

The Japanese Language Course 2021-2022

Course learning objectives

The broad aim of this course is for students to gain knowledge and develop language skills and strategies for academic purposes. The key goals for the course are:

1. Gain knowledge and develop language skills and strategies for academic purposes;
2. Prepare for conducting research independently using Japanese and/or Japanese resources.
3. Become a more autonomous and sophisticated user of Japanese with a renewed view on self and interpersonal/intellectual communication.

By the end of the course, you will:

1. Become able to use effective skills and strategies appropriate for reading Japanese texts of an academic nature.
2. Enhance your own reading speed, amount of reading, and capacity for independent reading;
3. Expand your vocabulary for key concepts in relevant subject fields (minimum target: 1000+ kanji knowledge and 3000 kanji compound vocabulary. Optimum target All 常用 kanji and 8000+ kanji compound vocabulary knowledge);
4. Develop skills to summarise a text;
5. Develop your productive skills to converse/compose on specialised subjects;
6. Develop skills and strategies to comprehend and deliver public speech and presentation, and engage in group discussion and debate;
7. Develop communication skills through listening and speaking activities;
8. Gain necessary Japanese skills for conducting your own research.

The course also aims to bring students who are approximately at Level N4 of the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Proficiency Test up to Level N2.

Course Structure

The Japanese language classes will take place over all three terms and in addition there will be intensive weeks of language classes immediately before and after the normal teaching terms. The teaching year then will be as follows:

Michaelmas Term (October-December)

Week 0	The induction session, the online placement test and individual consultations.	
	LEVEL 1 & 2	6 hours, 2-hours class contact per day
	LEVEL 3	3 hours, 1-hour class contact per day
	LEVEL 4	Individual/group consultation
Weeks 1-8*	LEVEL 1 & 2	5 hours (4 + 1 kanji) spread over the week
	LEVEL 3	4 hours (3 + 1 kanji) spread over the week
	LEVEL 4	1 hour per week, with additional reading seminars**
Week 9***	LEVEL 1, 2&3	4-6 hours, spread over the week
	LEVEL 4	No class

Hilary Term (January-March)

Week 0*	LEVEL 1, 2 & 3	4 hours, 2-hours class contact per day, and a revision test (2.5 hrs)
	LEVEL 4	No class
Weeks 1-8*	LEVEL 1 & 2	5 hours (4 + 1 kanji) spread over the week
	LEVEL 3	4 hours (3 + 1 kanji) spread over the week
	LEVEL 4	1 hour per week, with additional presentation sessions**
Week 9***	LEVEL 1, 2 & 3	4-6 hours, spread over the week
	LEVEL 4	No class

Trinity Term (April-June)

Week 0*	LEVEL 1, 2 & 3	4 hours, 2-hours class contact per day, and a revision test (3 hrs)
	LEVEL 4	No class
Weeks 1-4	LEVEL 1 & 2	5 hours (4 + 1 kanji) spread over the week
	LEVEL 3	4 hours (3 + 1 kanji) spread over the week
	LEVEL 4	1 hour per week
Week 5	The final listening comprehension test and the Oral presentation session	
Week 7-8	Japanese language final exams	

!! Please make sure you regularly check the Canvas subject HP and the university Nexus Outlook (email account) and Teams. Everything will be communicated via these channels.

NB:

*Level 1, 2 & 3 students will have a revision test in week 5 or 6 in MT & HT, and in week 0 in HT & TT.

** Level 4 students are required to attend Professor Kariya's Reading Seminar/Presentation Session as part of the course requirement. Further information TBA.

***Week 9 class in MT and HT will include an oral presentation session.

Course resources

Prescribed textbook

*Supplementary print materials will be distributed in class at all levels.

LEVEL 1:

松田浩志他 (2015) 『テーマ別中級から学ぶ日本語』 三訂版 研究社

松田浩志他 (2015) 『テーマ別中級から学ぶ日本語ワークブック』 三訂版 研究社

LEVEL 2:

近藤安月子・丸山千歌 (2008) 『日本への招待 [テキスト]』 第2版 東京大学出版

近藤安月子・丸山千歌 (2008) 『日本への招待 [予習シート・語彙・文法]』 第2版
東京大学出版

LEVEL 3:

近藤安月子・丸山千歌 (2005) 『文化へのまなざし [テキスト]』 東京大学出版

近藤安月子・丸山千歌 (2005) 『文化へのまなざし [予習シート・語彙・文型]』東京大学出版

LEVEL 4:

二通信子・他 (2010) 『留学生と日本人学生のためのレポート・論文表現ハンドブック』第2版 東京大学出版会

KANJI 1:

Chieko Kano, *et al.* (2020) [New Edition Basic Kanji Book Vol.1 2nd Edition](#). Bonjinsha. Tokyo. (ISBN: 9784893589736)

Chieko Kano, *et al.* (2015) [New Edition Basic Kanji Book Vol.2](#) Bonjinsha. Tokyo. (ISBN: 9784893588838)

準拠アプリ(Apps): 筑波大学グローバルコミュニケーション教育センター 日本語・日本事情遠隔教育拠点 『Basic Kanji Plus』 available from Google Play and App Store.

KANJI 2:

加納千恵子他 (2014) *Intermediate Kanji Book vol.2 第4版* 凡人社

準拠アプリ(Apps): 筑波大学グローバルコミュニケーション教育センター 日本語・日本事情遠隔教育拠点 『Basic Kanji Plus』 available from Google Play and App Store.

KANJI 3:

アメリカ・カナダ大学連合日本研究センター編 (2013) *Kanji in Context [Revised Edition] Workbook Vol 2*. The Japan Times

Recommended dictionaries/workbooks, etc.

It is expected that students will have good quality dictionaries suitable for advanced learners to prepare for the classes and self-study. As for monolingual and *kanji* dictionaries, the following are recommended:

『ベネッセ表現読解国語辞典』 Benesse

『^{れいかい}例解新国語辞典 第7版』^{さんせいどう}三省堂

*Includes a lot of example sentences.

『^{めいきょう}明鏡国語辞典 ^{けいたいばん}携帯版』^{たいしゅうかんしょてん}大修館書店

*One of the most recently published dictionaries. Includes a lot of examples, and information on grammatical items such as particles and basic vocabulary items.

The Compact Nelson Japanese-English-Character Dictionary. Tuttle Publishing.

The following grammar references and workbooks are also recommended:

大神智春・清水百合 (2010) 『Basic Kanji Book Workbook 使って身につく! 漢字×語彙 1』 凡人社

大神智春・清水百合 (2010) 『Basic Kanji Book Workbook 使って身につく! 漢字×語彙 2』 凡人社

グループ ジャマシイ (2015) 『日本語文型辞典英語版 - A Handbook of Japanese Grammar Patterns for Teachers and Learners』 くろしお出版

友松悦子 他 (2010) 『どんな時どう使う日本語表現文型辞典』 アルク

Makino, Seiichi (1995) *A Dictionary of Intermediate Japanese Grammar*. Japan Times.

Makino, Seiichi (2008) *A Dictionary of Advanced Japanese Grammar*. Japan Times.

Useful websites

▪ Japanese news papers

朝日新聞	http://www.asahi.com/
毎日新聞	http://www.mainichi-msn.co.jp/
読売新聞	http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/
日経新聞	http://www.nikkei.co.jp/
ロイター通信ニュース	http://jp.reuters.com/

▪ Links to Japanese reading materials

NHKニュースオンライン	http://www3.nhk.or.jp/toppage/navi/news.html
リーディングチューター「チュウ太」	https://chuta.cegloc.tsukuba.ac.jp/
青空文庫	http://www.aozora.gr.jp/

▪ Links to online Japanese radio/video news

NHKラジオニュース	http://www.nhk.or.jp/r-news/
Yahoo! videonews	http://headlines.yahoo.co.jp/videonews/

Assessment requirements (for Levels 1, 2 & 3)

Continuous assessment 15%

- Kanji quizzes
- Vocabulary quizzes
- Revision tests
- Listening comprehension tests

Oral presentation (Trinity Term) 15%

Portfolio (submission due in Trinity Term) 15%

A Reflective Essay in Japanese and a Dossier.

Length of Reflective Essay	Level 1: 2,000 characters
	Level 2: 2,500 characters
	Level 3: 3,000 characters

NB: Students who submit their portfolio of more than 10% above or below the stated word limit are likely to demonstrate weakness in terms of structure and organisation, and are unlikely to achieve higher grades. Full details will be explained during class in Michaelmas Term.

Written examination 55%

All Portfolios are to be submitted to the University approved online assessment platform **by no later than 12 noon on Friday of Week 7 of Trinity Term.**

Assessment requirements (for Level 4)

Weekly kanji quizzes and revision kanji quizzes	5%
Oral presentation (Trinity Term)	15%
Written Assessment	30%
Take-home essay 1: 2,000 characters, Michaelmas Term, 12%	
Take-home essay 2: 3, 000 characters, Hilary Term, 18%	
Portfolio (a Reflective Essay in Japanese and a Dossier)	50%
Level 4: 10,000 characters	

The instructions for the take-home essay on the set text (word limit 2,000 characters, including footnotes but excluding bibliography) will be released on Wednesday, 3rd November 2021, week 4 of Michaelmas Term. The take-homes essay is to be submitted to the University approved online assessment platform **by no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, 15th December, 2021, week 10 of Michaelmas Term.**

The instructions for the take-home essay on Japanese language (word limit 3,000 character including footnotes but excluding bibliography) will be released on Wednesday, 9th February 2022, week 4 of Hilary Term. The take-home essay is to be submitted to the University approved online platform **by no later than 12 noon Wednesday, 23rd March 2022, week 10 of Hilary Term.**

The 10,000 character portfolio is to be submitted to the University approved online assessment platform **by no later than 12 noon on Friday of Week 7 of Trinity Term.**

Class attendance and missed quizzes and tests

Language study is sequential, and is based on regular classroom interaction. Therefore, regular attendance is essential in order to complete the course satisfactorily. Your attendance, homework submission and in-class performance will be monitored, reported and discussed at the course meeting regularly. If you are absent through illness or other difficulties, you should notify the course coordinator and consult your teachers about work missed as soon as possible.

If a student misses a quiz/test due to illness or other exceptional circumstances, the course coordinator must be informed by no later than 5.00 p.m. of the day in which that quiz/test was scheduled. Late sitting will only be granted when legitimate reasons exist. Requests for early sitting cannot be granted.

Unsatisfactory performance

Please note that if the MSc course director judges that a student's rate of progress is not satisfactory and he/she is very likely to fail the examination, that student may be asked to discontinue the course.