



VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY

Department of Modern Languages Studies

Certificate of Proficiency in Language and Culture Asian Studies

I took Japanese as an elective my first year at VIU in 2012/13.

I highly recommend this course for anyone interested in Japanese culture and language. It was highly informative, practical, and taught very well!

Some of the best experiences I had in Professor Furuta's course were meeting other native Japanese speakers who helped us in class. . . I also found the lectures well organized and structured well.

There is a fair bit of homework to do, but it is all in your best interest to complete all assignments! If you want to become a fluent speaker of Japanese or even attain basic understanding to travel there, then this course will be perfect for you.

Nippon ga daisuki desu (I love Japan)!

– Jayla Marshall

The Program

This certificate offers students a foundation-level credential recognizing successful completion of 15 credits in a Japanese or Chinese language and culture. It is ideal for students going into education, business, recreation and tourism, or any field which may involve a diverse workplace and exposure to the global marketplace. It goes beyond the minimum 6 credits of language required by programs such as International Business or Global Studies to include higher level language skills and more cultural understanding. Normally the program entails 12 credits of language acquisition and 3 credits of culture focused on a single language.

Students with some previous background in the language may choose to replace 3 credits of language with 3 additional culture credits. Relevant courses from other departments such as Anthropology or Global Studies may, with permission of the Department Chair, count toward completion of the Certificate. Native speakers are not eligible for the Certificate as they are not permitted to take lower-level language courses for credit.

Asian Studies:

Japanese concentration:

- JAPA 100/101 – Basic Japanese I and II
- JAPA 200/201 – Intermediate Japanese I and II
- ASIA 230 – Introduction to Asian Cultures

Chinese concentration:

- CHIN 100/101 – Intro to Chinese I and II
or CHIN 103/104 – Beginning Chinese for Heritage Students I and II
(for heritage Chinese speakers)
- CHIN 200/201 – Intermediate Chinese Language I and II
- ASIA 230 – Introduction to Asian Cultures

Note: ASIA 230 is taught in English and is open to Japanese or Chinese speakers.