

Japanese 302
Moving from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” in Japanese
Amherst College

- **Instructors**

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- **Course Description**

This course will be a continuation of Japanese 301 offered in the fall semester. At this level, the students should gradually be moving from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” This important progression will be carefully guided by the instructor. Small groups based on the students’ proficiency levels will be formed, so that instruction accords with the needs of each group. Two group meetings and two individualized or small group evaluations per week are normally required throughout the semester.

- **Required readings**

1. Photocopied materials
2. *Kitchen* by Yoshimoto Banana

The cost of the copied materials and the novel will be charged to your account at the end of the semester. This is true for all students, including Five College interchange students. The novel will be distributed in class, but it may also be purchased at the department, Webster 110.

- **Recommended reference**

The Japanese Stage-Step Course: Grammar Textbook (Routledge, 2009) by Wako Tawa

The grammar textbook is recommended for the purpose of grammar reference throughout the semester. If you do not have a copy, you can find it on the reserved shelves of the Frost Library (reserved under JAPA 202).

- **Course Objectives**

General objectives for this course are (1) to be able to use reference materials in Japanese in order to gain information and (2) to be able to discuss and support abstract ideas in sustained conversations and writings.

In order to achieve these objectives, you must attend every class, prepare thoroughly for each class, and report any problem(s) you may have with the material and/or others to the instructor as soon and often as possible.

- **Practice sessions**

(1) Tentative practice sessions (Tuesdays and Thursdays, Webster 101):

Session 1(12:00-12:50); Session 2 (1:00-1:50); Session 3 (2:00-2:50)

The permanent schedule for the practice sessions will be made after the drop-add period.

(2) Things to remember for the class and practice sessions

- ✓ No English is allowed as soon as you enter the classroom.
- ✓ Japanese should be used among the students in the room as well as with the teacher(s).
- ✓ It is required that the students study the material BEFORE coming to each class so that the class will move smoothly and meaningfully.
- ✓ Do not be afraid to make mistakes. It is natural to make more mistakes when you speak and write more. But this should not prevent you from challenging yourself in speaking and writing Japanese.
- ✓ Do not take it personally when you are corrected. Being corrected is one of the best ways to learn to speak and write. In fact, you must get used to being corrected all the time. Being corrected will never cease even when your proficiency level improves.
- ✓ Come to every class. Be sure to contact us via email or phone if you must be absent from class.

- **Policies on deadlines**

Being successful in a Japanese language class requires meeting frequent deadlines for assignments and preparing thoroughly for tests, quizzes, and classes. We understand, however, that keeping up with frequent requirements for this kind of class may be difficult at times.

If you are not able to meet a deadline, you must contact the instructor BEFORE the deadline. The instructor and the student will make an agreement for the revised deadline. More than two late submissions will affect the student's final grade.

- **Missed classes and/or practice sessions:**

It is not possible to give a make-up class or practice session to a student who was absent from a class or session. It is your responsibility to check the daily schedule and to know what you have missed. Please do not ask me if you have missed anything important when you were absent because the answer is always "yes." After studying the material of a missed class on your own, if you then have "specific" questions on the material, I will be happy to meet with you at our offices to answer them.

Frequent tardiness to class will affect your final grade. The class will begin on time and it is your responsibility to know the missed content and/or material.

Exceptions to the above policies can be made only with a note from the class dean, your doctor, or some other relevant individual (hard copy or email).

Frequent communication between the instructor(s) and the students is very important. We use CMS and emails for communication. We therefore ask that you read the messages on CMS and check your emails regularly. When you receive an email message from the instructor(s), **be sure to respond**, because it is important for the instructor to know that the student has received the message sent. If no response is sent, the same message may be sent again.

- **Kanji quizzes**

- (1) Download a kanji sheet from the Japanese 302 course website (CMS).
- (2) Fill out the meaning column of a page in English, and submit it on Wednesday in class.
These words in kanji must be from the current week's material.
- (3) When you have studied the kanji on your list, pick up your kanji sheet from the pick-up folder that is in the box next to my office door, go to Room 114, and fill out the kanji and hiragana columns. You may not remove the kanji quiz from the building. Return your quiz to the drop-off folder in the box.
- (4) You must complete your kanji quiz by 5:00 pm Friday of the same week.
- (5) You will have to complete 8 kanji quizzes this semester – you can choose when to submit and take these 8 kanji quizzes.

- **What counts for the final grade:**

Everything counts towards your final grade, of course. For your performance, the final grade will be based on the five components (grammar, speaking, writing, reading, and writing). Your performance and efforts will be evaluated based on the following:

class attendance
quality of the performance in practice sessions performance (graded each day)
2 oral tests
2 written tests
project – process (daily progress)
project – process (quality of drafts)
project – quality of the final written work and presentation
kanji quizzes and assignments
steady efforts

- **Class schedules:**

There will be three units in Japanese 302:

Unit 1: メディアで情報を得る; Unit 2: 小説(映画)「キッチン」; Unit 3: グループ・個人プロジェクト

See CMS for a detailed schedule of each unit.