

CARLETON COLLEGE JAPANESE LINGUISTICS IN KYOTO, JAPAN

Spring 2012

PROGRAM DATES

The program dates correspond with the 2012 spring term dates at Carleton. Students should expect to arrive in Tokyo on March 26th.

DIRECTOR

Michael Flynn, Professor of Linguistics

Professor Flynn is the chair of Carleton's Linguistics Department. He has been the Resident Director of the Japan Study Program at Waseda University in Tokyo, and has been a Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Associated Kyoto Program at Doshisha University in Kyoto. He has also been a visiting professor at Keio University and Chuo University, both in Tokyo. Professor Flynn has been the Director of the Chuo-Carleton Summer Program since 2004.

OVERVIEW

Students will be housed in a dormitory near Doshisha University, one of Japan's most distinguished universities. In addition to two courses in linguistics (see below), the program will take advantage of Doshisha's excellent location to explore several aspects of Japanese history and culture, guided by Doshisha faculty. Kyoto was the capital of Japan and the heart of its cultural life for a millennium, until 1868. Students will visit many important local sites, as well as take weekend excursions to Tokyo, Kobe, and Hiroshima.

One important feature of the seminar is that there will be a group of Doshisha University students who are a part of the program. Together, the two groups will have academic and social events, and the Japanese students will also serve as informal guides to Kyoto and introduce Carleton students to various aspects of Japanese society, as seen by

a university student. Students will also have connections with university students in the other cities the program visits.

The main academic focus of the seminar is on linguistics. There will be two required courses in this area. One, taught by the director, will be on the linguistics of the Japanese writing system, which is surely one of the most complicated and controversial systems in the world. The second linguistics course will be on the structure of Japanese. It will be taught by Doshisha faculty, and will include an examination of several aspects of the language, including phonology, morphology, syntax, and pragmatics. The lone prerequisite for the seminar is at least one course in linguistics. Knowledge of Japanese is not required.

The seminar will begin with an intensive three day orientation to Japanese society. It will be held in Tokyo, with instructors from the Kisako Intercultural Institute.

PREREQUISITES

The seminar is open to all Carleton students. Students must complete at least one course in the Linguistics Department at Carleton before the beginning of the seminar.

COURSE OF STUDY: 18 Credits

LING 285: The Linguistics of the Japanese Writing System (6 credits)

The Japanese writing system is often said to be the most complicated in the world, even as Japan has among the very highest literacy rates. The course will closely examine this extraordinary aspect of Japanese society, including its history, relationship with the spoken language,

psychological processing, and neural implementation. Finally, students will examine the controversy concerning the use of kanji, its political ramifications, and look at how the Japanese are responding to various pressures on the system. Experience with Japanese is not necessary.

Instructor: Michael Flynn

LING 286: The Structure of Japanese (6 credits)

This course examines the nature of the Japanese language through the lens of contemporary linguistic theory. Topics include the history of the language, its sound structure, word formation operations, syntax, and its use in social and artistic contexts. This course is not intended to teach students to speak Japanese, and while experience with Japanese would be helpful, it is not necessary.

Instructor: Doshisha faculty

ASST 284: History and Culture of Japan (6 credits)

This course is an introduction to several aspects of Japanese society, taking advantage of the Linguistics OCS seminar in Kyoto. The course consists of readings and lectures about important events in historical and contemporary Japan, and will include visits to sites that illuminate those events in an important way. In addition to Kyoto and the nearby Uji and Nara, there will be excursions to Tokyo, Kobe, and Hiroshima.

Instructor: Doshisha faculty

ORIENTATION SESSION

This three-day program will be designed and implemented by Kisako Intercultural Institute, a company that has a great deal of experience

organizing orientations to Japan for educational institutions and corporations.

Objectives of the orientation (from Kisako): Acquiring skills for handling day-to-day situations in Japan through learning basic Japanese and Japanese etiquette, developing skills for exploring unknown areas, and getting ready for up-coming seminar in Kyoto.

For example, topics include useful phrases in greetings, table manners, managing Japan's elaborate subway systems, and how to behave in an izakaya, a popular kind of gathering place for college students.

HOUSING

During the Orientation Session in Tokyo, housing will be at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, part of the Olympic Village from the 1964 Summer Games. It is located very close to Shinjuku, one of the busiest and most interesting parts of Tokyo.

In Kyoto, for the first six weeks, students will be housed at a dormitory that is just a five-minute walk from the main campus of Doshisha University. All meals will be available at the University. For the final four weeks, the program will move to a more distant dormitory, but one that is an easy commute to the Doshisha campus. At this location, students will be able to cook some of their own meals, having had lessons in Japanese cooking from their Doshisha colleagues.

EXPENSES

Students pay the 2011-2012 Carleton comprehensive fee, which covers the costs of instruction, room and board, group excursions, public transportation passes, admission tickets on

group outings, and airport pick-up. Students are responsible for the cost of books, personal expenses, and transportation to and from Tokyo, and personal travel during the seminar. Student financial aid is applicable as on campus. See the Off-Campus Studies website at <http://go.carleton.edu/ocs> for further information regarding work contracts, loans, and other financial aid issues.

APPLICATIONS Application forms are available from the Office of Off-Campus Studies (Leighton 119) or on-line at <http://go.carleton.edu/ocs>.

Applications are due by **April 18, 2011** to Tami Little in Goodsell 102 (Mailstop: 2-GDSELL).

INFORMATION MEETINGS

There will be three information meetings:

Wednesday, October 13, 4:30, Goodsell 03

Thursday, January 20, 5:00, LDC 104

Thursday, April 7, 5:00, LDC 104



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