Intermediate Japan each semester should be enough for the time being. Mike Myers, Chair of Modern Languages & Literatures, made a request for the additional section of Elementary Japanese in the fall of 2004 and, after its approval, the course nearly filled. So demand remains high on the language side—a situation that is unrelated to the proposed option.

Currently, the faculty required to oversee the History/Japan Studies option are in place, the courses have been approved and taught, funding for library material has been generated, and the Japanese exchange opportunities overseen by the Office of International Programs remain active. Most recently, forecasts have been favorable for

an additional tenure-track hire in Japanese cultural anthropology to begin fall of 2007. The Dean of the College of Letters & Science has approved the History/Japan Studies option. The new hire will be in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology with some potential teaching responsibilities in History & Philosophy, and Sue Monahan, Chair of the Department, and Larry Carucci, a professor of cultural anthropology, have taken the lead in formulating a position description. The estimated yearly expenditures for this new position stand at about \$45,000 with added benefits at about twenty-nine percent. Based on this university's success in obtaining funding from the Japan Foundation (just under \$40,000 to date), we are confident that we will receive a Japan Foundation "faculty expansion" grant, which will fund half of the total expenditures for three years for this new position.

Process Leading to Submission of the Proposal

Demand for this option has been demonstrated by the success of the existing minor in Japan Studies, and by student demand for a more comprehensive curriculum in Japan Studies. Based on this demand, interested faculty, with support from the Department Head and Dean, developed the proposed curriculum. The curriculum was reviewed by the department curriculum committee and then by the University Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Academic Affairs sub-committee of faculty council. The proposal was fully endorsed at all levels of review.

CONCLUSION

Establishing the Japanese Language & Civilization major would prove a great boon for the students at MSU—Bozeman and the people of Montana. It will enhance student retention while attracting other prospective students to MSU—Bozeman with interests related to the interdisciplinary study of Japan. There is a growing interest in Japan among Montanans (as Japanese language enrollments suggest), and as the regional economy becomes more tightly linked to the Pacific Rim, students are expressing an interest in exploring Japan's role in this emerging Pacific-dominated political and economic arena. This interest could be further satisfied by the approval of this proposal for a Japan Studies option to begin in the spring of 2005.