

JAPAN3301: Conversation and Composition I

Course Syllabus

Fall 2015

I. Course Objectives:

This course is the first half of the third year Japanese courses, which is the direct continuation of Japan 2020. It is designed to further develop students' communication skills around three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational) in accordance with four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). By the end of the semester, the student should be able to (1) handle many daily life situations (handling emergency situations, working with Japanese people, etc) with the right speaking style considering formality, intimacy, and gender, (2) writing thank you notes in Japanese (3) learn about the discourse styles of traditional verbal performance, Rakugo story-telling and modern *Yonkoma manga* (four-boxed cartoons), (4) use/read more kanji characters (78 new characters on top of 224 characters that you have learned) for better communication, and (5) deepen his or her understanding of Japanese culture and people.

Final Project: Using all the skills you learned throughout the course, you will create a short story (*Kobanashi* or short funny story, *manga*, short picture book) or produce a video clip of instruction (cooking, drawing, making something etc.)

II. Instructors:

Dr. Yuki Matsuda

Associate Professor of Japanese, the academic advisor for the Japanese major, the Japanese program director

Office: 230A Jones Hall; (901) 678-3163; ymatsuda@memphis.edu

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1:30-2:20; Fri 2:00 – 4:00PM and by appointment (You can reserve your time by AppointmentPlus <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/1pkqxctv/10>, or email me)

III. Meeting Time and Classroom:

MWF 10:20 - 11:15PM 239 Jones Hall

The Japanese program will make an event and program announcement via our Facebook. Please like us to receive updates quickly:

<https://www.facebook.com/japanese.memphis>

Our webpage is: <http://www.memphis.edu/fl/japanese/>

IV. Course Materials:

Required: The second edition of

1) *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki II. Banno, E. et. al. The Japan Times*

2) *Genki II Workbook.. Banno, E. et. al. The Japan Times*

V. Expectations:

Students are expected to study (both preparation and review) **a minimum of one hour per day** for the course. Try to use Japanese as much as possible-- both in and outside the classroom. Remember that you must use the language for communicative purposes in order to be a fluent speaker. **The class is conducted in Japanese** in order to maximize your exposure to Japanese. You should also try to ask questions in Japanese. Relax and try to grasp the main idea of what the instructor or your fellow student says even if you do not understand some of the words used in it.

VI. Components of the Grades

(1) Class Participation/Performance (Important!)	15%
(2) Unit Quizzes (6)	15%
(3) Oral Quizzes (6)	15%
(4) Kanji Quizzes (10)	10%
(5) Project (drafts, class presentation, and the final product)	20 %
(6) Homework	10%
(7) Final Exam	15%

A+ (96 ~ 100%) A (93 ~ 95%) A- (90 ~ 92%) B+ (86 ~ 89%) B (83 ~ 85%) B- (80 ~ 82%)

C+ (76 ~ 79%) C (73 ~ 75%) C- (70 ~ 72%) D+ (66 ~ 69%) D (60 ~ 65%) F (0 ~ 59%)

Participation/Performance: Because learning a language requires contact with that language, attendance is mandatory. **Be aware that your class participation/ performance score will not add automatically by simply being in the class.** It is based upon such factors as being active and constructive in class, group, and pair work. **Those inactive or distracting students (talking to others in English, using a cell phone, surfing the net etc.) receive zero performance score for the day even if they are in class. No food is allowed during the class too.** This is a language class and we don't want people who talk with their mouth full of food!

Quizzes: By-weekly unit/oral quizzes and kanji quizzes are given during the semester to monitor your progress and give you feedback. You will have 5 to 10 minutes to complete these quizzes at the beginning of a class. See below for my make-up policy. The lowest quiz score will be dropped when calculating your grade IF and only if you do not miss any quiz.

Assignments: All the homework will be graded and no late homework and no incomplete/unsatisfactory homework will be fully evaluated.

***Make-up Policy:** There are basically no make-ups for quizzes. It is your responsibility to attend each class, including days when quizzes are administered. The lowest unit/oral quiz score are dropped to permit flexibility and to accommodate emergencies and illness (i.e. one missed quiz will be ignored when calculating your grade). The only exception is for pre-arranged make-ups **due to participation in official university business (official documentation will be required)**, not for personal reasons.

VI. How to Improve your Japanese

Here are some ideas and information that you can use to improve your Japanese!

(1) **Use Japanese for communicative purposes!** Learning a foreign language is not a matter of memorizing grammatical rules and vocabularies. You have to **use it for meaningful purposes**. There will be many exchange students from Japanese universities on campus this fall. They are here to study English!

(2) **Japanese Clubs and Organizations:** Make Japanese friends, find a conversational partner, and watch Japanese movies, anime, etc. Language Media Center (220 Jones Hall) has some Japanese movies on the server. Also **JCC (Japan Culture Club), Anime 101 (Japanese Anime Club), and Fans United** offer various activities such as Japanese movie nights and weekly anime nights, so join them! Also come to the language table to practice your Japanese and meet Japanese people. Also we have a cultural outreach center on campus called **Japan-America Society of Tennessee, West Center (JAST West)** which offers various outreach activities for the Memphis area community. Participate in various events like Japanese festival, cooking event, and musical concerts. For more detail, contact Akemi Sommer sensei, who is the program manager of this center: asommer@memphis.edu

(3) **Writing:** When you practice writing kanji for quizzes, make sure that **you test yourself**. It is always a good idea to make kanji cards or test sheets of your own. **Remember to keep testing yourself until you can pass your own test with a perfect score. Simply gazing at kanji or copying them repeatedly from your text will not work!** Genki textbooks have a website in which you can practice reading kanji : http://genki.japantimes.co.jp/self_en

You must also learn kanji words in actual contexts because one kanji can have five to six different readings and meanings depending on the context. Therefore, **try to learn kanji words as they appear in meaningful texts**. Finally, in order not to lose the kanji you have learned, **you must use them for communicative purposes**.

Practice **Japanese calligraphy** is an excellent way to learn and memorize kanji. Sign up the calligraphy class that JAST West offers at the Memphis Botanic Garden. It is very relaxing too. Also learn to type in Japanese. This will improve your kanji recognition skills. Send email messages in Japanese and read Japanese websites. The Japanese website under Study Tools also has good resources: <http://www.memphis.edu/fl/japanese/>

(4) **Grammar:** Hate grammar? Well, grammar is the “tools” to use Japanese effectively. Try to incorporate newly learned grammatical constructions to better communicate your ideas. You cannot always translate your thoughts in English directly into Japanese (that would make a hilarious sentence sometimes), so learn grammar to express your thoughts in Japanese.

(5) **Study in Japan!** Consider going to Japan to study through our exchange program. Our exchange partner schools include Nagoya Gakuin University (Nagoya) , Osaka University of Economics (Osaka), Meiji University (Tokyo), and Obirin University (Tokyo). When you are in Japan, you can take Japan related subjects such as Japanese history, religion, art, business, communication, literature, and linguistics in English in addition to regular Japanese language courses. Please talk to me to choose the best school for you.

(6) **Major or minor in Japanese!** You will greatly expand your career opportunities if you can speak Japanese. In addition to companies related to Japan, City and County Schools are always looking for Japanese majors to teach Japanese at elementary, middle, and high schools. Also UM has an International MBA program and ESL certification program through which you can experience an internship in Japan. I hope you will keep using Japanese, whether it is for your job or personal enrichment, even after graduating from college! If you are interested in majoring Japanese, please talk to me!