

Japanese 12 (Spring semester)
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 11 offered in the fall semester. Various genres of writing and film, of longer and increased difficulty levels will be used to develop a high proficiency level of reading, writing, speaking, and listening throughout the 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. *The Japanese Stage-Step Course: Grammar Textbook* (Routledge, 2009) by Wako Tawa.
2. Photocopied selected readings
3. *Kitchen* by Yoshimoto Banana. Shincho Bunko. 2008 (15th printing).

The grammar textbook may be purchased at Amherst Books, Amherst, MA. You can find a copy on the reserved shelves at Frost as well. The cost of copied materials will be charged to your account at the end of the semester. This is true for all students, including 5-college interchange students. The novel may be purchased at the department, Webster 110.

Course Objectives

General objectives for this course are:

- to be familiar with characteristics of different genres of readings and/or films;
- to know the difference between spoken and written Japanese;
- to be able to judge situations for appropriate speech and writing styles;
- 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;
- do daily work, as directed and suggested by your instructor(s);
- report any problems you may have with the material(s) to the instructor(s) as soon and often as possible.

Policies on deadlines and others

Being successful in a Japanese language class requires meeting deadlines for frequent 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. We have therefore made the following policies to have a little more flexibility.

Assignments:

- We allow each student to submit 2 out of 10 assignments late during the semester without penalty, but the two late assignments must be submitted by Wednesday of the same week.

Kanji quizzes:

- There will be 11 kanji quizzes per semester, and you must complete 10 out of 11 quizzes.

Tests:

- No make-up test will be given under any circumstances.
- The students will have an option of correcting any test; in this case, some points may be added to the original grade, and the number of points depends on the quality of corrections.
- No delays or make-up tests are allowed for the final written examination or any of the oral tests.

Practice sessions:

- It is not possible to give a make-up class or practice session to a student who was absent. It is your responsibility to check the daily schedule and to know what you have missed. Please do not ask your instructor 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 should have “specific” questions on the material, we would be happy to meet with you at our offices to answer them.

Others:

- Exceptions to the above policies can be made only with the class Dean’s or your doctor’s note.
- Frequent communication between the instructor(s) and the students is very important. We use CMS and emails for communication. We therefore ask 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, as 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

- Download a kanji sheet from the Japanese 12 course website (CMS).
- 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.
- When you have studied the kanji on your list, pick up your kanji sheet from a 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 folder in the box.
- You must complete your kanji quiz by 5:00 pm Friday of the same week.
- The kanji you were not able to write correctly must be included in the following week's list.

Grade Distribution

class attendance and participation	10%
practice sessions preparation and performance (graded each day)	10%
10 assignments (quantity/quality)	10%
10 kanji quizzes	5%
2 oral tests	10% (5% each)
2 written tests	20% (10% each)
project – quality (the final written work and presentation)	20% (10% each)
project – process (progress and quality of drafts)	15% (5% each)

Things to remember in 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 more. But this should not prevent you from speaking Japanese.
- ✓ Do not take it personally when corrected. Being corrected is one of the best ways to learn to speak. In fact, you must get used to being corrected all the time.
- ✓ Come to every class. Be sure to contact us via email or phone if you must be absent from class.

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

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

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

Class schedules

There will be three units in Japanese 12:

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

Be sure to check “the detailed daily schedule” on CMS before each class.

Unit 1: メディアで情報を得る

Date	Content	Material	Student's Task
1/24 (M)	新聞(編成)	読売新聞	
1/25 (Tu)	新聞(編成)	読売新聞	天気・広告
1/26 (W)	新聞(見出し)	読売新聞	Read Stage 4-7 (textbook) Submit kanji list #1
1/27 (Th)	新聞(見出し)	読売新聞	編集手帳
1/28 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #1 Assignment(1)
1/31 (M)	雑誌(見出し)	ニュース・ウィーク	Submit assignment(1) in class
2/1 (Tu)	雑誌	ニュース・ウィーク	
2/2 (W)	雑誌	アエラ	Submit kanji list #2
2/3 (Th)	雑誌	アエラ	
2/4 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #2 Assignment(2)
2/7 (M)	オンライン	asahi.com	Submit assignment(2) in class
2/8 (Tu)	オンライン	asahi.com	
2/9 (W)	テレビ(番組・コマーシャル)	TV-Japan Youtube	Submit kanji list #3
2/10 (Th)	テレビ		
2/11 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #3
2/14 (M)	test#1		
2/15 (Tu)	oral#1		

Unit 2: 小説「キッチン」

Date	Content	Material	Student's Task
2/16 (W)	Introduction to the novel and the author	Web 「キッチン」	p.7-9(up to line 3 from the last)
2/17 (Th)	Discussion		Same as above
2/18 (F)	Begin your assignment		Assignment(3)
2/21 (M)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	p.9(last 2 lines)-22(up to line 11) Submit assignment(3) in class
2/22 (Tu)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
2/23 (W)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	Submit kanji list #4 p.22(line 12)-35(up to line 6)
2/24 (Th)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
2/25 (F)	Take kanji quiz		Take kanji quiz #4

	Begin your assignment		Assignment(4)
2/28 (M)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	p.35(line 7)-49 (except the last line) Submit assignment(4) in class
3/1 (Tu)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/2 (W)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	Submit kanji list #5 p.49(last line)-62
3/3 (Th)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/4 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #5 Assignment(5)
3/7 (M)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	p.65-76(first line) Submit assignment(5) in class
3/8 (Tu)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/9 (W)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	Submit kanji list #6 p.76(from line 2)-90(line 9)
3/10 (Th)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/11 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #6 Assignment(6)
3/21 (M)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	p.90(line 10)-104(line 7) Submit assignment(6) in class
3/22 (Tu)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/23 (W)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	Submit kanji list #7 p.104(line 8)-119(first line)
3/24 (Th)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/25 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #7 Assignment(7)
3/28 (M)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	p.119(line 2)-132(line 10) Submit assignment(7) in class
3/29 (Tu)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
3/30 (W)	Comprehension	「キッチン」	Submit kanji list #8 p.132(line 11)-end(p.145)
3/31 (Th)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
4/1 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #8 Assignment(8)
4/4 (M)	Movie	「キッチン」	Movie “Kitchen” Submit assignment(8) in class
4/5 (Tu)	Discussion	「キッチン」	Same as above
4/6 (W)	Summary	「キッチン」	Submit kanji list #9
4/7 (Th)	Discussion	「キッチン」	
4/8 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #9
4/11 (M)	test#2		
4/12 (Tu)	oral#2		

Unit 3: グループ・個人プロジェクト

Date	Content	Material	Student's Task
4/13 (W)	Introduction to projects	project material	
4/14 (Th)	Discussion	project material	
4/15 (F)	Begin your assignment		Assignment(9)
4/18 (M)	Sharing the topics	project material	Submit assignment(9) in class
4/19 (Tu)	Discussion	project material	
4/20 (W)	Progress on the project	project material	Submit kanji list #10
4/21 (Th)	Discussion	project material	
4/22 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #10 Assignment(10)
4/25 (M)	Progress report	project material	Submit assignment(10) in class
4/26 (Tu)	Discussion	project material	
4/27 (W)	Progress report	project material	Submit kanji list #11
4/28 (Th)	Discussion	project material	
4/29 (F)	Take kanji quiz Begin your assignment		Take kanji quiz #11
5/2 (M)	Finalizing the project	project material	
5/3 (Tu)	Discussion	project material	
5/4 (W)	Presentations		
5/5 (Th)	Discussion		

The final written project due is 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the final examination period (13th of May 2011).