

Course Syllabus

I. Course Objectives:

This course is designed for students who have completed JAPN 2020 or an equivalent. This course aims at learning Japanese culture through reading materials and further training of the communication skills (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational). Materials include Japanese articles, essays, short stories, newspapers, videos, etc. Through authentic materials and classroom activities, students will develop a deeper understanding of Japanese culture and its traditions. Classes are mainly taught in Japanese. Students will be encouraged to discuss the content of each topic in Japanese. Not only understanding the materials but being able to express their own opinions will be very important in this course. Students will also develop their research skills through working on projects.

II. Instructor:

Shinobu Watanabe Instructor of Japanese

Email: swatanab@memphis.edu

III. Meeting Time and Classroom:

TR 11:20PM – 12:45PM Jones Hall 239

IV. Course Materials:

Required Texts: Reading materials will be provided.

Recommended Materials

(1) Furigana dictionary: Kenkyuusha

(2) New College Japanese-English dictionary: Kenkyuusha

V. Expectations:

Students are expected to study (both preparation and review) **a minimum of one hour per day** for the course. Students should **read materials** before each class period. Along with reading materials and doing assigned homework, it is imperative that students review what was covered in class by going over activities done in the classroom, studying vocabulary, and understanding each concept.

Try to speak to your instructor **in Japanese** both in and outside the classroom. Remember that you must use the language in order to be a fluent speaker. **The class is conducted in Japanese** in order to maximize your exposure to Japanese. You should also 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. And if you have difficulty understanding what is explained or discussed in class, ask your instructor to explain it in English.

すみません、××は英語で何と言いますか。 / すみません、英語で聞いてもいいですか。...etc.

VI. Components of the Grades

(1) Class Participation/Performance/Discussion	15%
(2) Mini Quiz	5%
(3) Kanji & Vocabulary Quiz	15%
(4) Essay (2)	10%
(5) Assignment (includes reading ahead)	10%
(6) Final Project	25%
(7) Digital Curation (Google sites)	20%

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. According to the department policy, you may miss four classes without documentation. After the fourth absence, 1% will be deducted from your grade for each absence, unless you provide an appropriate documentation to the instructor. **Be aware that for Japanese classes 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 etc.) receive zero performance score for the day even if they are in class. If you are not in the class at the beginning of the class, you will be considered late, and leaving class early is also recorded. Three tardies and/or leaving early will result in one absence.

Quizzes: By-weekly mini quizzes and vocab/kanji quizzes are given during the semester to monitor your progress. You will have 15-20 minutes to complete these quizzes at the beginning of a class. See below for my make-up policy.

Assignments: No late homework and no incomplete/unsatisfactory homework won't be 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 only exception is for pre-arranged make-ups due to participation in official university business (official documentation will be required), medical emergencies with doctor's note, not for personal reasons.

Cell phones: You are not allowed to use cell phones during the class. Please TURN OFF (no vibration or silent mode) your phone once you are in the class. If you need to use your device as a dictionary during the class, you need to see the instructor and receive permission. If you are caught using a cell phone, 1% will be reduced from your performance points.

Portfolio (Google sites): There is no textbook for this class, but you will create your own folder on Google sites (It will be easier to see what you have learned this semester this way.). When you finish studying **each topic**, you will **update your page** about what you have learned on the particular topic. There is no limitation; you can add pictures, videos, and

links. Also, you are required to read at least one classmate's blog and write a comment.

※You cannot copy the exact same phrases from any resources. You need to explain in your own words!!

Final Project: You and your group members (3 to 5 members in one group) will create a small food truck during the last language table like the Japanese festival food (Yatai) on April.13th, Friday. If you are not able to participate on the day, you need to inform me by the end of the first week. Your group will plan for the food, study how to cook, go shopping, provide food during the last language table, and circulate the profit as the reflection of your final project. Also, the recipe for the food you make will be turned in as your final writing product.

Essay (2): You may choose one cultural topic from the course schedule for your essay (The essay1 is from week 1 through week5, and the essay2 is from week 6 though week10). The essay must be one page double-spaced, 12 font, and Times New Roman. You may write about similarities or differences of your culture and customs from the topic that you chose. Also, you must also include your thoughts about why Japanese people continuously do the topic you chose or why it is important for Japanese people. This is NOT merely a summary of the topic you chose (that is on your Google sites.), I am expecting you to write an essay exploring deeper thoughts than just a summary of topic.

VII. How to Improve your Japanese language and cultural knowledge

(1) Clubs, Activities, and Events

Come to the language table (Fridays 12:45-1:45 at Tiger Den) to practice your Japanese and learn more about Japanese culture. You can join the JCC (Japanese Culture Club), Anime 101 (Japanese Anime Club), and Fans United (universityofmemphis.wix.com/fansunited) as well. Also, the University of Memphis hosts an outreach center, JAST West on campus. JAST West at UM works closely with Memphis Botanic Garden and local Japanese business community to provide various seminars, events, and courses on Japanese culture. For more information, please contact the program manager, Ms. Akemi Sommer at asommer@memphis.edu

(2) Use Japanese

Learning a foreign language is not a matter of memorizing grammatical rules and vocabularies. Learning a language is like learning a skill, just like learning to play the piano or swim. Therefore, you must practice Japanese everyday and use it for real purposes whenever you can. There will be many exchange students from Japanese universities on campus this fall. Talk to them and make Japanese friends! Watching Japanese movies and TV programs is a good practice as well. The Language Media Center (220 Jones Hall) has some Japanese movies.

(3) Studying Tips

Writing is a very effective means to enhance your overall Japanese skills. Try to incorporate newly learned grammatical constructions and kanji words into your writing to better communicate your ideas to the reader. You cannot always translate your thoughts in English directly into Japanese (that would make a hilarious sentence sometimes), so use grammar as a tool to express your thoughts in Japanese. Also learn to type in Japanese. This will improve your kanji recognition. Send email messages in Japanese and read Japanese websites.

(4) Study Abroad

Consider going to Japan to study through our exchange program. In the past, many students have gone to Japan through our program. They were in Nagoya Gakuin University (Nagoya), Osaka University of Economics (Osaka), Oberlin University (Tokyo), etc. You can receive scholarships from various sources and credits for classes you take overseas are transferred to the U of M. 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 Japanese language courses. Please talk to Ms. Rebecca Laumann, the director of study abroad, to discuss your options: rlaumann@memphis.edu (Phone: 678-2814).

(5) Japanese Major/ Minor

If you like Japanese, declare a Japanese major or minor! After you're done with Japan 2020, you only need three more upper-division courses for a **minor** and eight upper-division courses (24 credits) for a **major**. If you are an International Business major, think about getting an International MBA degree at the U of M. We have the Japanese language track and you can study and work in Japan. Talk to Dr. Balaji Krishnan (krishnan@memphis.edu) for more information.

VIII. Useful Websites to Improve your Japanese

<http://fl.memphis.edu/japanese/>: Department website

<http://www.memphis.edu/fl/japanese/>: Japanese program website

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

<https://www.facebook.com/umfll>: Department facebook

<http://genki.japantimes.co.jp/self/self.en.html>: Self-study room of Genki website

<http://www.sabotenweb.com/bookmarks/language.html>: Several links to Japanese learning sites

<http://web-japan.org/>: general information on Japan

<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/wwwjdic.html>: Jim Breen's WWWJDIC Japanese-English dictionary server

<http://jiten.go-kanken.com>: Kanji dictionary

<http://www.tufs.ac.jp/st/personal/99/kawatsu/gahoh/Japanese.html>: The Japanese penmanship movies

<http://www.hiragana.jp>: Add furigana on websites written in Japanese