

Japanese 12  
Moving from “learning to read” to “reading to learn” in Japanese  
Amherst College

**Course Instructor**

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**Course Description**

This course will be a continuation of Japanese 11. 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 and recommended textbooks**

1. *Japanese: The Stage-Step Method, Grammar-Reference Book (2008)* by Wako Tawa
2. *The Japanese Stage-Step Course: Workbook 2: (Wako Tawa, 2009)*  
Available at Amherst Books, [www.amherstbooks.com](http://www.amherstbooks.com), 8 Main St Amherst, (413) 256-1547 or any other bookstores.
3. Photocopied selected readings

Please purchase #2 above. The cost of #3 will be charged to your account at the end of the semester. This is true for all students, including 5-college interchange students.

**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, every student must:

- attend every class on time; **Tardiness will be penalized.**
- do daily work, as directed and suggested by your instructor (it need not be long, but it is very important to study everyday);
- communicate the problems he or she has with the material to the instructor as soon as and as often as possible.

#### Policies on deadlines and tests (and quizzes)

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 a Japanese class may be difficult at times. We have therefore made the following policies to have a little more flexibility. Please check CMS and emails often for updated information.

- We allow each student to submit two assignments late per semester, but the two late assignments must be completed by the following Monday, 5:00 pm. Please tell me by 5 pm on Friday if you want to use this option.
- There will be 10 kanji quizzes per semester, and you must complete at least 8 of out 10 quizzes (minimum requirement).
- No make-up test will be given under any circumstances, but 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 point depends on the quality of corrections.
- No delays are allowed for the final written examination or oral tests.
- 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 with your classmate(s). Please do not ask your instructor if you have missed anything important when you were absent because the answer is always YES. If you have specific questions, we would be happy to meet with you at our offices.
- Other exceptions can be made only with the class Dean's or your doctor's note.

#### Practice session

**Practice Session performance is graded each day.**

***The students are required to study the material thoroughly BEFORE coming to each practice session so that the practice session will move smoothly and meaningfully.***

In case the students are not ready to fully participate in a practice session for some reason, it is suggested that the students use a Sit-in Option explained below.

#### **Sit-in Option:**

- (1) The students have to come to a practice session, but do not participate in a session. This means that the students sit in the back and learn by observing what other students are doing in a session. When the students choose to use this option, let the instructor know prior to a session. When the instructor finds that a student is not prepared enough, she may recommend her or him to take this option during a practice session.
- (2) The students can use this option up to two times per semester without any penalty. This means

that the first two uses of this option will not affect the grade on “Practice session performance” and the students receive an attendance credit. This option will not apply when the students are absent from a session. From the third time on, the students still receive an attendance credit, but no points will be given for “Practice session performance” on that day.

- Things to remember in practice sessions
  - ✓ No English is allowed as soon as you enter your practice session.
  - ✓ Japanese should be used among the students in the room as well as with the teacher.
  - ✓ When you use English in the session, your teacher will remind you to say it in Japanese.
  - ✓ It is required that the students study the material BEFORE coming to each practice session so that the practice sessions will move smoothly and meaningfully.
  - ✓ There will be no new material introduced in class, so you should avoid any grammar questions in the practice sessions. If you must ask, wait until the session is over.
  - ✓ When you have other questions (e.g. word meanings), ask in Japanese.
  - ✓ 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 practice session. This is probably the most important way to participate in class and learn.
  
- Please sign up for practice sessions (Tuesdays and Thursdays, Webster 115) for the first week in class. We will make your permanent schedule after the drop-add period.

#### Kanji quizzes

- Download a kanji sheet from the Japanese 12 course website (CMS).
- Fill out the hiragana column (minimum 10 words in kanji per sheet), and submit it on the Friday scheduled on the daily schedules. 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, go to Room 114, and fill out the kanji and meaning in the room. You may not remove the kanji quiz from the building. Return your quiz to the folder in the box next to my office door.
- After I check your kanji, I will return your kanji in the next class.
- You must complete your kanji by 5:00 pm Thursday of the following week.

#### Grade Distribution

Attendance (Class and Practice session)	10%
Practice sessions performance (graded each day)	10%
10 assignments (quantity/quality)	20%
10 kanji quizzes	5%
2 oral tests	10% (5% each)
2 written tests	20% (10% each)
1 project	5%
written final	15%
Effort	5%

### Class schedules

Unit schedule and detailed daily schedules will be posted in CMS. There will be four units this semester:

Unit 1: 世界問題 (1/25~2/16)

Unit 2: 小説（風刺）(2/17~3/12)

Unit 3: 日本語（四字熟語・諺・慣用句）(3/22~4/13)

Unit 4: 多読、長編「キッチン」(4/14~5/6)

There will be unit tests for Unit 1 (2/15:written, 2/16:oral) and Unit 3 (4/19:written, 4/20:oral). You will be asked to do a project for Unit 2. The final examination will be on Unit 4 (see below).

### Final written examination

5/10 (Monday) ~5/14 (Friday): Self-scheduled examination (announced in the Registrar's website).

**IMPORTANT:** For five-college interchange students: Unfortunately the academic calendar of the five-colleges is not uniform. It is our expectation, however, that all students who take Japanese at Amherst will follow the Amherst calendar, including the final examination schedule as well as the daily schedule. To be fair to other students, we will NOT be able to make special arrangements for the final examinations for the five-college students.