To be adopted: Proposed Changes to Japanese Major

PRESENT:
The Japanese Major enables students to acquire advanced proficiency in the Japanese language and to develop critical thinking skills in their analysis of Japanese literary, filmic, and social texts. Students are encouraged to study in Japan through the University of California’s numerous Education Abroad Programs.

1. Lower-division requirements (16 units plus language proficiency)
   a) Proficiency in Japanese through the intermediate level (JPN 006 or its equivalent)
   b) Eight (8) units from lower-division lecture courses on Japanese literature and culture: AST 022/JPN 022/MCS 022, AST 023/CPLT 023/JPN 023, AST 032/JPN 032, AST 034/JPN 034, AST 056/CPLT 056/JPN 056, JPN 035, and any other lower-division lecture courses on Japanese literature, culture, and film chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor.
   c) Eight (8) units from CPLT 001 or CPLT 001W, CPLT 002

2. Upper-division requirements (36 units)
   a) Twelve (12) upper-division units in Japanese language from JPN 101A, JPN 101B, JPN 101C, JPN 110. Students whose proficiency exceeds the 101 series should take the 12 required units by taking 110 more than once, by using EAP language courses, or, under the JPN 190 rubric, by converting an existing “content” course into a language course with the instructor’s help.
   b) Twenty (20) units in upper-division

PROPOSED:
The Japanese Major enables students to acquire advanced proficiency in the Japanese language and to develop critical thinking skills in their analysis of Japanese literary, filmic, and social texts. Students are encouraged to study in Japan through the University of California’s numerous Education Abroad Programs.

1. Lower-division requirements (16 units plus language proficiency)
   a) Proficiency in Japanese through the intermediate level (JPN 006 or its equivalent)
   b) Eight (8) units from lower-division lecture courses on Japanese literature and culture: AST 022/JPN 022/MCS 022, AST 023/CPLT 023/JPN 023, AST 032/JPN 032, AST 034/JPN 034, AST 056/CPLT 056/JPN 056, JPN 035, and any other lower-division lecture courses on Japanese literature, culture, and film chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor.
   c) Eight (8) units from CPLT 001 or CPLT 001W, or 1 lower-division CPLT course.

2. No change
Japanese literature and culture from AST 150/JPN 150, AST 151/JPN 151, AST 152 (E-Z)/JPN 152 (E-Z), AST 153 (E-Z)/JPN 153 (E-Z), AST 184/JPN 184, AST 190, CPLT 134/GER 134/JPN 134/MCS 134, CPLT 142J/WMST 142J, CPLT 145/JPN 145, JPN 110, JPN 190, KOR 112, and any other upper-division lecture courses on Japanese literature, culture, and film chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor.

(c) Four (4) units in CPLT 193. (CPLT 196 strongly recommended but not required)

**Justification:**

This is to change a core requirement for the literatures and languages majors in the Department of Comparative Literature and Languages. These majors (Chinese, Classical Studies, Comparative Ancient Civilizations, Comparative Literature, French, German Studies, Japanese, Languages, and Russian) share a required curricular rubric which trains students in the basic skills and sensibilities for literary and cultural studies. This rubric of courses is: CPLT 1 (“Introduction to Close Reading”); CPLT 2 (“Reading World Literature”); CPLT 193 (“Capstone Research Seminar”). Our faculty have noted that while the framing CPLT 1/CPLT 193 creates and maintains a curricular coherency and a linkage in concepts and reading and writing practices across time for our students, that CPLT 2 does not; rather, CPLT 2 can tend to offer a sampling of literary readings across world literary traditions, and an introduction to the notion of “world literature” (itself a problematic and much-debated concept), yet without introducing students to the depth and vibrancy of any one of those traditions in a meaningful way. We therefore have determined, as a collective to remove the CPLT 2 requirement and replace it with any lower-division, elective CPLT course, reflected here as “1 lower-division CPLT course.” It is our shared conviction that students will significantly benefit from this curricular change, because, rather than a more superficial reading of a number of texts across traditions, students will have the opportunity to study a single literary tradition or literary-comparative problem, theme, or field of texts in details. This will, in our shared view, expose students to a tradition or literary language which may not be their chosen area of focus for their major, and which will enrich their intellectual experience in the College for this reason; it will also provide a counterpoint, and an opening onto what is, for the student, a new literary tradition or theme, which they will not have studied before, and which will allow them to think about their chosen major in a new light. Finally, these courses will provide a bridge between CPLT 1 and students’ upper-division course work in their chosen areas of focus, and it will enable and support the shift in sensibility, reading style, and writing approach, required as students move from CPLT 1 to more sustained study at the upper-division level, all of which culminates in CPLT 193, where students produced a sustained piece of literary-critical writing in their chosen area of specialization under the guidance of department faculty. While the requirement “1 lower-division CPLT course” is listed in these terms for ease of recognition and application, we regularly offer a number of courses that fill this requirement, including: CPLT 23 (“Modern Japan and Personal Narrative”); CPLT 25 (“Introduction to Science Fiction”); CPLT 26 (“Introduction to Literature, Film, and Art by French and Francophone Women”); CPLT 27 (“Food and Film”); CPLT 28 (“Justice, Law, Violence”); CPLT 30 (“Introduction to Chinese Civilization”); CPLT 40 (“Literary response to Disaster and Repression”); CPLT 48 (“Chinese Cinema”); CPLT 62 (“Introduction
to Southeast Asian Literature”); CPLT 63 (“Reading Southeast Asian Stories”); CPLT 70 (“Introduction to African Literature”); among others.

**Approvals:**
Approved by the faculty of the Department of Comparative Literature & Languages: November 23, 2020
Approved by the Executive Committee of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences: February 15, 2021
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: April 5, 2021