

# **The Doctor of Philosophy Degree in East Asian Languages and Literatures - Japanese Literature**

at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

## **PROGRAM SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES**

The Ph.D. degree in East Asian Languages & Literatures aims to train future scholars for the academic profession. The Ph.D. specialization in Japanese literary studies offers students the opportunity to develop scholarly expertise in the classical, medieval, early modern, and modern periods. The program also encourages comparative and interdisciplinary studies exploring the relationships between the histories, cultures, and literatures of East Asia.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to the requirements for admission to the M.A. program, admission to the Ph.D. program requires evidence of the M.A. earned with distinction, or its equivalent. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate their potential as scholars by submitting a research paper or thesis with their application. It is assumed that an entering Ph.D. student will have completed coursework equivalent to the M.A. in Japanese Literature at the University of Hawai‘i. Any deficiency must be cleared before advancement to candidacy.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

The Graduate Division **residency requirement** is three semesters of full-time work as a classified student.

**Language Requirement(s).** Further language study is tailored according to the area of specialization and to make it best fit the needs of the individual student’s immediate research and intended professional career. In all cases this will involve, as a minimum, knowledge of a second East Asian language equivalent to two years of study; in some cases a third East Asian language or an additional European language may also be required.

**Coursework Requirements.** The University has a residency requirement for all Ph.D. students of three semesters of full-time coursework (a total of 24 credits) beyond the courses counted toward the M.A. degree. Students should consult with their advisors and plan a course of study that will best meet their academic needs.

**Fields of mastery.** The student shall take a comprehensive exam in four fields, one of which will be outside the area of Japanese literature.

*Japanese literature:* Classical, Medieval & Early Modern, Modern.

*Electives:* Choices include Japanese Art, Philosophy/Religion, History, or Drama; Japanese Linguistics; Literary Theory; another East Asian Literature.

## **Examinations**

A **qualifying assessment** evaluating a student's intellectual trajectory and his/her preparation to write a dissertation must be completed within the first two semesters of Ph.D. residency. The student will write a short statement (5 pages double-spaced plus a bibliography) on the possible dissertation topics he/she is considering. This statement is not a dissertation prospectus per se, but rather an exploration of the types of texts and problems the student plans to address, as well as the theoretical perspectives or idea-sets that will be brought to bear on the project. This will be followed by a meeting with Japanese literature faculty, which will examine the student's proposed line(s) of inquiry, his/her preparation both in and outside of coursework, and his/her capacity to carry out dissertation research. The results will be recorded in the student's file.

A **comprehensive examination** consisting of written and oral parts will be given in the year of completion of coursework, or the following year, and after the student's committee agrees that the student is ready for it. The written exam is a series of 4 sit-down exams, 3 hours for each field, taken over a period of 2-3 weeks. A single 2-hour oral examination will cover all fields.

**Dissertation proposal.** The student shall submit for his or her committee's approval a written dissertation proposal that includes an outline of the methodology to be used and a bibliography. Students should work closely with their doctoral committee chair when preparing the proposal. Defense of the dissertation proposal will be held subsequent to the comprehensive examination.

**Advancement to Candidacy.** Following the successful completion of the above requirements, the student is officially advanced to PhD candidacy, becoming an "ABD" – All-but-Dissertation – candidate. An "ABD Certificate" will be issued by the Graduate Division to the student.

**Upon completion of the dissertation,** an original contribution to the field of Japanese literature, the candidate will undergo a final oral examination in defense of the dissertation.

The Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Literatures is a recognized WICHE regional graduate program. Residents of Alaska, Arizona, California (from Fall 2010), Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming are eligible with a gpa of 3.5 or higher, upon admission, to enroll at resident rates.