

Interdisciplinary Honors Proposal Form

Name: STUDENT NAME

Clemson Email Address: EMAIL ADDRESS

Areas of Study: Japanese, Forestry

Interdisciplinary Honors Advisors Name: ADVISOR

Interdisciplinary Honors Advisors Clemson Email: ADVISOR EMAIL

Interdisciplinary Honors Advisors Academic Department: Horticulture / SC Botanical Garden

Please check which Interdisciplinary Honors Track you wish to complete:

2 courses with a substantial project/thesis

Please describe Summary of Focus.

This should include the connection between the two academic departments, the specific goals you have within interdisciplinary honors, and learning outcomes.

The focus of my interdisciplinary honors project is to develop my skills as a landscape designer and critical thinker. I am currently a horticulture student at Clemson, but I am looking into pursuing landscape architecture in graduate school. This project, under the direction of ADVISOR, will give me critical education and practice in landscape design that I do not adequately receive in my typical horticultural education. The overlap of Japanese and Forestry lies in my interest in the Japanese poet Basho, who helped to develop the art of haiku in the 17th century. Basho traveled across Japan as a Buddhist ascetic and created seminal depictions of the Edo landscape. I will use this as inspiration for the development of my design skills, as I appreciate Japanese poetry and design, and I strive to depict my personal ecological landscape in its own right. Though I will learn much about Japanese poetry and native plant communities through JAPN 4010 and FOR 2060, the primary learning objective of this project will be to develop my skills as a landscape designer. My mentorship under ADVISOR will be educational enrichment that I would not receive without this independent design project. I believe that this project will provide me with the true Clemson Honors experience, in that I will be able to combine my passions into a project that will challenge my creativity and analytical skills, while promoting my professional design portfolio, enriching my education, and preparing me for graduate school.

Plan of Study:

	Course Title	Course Number	Credit Hours	Semester to be Taken
1	Japanese Literature in Translation	JAPN 4010	3	Fall 2020
2	Forest Ecology	FOR 2060	3	Spring 2021
3	Interdisciplinary Honors	HON 4990	3	Fall 2021
4	Interdisciplinary Honors	HON 4990	3	Spring 2022

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Please explain why you have selected each of these courses and how they will relate to your focus.

1) Japanese Literature in Translation

JAPN 4010 will give me a strong background in Japanese poetry, literary thought, philosophy, culture, and aesthetics. This class is a survey of Japanese literature across the past 1000 years, and includes content such as the works of Basho, Japanese garden design, and overall philosophy and cultural views. This class will be essential to the project by providing me with a necessary foundation in Japanese literature and aesthetics that can be used in my landscape designs.

2) Forest Ecology

FOR 2060 is a foundational class in the forestry curriculum which provides a strong background in understanding plant communities and how plant species work together. This will be integral to the project by providing background on plant species, habitats, and the information necessary to recreate natural systems in landscape designs.

If you are completing a substantial project or thesis, please describe the project and explain how it will relate to the focus of your interdisciplinary honors.

As a major goal of this project is to develop my skills as a landscape and garden designer, the final product of this educational journey will be a series of garden designs that translate the collective works of Basho into the ecosystems and landscapes of the southern United States. The series is tentatively titled "Narrow Road to the Deep South," after Basho's collection *Oku no Hosomichi*, or *Narrow Road to the Deep North*. This series of garden designs will explore several key aspects of traditional Japanese aesthetics, including stroll gardens, zen gardens, and the art of bonsai, though all will be in the context of southern plant communities. These designs will challenge my skills in critical thinking and literary analysis and further push my development as a landscape designer and artist. The final designs made for this series, as well as any practice projects created throughout the two year duration of the project, will all contribute to my portfolio for submission to landscape architecture graduate programs. I will draw background inspiration from JAPN 4010 and FOR 2060, as these will be the primary sources of information for the design project itself. Through this interdisciplinary education, the landscape designs that I create will accurately portray plant communities of South Carolina while evoking the feel and narrative of the work of Basho and Japanese aesthetics. The project will also contribute to my overall focus of blending cultural and natural influences into sustainable and restorative landscape designs. It is my intent to display these designs and this journey as a gallery showing in the Great Hall.

Interdisciplinary Honors Advisor Signature: SIGNATURE

Date: March 19, 2020

Honors Student Signature: SIGNATURE

Date: March 18, 2020

Date Submitted: March 25, 2020