

# Bachelor of Arts in Japanese Course Handbook

**Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies**

Academic Year 2023-24

**Course Co-ordinator** - Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available here ([Exam Regulations](#)).

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns please contact the Senior Academic Administrator, Edmund Howard ([edmund.howard@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:edmund.howard@ames.ox.ac.uk)).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at Michaelmas Term 2023; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the faculty will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

## THIS HANDBOOK

The handbook sets out the basic framework for the BA in Japanese. You should consult the current edition of the Examination Regulations for information regarding your course. The information in this handbook should be read in conjunction with:

- the Faculty's general Undergraduate handbook;
- the [Examination Regulations](#);
- the [University Student Handbook](#)
- your college handbook.

**If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination regulations, then you should follow the Examination regulations.**

Comments and criticism of the handbook are always welcome; they should be sent to the [Director of Undergraduate Studies](#) or the Senior Academic Administrator, [Edmund Howard](#).

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## INTRODUCTION

The Oxford BA course in Japanese is a four-year course, including a compulsory study period of one year in Japan in the second year. The course is comprehensive and demanding, revolving around intensive work on the written and spoken language through all four years, combined with both general and specialised study of Japanese culture, civilisation and society. The language teaching takes place in classes and small groups and in language laboratories. It includes work conducted by experienced native speakers.

The course aims:

1. to give students a thorough grounding in modern written and spoken Japanese, and in the written classical language;
2. to ensure that students have a good general knowledge of Japanese civilisation, culture, history, and society;
3. to allow students to do in-depth, specialised study from a range of subjects, including both classical and modern literature, linguistics, pre-modern and modern history, anthropology, politics, economics, and art.

## HISTORY

Japanese has been taught as a degree subject at Oxford since 1963. The course started with only one lecturer, but the field has shown a dramatic expansion in both staff and student numbers since then. Oxford is today a major national and international centre for the study of Japan. The University currently has sixteen senior faculty members and four full-time language Lecturers engaged in research and teaching in fields related to Japan. There are usually around fifty undergraduates reading for the degree of BA Honours in Japanese, and ten or so graduate students in Japanese in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (formerly known as Oriental Studies) at any one time. It is possible to take Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan studies as a subsidiary language for the BA in Japanese degree, which will give you the opportunity to study the subsidiary language to intermediate level.

There are two centres for the teaching programme in the University, the Pusey Lane Building (previously known as the Oriental Institute), and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies:

## THE PUSEY LANE BUILDING

The Pusey Lane Building, previously known as the Oriental Institute, is centrally located close to the Ashmolean Museum. It is in this Institute that the core curriculum of language classes for the B.A. Honours degree in Japanese Studies is taught. Other fields in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, including Korean, and Tibetan, share the same building. Korean, Tibetan, and Chinese are offered as subsidiary or optional languages for students of Japanese. There is a common room where tea and coffee are available and staff and students can meet.

## THE NISSAN INSTITUTE OF JAPANESE STUDIES

The [Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies](#) is one of the top European centres for the study of modern Japan. It forms part of the Oxford School of Global Area Studies in the University's Social Science Division and contributes to several of the degree programs offered by the University at both the undergraduate and graduate level. The Institute functions as the overall physical academic centre for Japanese Studies in the University and houses the main academics teaching on Japanese course in

both humanities and social sciences.

### BODLEIAN JAPANESE LIBRARY

The Bodleian Japanese Library <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bjl> is housed within the Nissan Institute and holds the University's principal collections in the humanities and social sciences, which relate to the history and culture of Japan from the dawn of her civilisation to the present day. A significant collection of works on Japan on the history and social sciences in Japan since the Meiji Restoration has been built up; the Library, comprising about 120,000 volumes, offers one of the best research collections for Japanese studies in Europe.

### EASTERN ART LIBRARY

The Eastern Art Library <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/art/collections-and-resources>, housed in the Bodleian Art, Archaeology, and Ancient World Library, contains the University's research collection on Japanese art, in both Japanese and Western languages.

### ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

The University's [Ashmolean Museum](#) has a fine collection of Japanese art, particularly strong in holdings of ceramics and prints.

## Course Outline

### YEAR 1

The first year is dedicated to intensive work on the Japanese languages and study of the history and culture of Japan, and East Asia in general. At the end of the first year you will take Prelims, which examines the language and history and culture work you have done during the first year.

#### **Subjects taken in the first year:**

- Modern Japanese I
- Modern Japanese II
- East Asia Survey: Japan

### YEAR 2

This year of the course will be spent at Kobe University in Japan for continued extensive language study, combined with the study of civilisation, culture and history. Details about the year abroad will be given during the course of the first year.

### YEARS 3 AND 4

The regular language work continues, and you will begin study in the classical language. An important part of these 2 years is specialised work within subject areas chosen by yourself from a wide array of available options, including both classical and modern literature, linguistics, pre-modern and modern history, anthropology, politics, economics, and art. You will choose 1 core special subject option, 2 special text options, 1 special subject option, and 1 option which can be either special subject or special text.

It is possible to study a subsidiary language (in which case you will only choose 1 core special subject option and 1 special text option).

In Year 4, you also write a dissertation on a subject of your own choice under supervision.

Japanese	Japanese with a subsidiary language
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Modern Japanese I</li> <li>2. Modern Japanese II</li> <li>3. Spoken Japanese (1/2 paper)</li> <li>4. Classical Japanese</li> <li>5. Core special subject option I [essays]</li> <li>6. Special text option I [translation and commentary]</li> <li>7. Dissertation</li>   <li>8. Special text option II [translation and commentary]</li> <li>9. Special subject option II [essays]</li> <li>10. Either Special text option III or Special subject option III</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Modern Japanese I</li> <li>2. Modern Japanese II</li> <li>3. Spoken Japanese (1/2 paper)</li> <li>4. Classical Japanese</li> <li>5. Core special subject option I [essays]</li> <li>6. Special text option I [translation and commentary]</li> <li>7. Dissertation</li>   <li>A Subsidiary Language:</li> <li>8. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan Texts</li> <li>9. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan History and Culture</li> <li>10. Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan Language</li> </ol>

**Students should note that not all subsidiary languages and special subject/text options may be available in a given year.**

Subsidiary languages:

- Chinese
- Korean
- Tibetan

Available core special subject options (all Michaelmas Term only):

- Classical Japanese Literature
- Japanese Linguistics
- Modern Japanese Literature

## AVAILABLE SPECIAL SUBJECT OPTIONS:

- History of the Japanese Language – runs in Hilary Term
- Japanese Art – runs in Hilary Term
- Japanese Politics – runs in Michaelmas
- Japanese Society – runs in Hilary Term and the first 2 weeks of Trinity Term, and is only available to Year 4 students
- The Japanese Economy – runs in Michaelmas Term
- Pre-modern Japanese History I: to 1185 – runs in Michaelmas Term, and in other terms by arrangement (not available 2024-25)
- Pre-modern Japanese History II: 1185 to 1853 – runs in Hilary Term, and in other terms by arrangement (not available 2024-25)
- Early Modern Japan (runs in Trinity Term)
- History of Modern Japan – runs in Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity Terms.
- Topics in Classical Japanese Poetry – runs in Hilary Term
- Topics in Modern Japanese Literature – runs in Hilary Term

## AVAILABLE SPECIAL TEXT OPTIONS:

- Classical Japanese I: The Tale of Genji and the Pillow Book – runs in Michaelmas Term
- Classical Japanese II: Warrior Tales – runs in Hilary Term
- Japanese Linguistics I: *Boku wa unagi da* – runs in Michaelmas Term
- Japanese Linguistics II: Linguistic variation – runs in Hilary Term
- Japanese Linguistics III: Old Japanese – runs in Trinity Term
- Modern Literature I: Gender and Identity in Modern Japanese Literature – runs in Hilary Term
- Modern Literature II: Trauma and Narrative in Modern Japanese Literature – runs in Trinity Term
- Special Texts: Japan's International Relations and Security Policy – runs in Michaelmas Term
- Special Texts: Japanese History I: to 1185 – runs in Michaelmas Term (not available 2024-25)
- Special Texts: Current Issues in the Japanese Economy – runs in Michaelmas Term

## PAPERS FOR PRELIMS

The exam regulations for Prelims can be found [here](#).

### ***Modern Japanese I and Modern Japanese II***

Students will have approximately 10 hours of language classes per week throughout the year, and 1 class per week of grammatical analysis in Hilary Term.

Students will be taught how to read, write, speak and listen to Japanese and how to translate from English into Japanese, as well as to analyse Japanese grammatically.

### ***East Asia Survey: Japan***

Students will have an average of just over 2 lectures per week throughout the year, and essay tutorials every fortnight. Students will write 12 essays throughout the year.

Lectures in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms will cover all of East Asian history with a focus on Japan in East Asia. Lectures in Trinity Term will focus entirely on modern and contemporary Japan.

## PAPERS FOR FHS

### COMPULSORY PAPERS

#### ***Modern Japanese I and Modern Japanese II***

The two papers in Modern Japanese will test students' ability to translate into Japanese and from Japanese into English, as well as writing and reading in Japanese. The teaching for these papers will be language classes, translation classes, and text tutorials.

#### ***Spoken Japanese***

The paper is an aural and oral examination and will be taken in Hilary Term of the fourth year. It will test your ability to understand and produce spoken Japanese. The Spoken paper counts as half a paper. Most of the teaching directly preparing you for the paper in spoken Japanese will be language classes.

#### ***Classical Japanese***

The paper in Classical Japanese will take the form of translation into English of Classical Japanese set texts and unseen texts, including a small amount of translation into English of *kanbun* set texts. There will be classes and tutorials in Classical Japanese set texts (including *kanbun*) in Year 3 and classes on translation of unseen texts throughout Year 4.

#### ***Dissertation***

Each student will produce a dissertation on a topic relating to Japan. They should already be thinking about your dissertation topic in Year 3, and the topic may well be informed by option work done on the course. You are expected to utilise your Japanese language skills in your research on your topic. Usually, students receive 2 hours of supervision in Trinity Term of Year 3 and 3 hours in each of Michaelmas Term and Hilary Term of Year 4. Please note the deadlines for submitting your dissertation title, and for submission of your dissertation.



## CORE SPECIAL SUBJECTS

### ***Classical Japanese Literature: Ancient to Early Modern***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Dr Jennifer Guest

This course provides a survey of classical Japanese literature from earliest times to the early nineteenth century, with readings in English translation from a wide range of important works as well as suggested secondary readings on key topics in the literature of each period.

*Week 1:* What factors make a text classical, literary, or Japanese? (Does the Kojiki qualify?)

*Week 2:* The meaning of a “good poem” in early Japan

*Week 3:* Memoirs, diaries, and biographies in the Heian court

*Week 4:* Gender and genre in the mid-Heian classics

*Week 5:* Buddhist themes in medieval poetry and anecdotal literature

*Week 6:* Portrayals of warriors and warfare in medieval prose and theatre

*Week 7:* Humour in Edo literature

*Week 8:* Reflections of earlier classical literature in Edo prose and haikai poetry

### ***Japanese Linguistics***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

This option is designed to give an overview of the Japanese language and linguistics through reading and writing of essays on selected topics across the major fields of linguistics, beginning with a look at the main characteristics of Japanese as compared to other languages. Next we look at variation within the Japanese language, considering both sociological characteristics of the speech situation (e.g., status and *keigo*) and of the speaker (e.g., gender). We will also examine loanwords in the Japanese vocabulary, lexical stratification, and phonology, and some selected aspects of Japanese grammar, focusing on transitivity in particular, as well as syntactic description in tree form. We will also work on description of Japanese dialects. Students taking this option should follow Professor Frellesvig’s lecture series on Japanese Linguistics in Michaelmas Term.

*Week 1:* Typological features of the Japanese language

*Week 2:* Honorific language (*keigo*) in Japanese, including its acquisition and use

*Week 3:* Gender as a factor in language variation in Japanese

*Week 4:* Lexical strata in Japanese

*Week 5:* Accent in Japanese

*Week 6:* Syntactic analysis (in tree form)

*Week 7:* The notion of transitivity and its role (including transitivity pairs) in Japanese

*Week 8: Describing the features of a spoken dialect text in Japanese*

***Modern Japanese Literature: The Invention of Modern Japanese Literature***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Dr Juliana Buriticá Alzate

This option provides an overview of important literary trends, works, and writers in the period spanning from the end of the Edo to the beginning of the 20th century. We will explore key issues in Japanese literary studies including modernity, the self, identity, and gender. This option will examine the development of the concept of modern Japanese literature, authorship, and the ways in which that development accompanied the rise of Japan as a modern nation. Lectures and tutorials will address both the social and historical context of the works under examination as well as closer readings of the texts themselves.

*Week 1: What is 'Modern' 'Japanese' 'Literature'?*

*Week 2: The Edo Period and the Invention of Japan*

*Week 3: Meiji: Translation and Language Reform*

*Week 4: Meiji: Transition to Modernity, Civilisation and Enlightenment*

*Week 5: Women Writers and a New Poetry*

*Week 6: Taisho Literary Trends and Modernity*

*Week 7: Japanese Naturalism and the 'I-novel'*

*Week 8: Proletarian Literature*

## SPECIAL SUBJECTS

### ***The Japanese Economy***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Professor Hugh Whittaker

This option explores the postwar rise of the Japanese economy, its subsequent problems, and recent digital and green transitions. On the way we will look at some of the controversies and contrasting approaches which have framed our understanding of the Japanese economy, adopting a perspective of comparative capitalism. Readings will be available in the Bodleian Japanese Library.

### ***History of the Japanese Language***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

This option focuses on the development of the Japanese language from Old Japanese as it appears in the earliest attested writings through to written and spoken Modern Japanese within the phonology, morphology and syntax of the language. Other themes covered will be the reconstruction of even earlier language stages than that of Old Japanese, the origins and development of the scripts used to write Japanese, dialectal and other variation within pre-modern Japanese, and the influence from foreign languages, both Chinese and European, on the Japanese language. Students taking this option should follow Professor Frellesvig's lecture series in Hilary Term on The History of the Japanese Language and on Introduction to Old Japanese.

#### ***Topics covered may include:***

Proto-Japanese and Japanese before Old Japanese; Japanese scripts; The sound system of Old Japanese and phonological changes; The Eastern Old Japanese dialects; Old Japanese morphology and later changes in inflection and verb morphology; Historical syntax; External influences on Japanese.

### ***Japanese Art***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Dr Clare Pollard and Dr Lena Fritsch

This option provides an introduction to Japanese art since the Meiji and Taisho eras, with reference to the collections of the Ashmolean Museum. The first part of the course explores developments during the important transitional period of Japanese art in the Meiji and Taisho eras, as artists and makers adapted to changes following the opening of Japan to international trade and the Meiji Restoration. The second part focuses on Japanese art since 1945, introducing avant-garde movements such as Gutai, Jikken Kobo and Mono-ha as well as contemporary trends. Major developments and themes in Japanese photography will also be featured. Students taking this option should also follow Dr Pollard and Dr Fritsch's series of lectures and object-based sessions which take place in the Ashmolean Museum.

### ***Japanese Politics***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Dr Giulio Pugliese

This option provides a broad introduction to contemporary Japan's domestic politics and its international relations. Students will have the opportunity to read and consider several alternative approaches to conceptualizing, modeling, and analyzing Japanese politics.

### **Course Description**

The course begins by considering modern Japan's political traditions and the impact of the post-war American occupation on contemporary Japan's political layout. Then we spend three weeks analysing recent changes in Japan's political economic model, its government structure, and the peculiar case of Japan's fourth estate and its relationship with power. The second half of the classes focuses on a series of policy issues pertaining Japan's foreign and defence policy: continuity and change in its security practice, the evolution of the US-Japan alliance, Japan's thorny relations with its neighbours and the legacy of Empire, culminating with a discussion on the nature of Japan's domestic and international outlook: What role for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Japan?

### **Tutorial topics will be chosen from:**

Post-War Japan's International Environment and its Internal Political Layout: Continuity and Change; Japan's Developmental State and its Neo-Liberal Transformation?; Alternation in Power and Centralization of Power; Media and Politics in Contemporary Japan; Foreign and Defence Policy: Turning Japan into a "Normal" Country; Japan-China-US Relations; The Burdens of History, Identity and Japan's Thorny Relations with its Neighbours; Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; The LDP's dominance and the DPJ's failure: a new 1955 system?

### **Recommended Introductory Reading:**

Hook, Glenn D. et alia 2005. *Japan's International Relations: Politics, Economics and Security*, Routledge.

Neary, Ian J. (second edition) 2019, *The State and Politics in Japan*, Blackwell.

McCargo, Duncan. 2004. *Contemporary Japan*, Palgrave.

Shinoda Tomohito, 2013. *Contemporary Japanese Politics*, Columbia.

### **Japanese Society**

(Please note that this option is only available for fourth years)

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term and first 2 weeks of Trinity Term

Taught by Dr Shilla Lee in 2023/4 and Professor Roger Goodman in 2024/5 and subsequent years

This option has two main aims: (a) to provide an introduction to Japanese society from an anthropological perspective and (b) to show how the study of Japan can contribute to mainstream anthropological theory. Major themes which will be covered include notions of personhood, rituals and symbols, time and space, structure and agency, continuity and change, and the construction of ethnic, gender, sexual and minority identities. It will be possible to study a number of contemporary social institutions in depth, including the Japanese educational, legal, medical, welfare, company, household and kinship systems, new religions and the worlds of traditional arts and popular culture. At the micro level, the

details of these operations and the ideologies which support them will be examined, while at the macro level the course will explore their relation to other social institutions and the wider political and economic arena both inside and outside Japan. Students taking this option must also follow the companion lecture series on Japanese Society in Hilary Term.

Recommended Introductory Reading:

Victoria BESTOR and Theodore BESTOR with Yamagata Akiko (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Culture and Society*, Routledge, 2011.

Joy HENDRY, *Understanding Japanese Society*, (5th edition). 2019. Routledge, 2019.

Martinez, D. P. (ed.). 2007. *Modern Japanese Culture and Society* (4 Vols). Routledge.

Nakane, Chie. 1973. *Japanese Society*. Penguin.

Robertson, Jennifer (ed.). 2005. *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*. Blackwells.

Ryang, Sonia. 2004. *Japan and National Anthropology: A Critique*. Routledge Curzon.

Sugimoto, Yoshio. 2010. *An Introduction to Japanese Society* (3rd edition). CUP.

### **History of Modern Japan**

Terms in which it is taught: Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity

Taught by: Dr Alice Freeman

This course provides an overview of the history of modern Japan from the Meiji *Ishin* into the post-war era. Themes include: The Meiji *Ishin*: Restoration or revolution?; The Opening of Japan (*Kaikoku*) to the wider world; Civilisation and Enlightenment (*Bunmei Kaika*) and Meiji society; The Japanese colonial empire; Taishō “democracy” and Shōwa “fascism”; The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; The post-war economic miracle and its accompanying environmental destruction. Students are also welcome to suggest their own topics of interest.

Recommended Introductory Reading:

Gordon, Andrew. 2009. *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. Oxford University Press.

Pyle, Kenneth. 2006. *The Making of Modern Japan*. Heath.

### **Pre-Modern Japanese History I: to 1185**

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term and other terms by arrangement.

Not available 2024-25.

Taught by Dr James Lewis

The narrative of Japanese history can be broken into three main divisions: to 1185, 1185 to 1853, and 1853 to the present. Japanese Pre-modern history options cover the first two divisions. The essay questions are thematic and range over institutions, religions, politics, intellectual concerns, economy, and foreign relations.

### **Pre-Modern Japanese History II: 1185-1853**

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term and other terms by arrangement.

Not available 2024-25.

Taught by Dr James Lewis

The narrative of Japanese history can be broken into three main divisions: to 1185, 1185 to 1853, and 1853 to the present. Japanese Pre-modern history options cover the first two divisions. The essay questions are thematic and range over institutions, religions, politics, intellectual concerns, economy, and foreign relations.

### ***Topics in Classical Japanese Poetry***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Dr Jennifer Guest (tutor TBA for HT25)

This option focuses on poetry of the Heian, medieval, and early modern periods as well as its various literary and social contexts. Students taking this option should follow the seminar 'Topics in Classical Japanese Poetry' in HT, which involves discussion of selected waka, kanshi, and haikai poems in the original language (with an eye to understanding form and content rather than for translation as set text) as well as a closer look at some premodern manuscript materials. Essay tutorials for the option will further contextualise these primary sources with secondary reading in English on relevant issues, including the material and performance contexts of different poetic forms; the role of intertextuality and seasonal topics in composing and anthologising poetry; relationships between poetry, storytelling, and literary scholarship; and the role of poetry in imagining travel and landscape (from *Sarashina nikki* to Bashō's travel diaries). It may be helpful to take the Classical Japanese Literature Special Subject Core option first and/or to have completed the third-year Classical Japanese set texts, but this is not necessary or required.

#### Topics covered may include:

The Kokinshū and ideas about the nature of waka poetry; Poetry competitions and material culture; Kanshi (Chinese-style poetry) and Heian academics; The *Wakan rōeishū*: poetry as visual and aural art; Poetic miscellanies and storytelling; Medieval commentary and poetics; Travel diaries, intertextuality, and the poetic landscape; Haikai poetry and visual art.

### ***Topics in Modern Japanese Literature***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Dr Juliana Buriticá Alzate

This option provides an overview of important literary trends, works and writers in the period spanning from the early 20th century to the contemporary period. For this option we will consider issues such as gender and sexuality, reactions to the I-novel, and post-war literature. Lectures and tutorials will address both the social and historical context of the works under examination as well as closer readings of the texts themselves. Students taking this option should also follow the Modern Japanese Literature lecture series in Hilary Term.

#### Topics covered may include:

Proletarian Literature; Japanese Modernism; Literature of the Flesh; Disasters (natural and human-made); The Feminist Movement; Literature of the 1960s; Post-modern Literature; and Alienation in Japanese Society.

### ***Early Modern Japan***

Term in which it is taught: Trinity 2023 and Trinity 2024

Taught by Dr Pia Jolliffe

## **Overview**

This special subject provides a general overview over early modern Japanese society. Our tutorials start with the political “unification” of Japan, a transition that spanned from the late sixteenth to the early seventeenth century. In this way we gain an understanding of the political-economic and socio-cultural conditions that set the stage for Japan’s development under the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868). During this period, foreign relations were strictly regulated. Nevertheless, economic and cultural relations with European and Asian peoples existed. We shall examine these non-state relations and discuss how they may have contributed to the flourishing of Japanese society. We shall discuss the status system of early modern Japanese society and how different people experienced their everyday lives, paying particular attention to women and children. Tutorials also engage with art and popular culture as well as the high level of education and literacy during the Tokugawa period. In our last tutorial we shall discuss the final years of the Tokugawa shogunate (*bakumatsu* period) and the "opening" of Japan to Western countries.

## **Details**

*Week 1:* The “unification” of Japan

*Week 2:* Everyday life and material culture

*Week 3:* Foreign Relations

*Week 4:* Women in Society

*Week 5:* Children and youth

*Week 6:* Art and popular culture

*Week 7:* Education and literacy

*Week 8:* The *bakumatsu* period

## SPECIAL TEXTS

### ***Classical Japanese I: The Tale of Genji and the Pillow Book***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Dr Jennifer Guest

This option will involve readings from two near-contemporary works of Heian court prose, the Tale of Genji and the Pillow Book. Through close reading of passages from the Pillow Book, students will trace Sei Shōnagon's accounts of how she outwitted various other courtiers and impressed the empress with her quick literary responses; get to know the rhythms of Heian court life and the seasonal progression of waka topics; and consider the socio-political and gendered dynamics behind the brilliant setting of mid-Heian court salons. Readings from the Tale of Genji will focus on the early volumes of the tale and on Genji's relationship with the character known as Murasaki, perhaps the most iconic (if at times problematic) romance in Japanese literary history; the dynamics of romantic longing, power, and transgression established in these early episodes provide one possible set of signposts through the complex plot of the text as a whole.

These two texts, which are now among the best-known canonical works of classical Japanese literature, illuminate many facets of life in the Heian court around the turn of the eleventh century, including poetry and aesthetics; ideals of romance and other relationships; shared assumptions about literary and cultural knowledge; conceptions of death, the supernatural, and the world beyond the capital; and attitudes toward gender and women's writing. By reading key excerpts from the Tale of Genji and Pillow Book alongside each other, we will aim for a deeper understanding of these themes and the roles they played in Heian court literature.

### ***Classical Japanese II: Warrior Tales***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Dr Jennifer Guest (tutor TBA for HT25)

In this option, students will read, translate, and comment on selected medieval warrior tales. Our focus will be on iconic passages from the immensely influential Tales of the Heike (*Heike monogatari*), which depicts the rise and fall of the Taira warrior clan along with the heroic acts and tragic deaths of characters on both sides of the twelfth-century civil wars. As we examine specific scenes in detail, we will also consider themes that run through the text as a whole and have wider implications for medieval Japanese literature, including portrayals of ideal warrior conduct and feats of bravery; Buddhist worldviews and attitudes toward death; the roles played by women in the tale; and the interaction between written sources and oral performance. We will conclude with a quick look at how the characters of the Heike were reimagined in later storytelling, art, and Noh drama, reading a passage from the Story of Yoshitsune (*Gikeiki*) – a popular account of the exploits of the Genji general Minamoto no Yoshitsune and his loyal warrior-monk companion Benkei that provides a chance to think further about the literary construction of warrior heroes (particularly doomed ones).



### **Japanese Linguistics I: *Boku wa unagi da***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

The purpose of this option is to examine a particular set of issues in Japanese linguistics in some detail, while assimilating the necessary concepts and vocabulary in the process. Students will read, translate, and critically comment on parts of the book *Boku wa unagi da' no bunpō: da to no* by Okutsu Ke'ichirō (1979).

This is an oft-quoted work on Japanese grammar that takes as its starting point various possible uses and interpretations of the sentence *boku wa unagi da* sometimes literally (but almost always mistakenly) translated 'I am an eel'. Depending on context, this sentence can be used in reply to questions such as "What did you order?", "What are you fishing for?", "What is your favourite fish?", amongst many others. Okutsu examines sentences that can be formed on the same basic pattern from the perspectives of syntax and semantics.

The book addresses in particular the question of the status of the 'copula' within Japanese. It also raises questions about focus, presupposition, etc., thus covering some basic notions in pragmatics. The book covers a broad range of issues using basic intuitions about meaning and grammaticality in a very accessible way.

### **Japanese Linguistics II: *Linguistic Variation***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

The purpose of this option is to explore varieties of the Japanese language, and to consider the factors that bear on the choices speakers make with regard to what they say and how they say it.

We will first look at various dialects of Japanese and the geographical patterns that dialectal variation exhibits. The readings will be taken from the book: *O-kuni kotoba o shiru* (Satō 2002). The topics looked at may include: the east/west dialect split in Japan; inferring how innovations spread; the standardisation of Japanese; the future of dialects in Japan; philology and dialectology; the sources of dialect items.

We then go on to focus specifically on gender as a factor in variation in speech and writing in Japanese, and its interaction with other sociolinguistic variables. The readings are selections from the book *Onna to Kotoba* (Endō 2001). The topics looked at may include: girls who refer to themselves using *boku*; which genders use masculine and/or feminine speech in TV dramas; factors on women's use of pauses and fillers in speech; the place of feminine speech in 'queer' contexts.

### **Japanese Linguistics III: *Old Japanese***

Term in which it is taught: Trinity Term

Taught by Professor Bjarke Frellesvig

The purpose of this option is to learn to read, translate and comment on texts written in Old Japanese, the oldest attested form of the Japanese language (from the Asuka/Nara period). The writing, the vocabulary, and the grammar of Old Japanese are significantly different from that of the canons of Classical Japanese literature from the Heian period onwards. The

texts will be read and studied from a linguistic, rather than literary, point of view, focusing on the special features of Old Japanese script, phonology and grammar. These texts raise many points of interest for all students of Japanese, but knowledge of Old Japanese is an especially valuable addition to the study of Classical Japanese.

Most of the texts from this period are poetry. We will read texts from the poetry anthology the *Man'yōshū* (compiled after 759 AD), which is the main source of texts from the period, but we will also read poetry from other sources. We will also read works written in a ritualistic prose, from the *Senmyō* (imperial edicts) in the *Shoku-Nihongi* and from the *Norito* (prayers and blessings) from the *Engishiki*. We will also read some of the few texts written in Eastern Old Japanese, a group of dialects with characteristics that are different from the language of the capital, which is that reflected in the majority of sources.

Students taking this option should follow Professor Frellesvig's lecture series on History of the Japanese Language and on Introduction to Old Japanese in Hilary Term.

***Special Text: Japan's International Relations and Security Policy (Previously known as Japanese Politics)***

Taught by Dr Giulio Pugliese

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

The focus will be on contemporary Japan's international relations and security policy. No prior knowledge of the themes is expected. We will look at representative books on Japanese diplomatic and security written by academics or authoritative practitioners. In 2022-23 classes will be devoted to the critical reading of strategist Kanehara Nobukatsu's *anzen hoshō senryaku* (Nikkei BP 2021). Students will do translations and write essays on topics that we will discuss in tutorials.

Further details will be given in class. Giulio can be contacted at [giulio.pugliese@nissan.ox.ac.uk](mailto:giulio.pugliese@nissan.ox.ac.uk)

***Modern Literature I: Gender and Identity in Modern Japanese Literature***

Term in which it is taught: Hilary Term

Taught by Dr Juliana Buriticá Alzate

This option is designed to explore issues of gender, sexuality, and identity in modern and contemporary Japanese literature. Topics for discussion may include: "the good wife-wise mother," representations of women who challenge normative motherhood, infanticidal mothers, "parasite singles," the shifting meanings associated with being a woman in contemporary Japan, dystopian fiction, and representations of reproductive technologies in fiction. We will also read scholarship on gender and literary theory in English. For Hilary Term 2023 we will examine the topic of gender and reproductive utopias/dystopias.

The primary texts for this option will consist of literature relating to writers such as Murata Sayaka, Kawakami Mieko, and Matsuda Aoko.

***Modern Literature II: Trauma and Narrative in Modern Japanese Literature***

Term in which it is taught: Trinity Term

Taught by Dr Juliana Buriticá Alzate

Over a decade has passed since the devastation of the Great Eastern Earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima crisis. 3.11 has left an indelible mark not only on the landscape of the affected regions, but also on the cultural consciousness of the people. Authors and cultural critics have penned numerous responses to these traumatic events, and this option considers the state of Japanese literature written about or in reaction to 3.11. We will interrogate issues related to the crises including but not limited to the following: How have writers and cultural critics responded to 3.11? How can we best define the category of *shinsaigo bungaku* (post-disaster literature)? Is there a new post 3.11 set of ethics that has emerged in the aftermath of these crises? How has the literary world changed since 3.11? What is the role of literature in the wake of trauma? Throughout the course we will explore themes such as, the relationship between humans and nature, trauma, memory, embodiment, gender and the everyday, moving temporalities, and crises vis-à-vis the very acts of writing, translating, and reading.

The primary texts for this option will include texts (including children's literature, poetry, fiction, and non-fiction) related to the Triple Disaster (3.11) in Japan. Secondary readings may include English language studies of trauma and memory by scholars such as Cathy Caruth, Susan Sontag, and Jeffrey Alexander.

### ***Japanese History I: to 1185***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Not available in 2024-25.

Taught by Dr James Lewis

The readings for this option were chosen with two purposes in mind. The first is to introduce students to the field of ancient Japanese history, and the second is to focus on one aspect of antiquity—foreign relations. Time permitting, a third aspect will be developed that looks at the controversial ways history is used to elaborate contemporary identities.

The first text is a bibliographical survey of the fields covered by ancient historians. A new survey is published annually, and this survey is the best way for students to identify the latest scholarly work in a field that interests them. Acquaintance with this resource is essential for any historical work—ancient, medieval, modern, or contemporary—and could be the starting point for any dissertation topic on any aspect of Japanese history. We will read selections from the section on ancient history.

The second text is a modern Japanese translation of the oldest and most elaborate description of the Japanese. The text was written in the third century CE in Chinese.

Time permitting, we will also read sections and discuss the third and fourth texts, which will be one part of a comparative composite of Japanese high school texts on ancient history. These may also be most usefully read as background.

***Current Issues in the Japanese Economy (previously known as 'The Economy of Japan')***

Term in which it is taught: Michaelmas Term

Taught by Professor Hugh Whittaker

The option will focus on a small number of themes which will serve as 'windows' on aspects of the contemporary Japanese economy and business. Possibilities include:

- Reforming Japanese agriculture
- Reforming Japanese corporate governance
- Employment relations
- Ageing and welfare provision
- Entrepreneurship
- Digital economy
- Green economy

Passages will be selected from weekly economics or business journals; Nikkei shimbun; books; and other relevant publications.

Further details will be given in class. All the classes will be taught by Professor Hugh Whittaker, Professor in the Economy and Business of Japan, based at the Nissan Institute. He can be contacted at [hugh.whittaker@nissan.ox.ac.uk](mailto:hugh.whittaker@nissan.ox.ac.uk)

## SUBSIDIARY LANGUAGES

Chinese, Korean and Tibetan are offered as subsidiary languages. The courses spread across the third and fourth year and consist of language teaching with a focus on the acquisition of a strong foundation in the language plus the study of history and culture. In each case the examinations consist of two language papers and an essay paper. Studying for the subsidiary languages requires initiative from the students as the pattern of work is different from that of the majority of your year group. It is important that you keep track of which classes and tutorials you should be doing and contact teachers where necessary.

### Japanese with Chinese

Students reading for the Honour school in Japanese can choose Japanese with Chinese. Please see [the Chinese handbook](#) for more details.

### Japanese with Korean

Students reading for the Honour School in Japanese can choose Japanese with Korean. Such a programme would contain the following papers from the core and three papers in Korean.

- 1) Modern Japanese I
- 2) Modern Japanese II
- 3) Spoken Japanese
- 4) Classical Japanese
- 5) Core special subject option I (essays)
- 6) Special text option I (translation and commentary)
- 7) A dissertation of a subject approved by the Board of the Faculty (Honour School dissertations may be written on any aspect of the history of relations between Japan and Korea and researched using Japanese sources or on an aspect of comparative linguistics between Japanese and Korean.)

The three Korean subsidiary papers (Modern Korean Language, Korean Texts, Korean Culture) are designed to bring students up to a functional level in reading and writing with some oral and listening ability. The options begin with classes (3<sup>rd</sup> year) that lay a grammatical foundation and prepare the student to read texts in modern Korean translation (4<sup>th</sup> year). Also in the fourth year, students write essays in English on general aspects of Korean Language or Korean History.

1) *Modern Korean Language* is a 136-hour course that lasts for two years, starting from Michaelmas Term of the third year of the Japanese Studies undergraduate course. This intensive course is primarily designed for beginners and aims at helping students to be able to read Korean newspapers with some reference to dictionaries by the time they finish the course. The teaching is heavily oriented to the structural aspect of the language, i.e., grammar acquisition, reading and writing, but in the first year of the course (third year of their overall career), students will also learn colloquial communication through classes, wherein various multimedia platforms such as film, drama clips, and Kpop videos are adopted. Traditionally the class size has been four to seven people, which has provided a cosy and effective learning environment. Students choosing this option must contact the Korean Language Lecturer before beginning their third year.

2) *Korean Texts* is a 42-hour course that lasts for one year, starting from Michaelmas Term of the fourth year of the Japanese Studies undergraduate course. The prescribed texts survey Language and Culture (modern and historical linguistics) or History and Culture (from antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> century).

3) *Korean Culture* is an 8-hour course that lasts for one year, starting from Trinity Term of the third year of the Japanese Studies undergraduate course. The essays for Korean Culture are prepared from English-language materials and fall into two categories: modern and historical linguistics or history from antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The essays are most useful when used in parallel with the Prescribed Text readings to supply context and commentary. It is highly recommended that students attend the relevant Korean lectures in the East Asia Survey.

#### Japanese with Tibetan

Taking Tibetan as subsidiary language is a three-paper option which involves a two-year commitment.

The first two terms are almost entirely language based, in which you will learn to read, write and speak Tibetan from scratch with the lecturer in Tibetan and the Tibetan language Lecturer (total class time 5hrs per week).

In the Trinity Term of the first year (or Michaelmas of the second year), you will do weekly essays/tutorials on aspects of Tibetan history, religion and culture. In the second year you will read set texts in either classical or modern Tibetan alongside the MPhil students. Lectures on Tibetan History and Civilisation run annually in Michaelmas term. You will be warmly welcomed into the small but lively Tibetan Studies community at Oxford.

## JAPANESE AS A SUBSIDIARY LANGUAGE

Students studying BA Chinese may take Japanese as a subsidiary language.

Students reading for the Honour School in Chinese can choose Chinese with Japanese. Such a programme would contain the following papers from the core and three papers in Japanese.

- 1) Modern Chinese I
- 2) Modern Chinese II
- 3) Spoken Chinese
- 4) Classical Chinese
- 5) Core special subject option I (essays)
- 6) Special text option I (translation and commentary)
- 7) A dissertation of a subject approved by the Board of the Faculty

The three Japanese subsidiary papers (Japanese language, Japanese texts, Japanese history and culture) are designed to bring students up to a functional level in reading and writing with some oral and listening ability, combined with writing essays in English on aspects of Japanese history and culture, and the ability to give a grammatical analysis of Japanese sentences. Teaching for Japanese subsidiary begins from Michaelmas Term of the third year and continues through the fourth year.

*Japanese language.* Teaching for this paper starts from Michaelmas Term of the third year of the Chinese course, with two hours of teaching a week during the third and fourth years. Teaching in the third year will establish a solid foundation in Japanese grammar and develop the skills to understand how Japanese sentences are constructed and to be able to translate between Japanese and English. In the fourth year, teaching focusses on more complex language structures and variety of expressions. In Hilary Term of the fourth year, students will attend lectures and in Michaelmas Term a single tutorial in grammatical analysis of Japanese.

*Japanese texts.* Teaching for this paper starts from Michaelmas Term of the fourth year and comprises reading texts, which survey the social, cultural, and historical aspects of Japan in varying styles. This will include modern literature and academic and non-academic non-fiction texts.

*Japanese history and culture.* Teaching for this paper usually starts from Trinity Term of the third year of the Chinese Studies undergraduate course, but there is some flexibility for students to plan the timing. The essays for Japanese history and culture are prepared from English-language

materials and are studied within the offerings of the East Asia Survey course. Students should contact the Coordinator of the East Asia Survey by 0<sup>th</sup> week of Michaelmas Term of their third year for the current lecture schedule, essay topics and readings, and tutors' contacts. The essays may be spread over two years.

## RECOMMENDED PATTERNS OF TEACHING (RPT)

Below is an indication of the type and number of teaching hours on this course.

### BA Japanese

#### FPE

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
						<i>Figures in this table are in hours per term.</i>
[1.] Modern Japanese I	MT		80			Language classes overall contribute to both language papers.  The lectures and the tutorial specifically contribute to the 'Grammatical analysis' part of Modern Japanese II.
[2.] Modern Japanese II	HT	8	80	1		
	TT		80			
[3.] East Asia Survey: Japan	MT	20		8		Tutorials also contribute to some extent to the two language papers.
	HT	20		7		
	TT	20		8		
	TT					
<u>Notes</u>						



## Years 3 and 4

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
						<i>Figures in this table are in hours per term.</i>
[1.] Modern Japanese I	MT	8*	32*	8**		Note: *: Both 3rd and 4 <sup>th</sup> year **: Only 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
[2.] Modern Japanese II	HT	8*	32*			
[3.] Spoken Japanese (1/2 paper)	TT	8*	32*			
[4.] Classical Japanese	MT	8*				Note: *: Both 3rd and 4 <sup>th</sup> year **: Only 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
	HT	8*		8**		
	TT	8*		8**		
[5.] Core special subject option I [essays]	MT	8		8		MT in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
	HT					
	TT					
[6.] Special text option I [translation and commentary]	MT					Note: The term and year in which this option is taken can vary, depending on other option choices.
	HT			16		
	TT					
[7.] Special text option II [translation and commentary]	MT					Note: The term and year in which this option is taken can vary, depending on other option choices.
	HT					
	TT			16		
[8.] Special subject option II [essays]	MT	8		8		Note: The term and year in which this option is taken can vary, depending on other option choices.
	HT					
	TT					

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
						<i>Figures in this table are in hours per term.</i>
[9] Either  a: Special text option III; or  b: Special subject option III	HT			16 <sup>a</sup>		Note:  The term and year in which this option is taken can vary, depending on other option choices.
[10.] Dissertation	MT	3 <sup>**</sup>				Note:  *: 3rd year  **: 4th year
	HT	3 <sup>**</sup>				
	TT	2 <sup>*</sup>				
<u>Notes</u>  For each of papers 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, a single hour of revision tutorial is sometimes offered in TT in the 4 <sup>th</sup> year.						

## FHS

### YEARS 3 AND 4: JAPANESE WITH A SUBSIDIARY LANGUAGE

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
						<i>Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated.</i>
[1.] Modern Japanese I	MT	8 <sup>*</sup>	32 <sup>*</sup>	8 <sup>**</sup>		Note:  *: Both 3rd and 4 <sup>th</sup> year  **: Only 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
[2.] Modern Japanese II	HT	8 <sup>*</sup>	32 <sup>*</sup>			
[3.] Spoken Japanese (1/2 paper)	TT	8 <sup>*</sup>	32 <sup>*</sup>			
	MT	8 <sup>*</sup>				

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
[4.] Classical Japanese	HT	8*		8**		Note: *: Both 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> year **: Only 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
	TT	8*		8**		
[5.] Core special subject option I [essays]	MT	8		8		MT in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
	HT					
	TT					
[6.] Special text option I [translation and commentary]	MT					Note: The term and year in which this option is taken can vary, depending on other option choices.
	HT			16		
	TT					
[7.] A Subsidiary Language: Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan  I. Language	MT		32* 16#			Note: *: 3 <sup>rd</sup> year #: 4 <sup>th</sup> year
	HT		32* 16#			
	TT		32* 8#			
[8.] A Subsidiary Language: Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan  II. History and Culture	MT	8		8		Note: *: 3 <sup>rd</sup> year #: 4 <sup>th</sup> year
	HT	8		8		
	TT					
[9.] A Subsidiary Language: Chinese, Korean, or Tibetan  III. Texts	MT			16		4 <sup>th</sup> year
	HT			16		
	TT			10		
	MT	3**				

Paper	Term	Dept/ Faculty		College		Comments
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes	
[10.] Dissertation	HT	3**				Figures in this table are in hours unless otherwise stated.  Note: *: 3rd year **: 4th year
	TT	2*				

Notes

The same language will be studied for papers 11, 12, and 13. Number of hours and teaching patterns will differ between the three languages. The example given for illustration is for Korean.

For each of papers 5 and 6 a single hour of revision tutorial is sometimes offered in TT in the 4th year.

### FHS JAPANESE WITH KOREAN

Japanese with Korean	13) Korean Language (total 104)	11) Prescribed Texts (total 42)	12) Korean Culture (total 8)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	hours/week (total)	hours/week (total)	hours/week (total)
Michaelmas Term	4 (32)		
Hilary Term	4 (32)		
Trinity Term	4 (32)		1 per 4 weeks (2)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Year</b>			
Michaelmas Term	2 (16)	2 (16)	1 per 2 weeks (2)
Hilary Term	2 (16)	2 (16)	1 per 2 weeks (2)
Trinity Term	2 (8)	2 (10)	1 per 2 weeks (2) with revision
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>

Total hours: 186; Korean Language would end in TT 4<sup>th</sup> wk; Prescribed Texts would end in TT 5<sup>th</sup> wk; History and Culture would end in TT 4<sup>th</sup> wk.

## FHS JAPANESE WITH CHINESE

Please see [the Chinese handbook](#).

## FHS CHINESE WITH JAPANESE

Chinese with Japanese	13) Japanese Language	11) Japanese Texts	12) Japanese History and Culture
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	hours/week (total)	hours/week (total)	hours/week (total)
Michaelmas Term	2 (16)		
Hilary Term	2 (16)		
Trinity Term	2 (16)		1 per 4 weeks (2)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Year</b>			
Michaelmas Term	2 (16)	2 (16)	1 per 2 weeks (2)
Hilary Term	2 (16)	2 (16)	1 per 2 weeks (2)
Trinity Term	2 (10)	2 (10)	1 per 2 weeks (2) with revision
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>

Japanese Language will usually end by TT 5<sup>th</sup> wk; Japanese Texts will usually end by TT 5<sup>th</sup> wk; Japanese History and Culture will usually end by TT 4<sup>th</sup> wk.

## CORE TEACHING STAFF

- Dr [Juliana Buritica Alzate](#), Departmental Lecturer in Modern Japanese Literature (Pembroke College)
- Dr [Linda Flores](#), Associate Professor of Modern Japanese Literature (Pembroke College)
- Professor [Bjarke Frellesvig](#), Professor of Japanese Linguistics (Hertford College)
- Dr [Lena Fritsch](#), Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art (Ashmolean Museum)
- Professor [Roger Goodman](#), Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies (St Antony's College)
- Dr [Jennifer Guest](#), Associate Professor of Classical Japanese Literature (Queen's College)
- Ms [Junko Hagiwara](#), Senior Lecturer in Japanese
- Mrs. [Sumire Hori](#), Lecturer in Japanese
- Ms [Hiroe Kaji](#), Lecturer in Japanese
- Dr Pia Jolliffe, Fellow (Blackfriars Hall)
- Professor [Takehiko Kariya](#), Professor of Japanese Sociology (St Antony's College)
- Professor [Sho Konishi](#), Associate Professor of Modern Japanese History (St Antony's College)
- Dr [James Lewis](#), Associate Professor of Korean History (Wolfson College)
- Dr Laurence Mann, Lecturer in Japanese

- Ms [Kaori Nishizawa](#), Lecturer in Japanese
- Dr [Clare Pollard](#), Curator of Japanese Art (Ashmolean Museum)
- Dr [Giulio Pugliese](#), Departmental Lecturer in Japanese Politics and International Relations
- Professor [Hugh Whittaker](#), Professor in the Economy and Business of Japan (St Antony's College)

## EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

Please refer to the [Examination Regulations](#) for Prelims and FHS in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

In Trinity Term of Year 1, students will sit 3 written examinations. Students must pass all papers to proceed into Year 2 of the course.

Please refer to the Conventions for Prelims examinations.

In Trinity Term of Year 4, students will take 8 written examinations, 1 oral examination. Students will submit their dissertations in Hilary Term of Year 4.

Please refer to the conventions for FHS examinations for detail of compulsory papers, and papers for Japanese with a subsidiary language.

## LANGUAGE LEARNING AND COMPETENCE STANDARDS

Though the Faculty works closely with the Disability Advisory Service (DAS) and supports students with SpLD and other disabilities, language papers represent competence standards<sup>1</sup> and therefore cannot be replaced with easier language papers or non-language papers. Though some software programmes are available to assist students to input script in some target languages on a computer, all such available programmes include a 'predictive text/word suggestion' function which cannot be turned off. Hence using such a programme would prevent examiners from understanding whether the student has or has not achieved the required proficiency and understanding of the target language. Handwriting the script is required to demonstrate that the student has reached the required level of competence, ability, and knowledge of the target language.

For Japanese, Korean and Chinese, language papers will include a requirement to handwrite in the script of the relevant primary language. The handwriting assessment component represents a competence standard for the award of the degree and there are limited alternative assessment arrangements that can be made as a reasonable adjustment for disability. All students will be required to handwrite and no adjustments to this mode of completion of the assessment can be made. However, adjustments may be available to the conditions in which the assessment is completed (for example, additional time, larger type for exam papers etc).

Preliminary Examination in Japanese	Modern Japanese I
BA in Chinese	Paper I: Modern Chinese I
BA in Japanese with Chinese	Chinese (as 2nd Language): Chinese Language
BA Japanese	Japanese: Modern Japanese I
BA Chinese with Japanese	Paper I: Japanese Language
BA Chinese with Korean and BA Japanese with Korean	Korean (as 2nd Language): Korean Language

<sup>1</sup> See Annex D of the Examinations and Assessment Framework, [Examinations and assessment framework \(EAF\) | Academic Support \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

First Public Examination in Chinese	Chinese I: Modern
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If you have any questions or concerns relating to this please speak with your Course Co-ordinator or the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

## DEADLINES

Date	Year of Course	Event	How
<b>Monday Week 9 of Trinity Term</b>	1	Provisional start date of the First Public Examinations.	
<b>Friday Week -2 of Michaelmas Term</b>	3	Deadline for submission of choice of Core Special Subject Option for Michaelmas Term; and, if relevant, indication of intention to read a subsidiary language.	
<b>Friday Week 4 Michaelmas Term</b>	4	Deadline for exam entry.	Via student self-service
<b>Monday Week 0 Hilary Term</b>	4	Deadline for applications for approval of dissertation titles.	Form to be sent to Academic Administration: <a href="mailto:undergraduate.administrator@orinst.ox.ac.uk">undergraduate.administrator@orinst.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>12 noon, Friday Week 10 Hilary Term</b>	4	Deadline for submission of dissertation	Via Inspira
<b>Week 0 Trinity Term</b>	4	Oral examinations for Japanese language. Timetables available about 5 weeks before the oral exams.	
<b>Monday Week 7 Trinity Term</b>	4	Provisional start date of the Final Honour School examinations.	

### Canvas

Click [here](#) for the BA Japanese Canvas page.

## EXAMINATION REGULATIONS

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at [Exam Regulations - Search \(ox.ac.uk\)](#). If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations.

