

Japanese 14
Thematic Reading and Writing
Amherst College

Instructor

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Course Description

This course is designed for the advanced students of Japanese who are interested in readings and writings on topics that are relevant to their interests. Each student will learn how to search for the relevant material, read it, and summarize it in writing in a technical manner. The course will also focus on the development of a high level of speaking proficiency. Small groups based on the students' proficiency levels will be formed, so that instruction accords with the needs of each group. One group meeting and one individualized meeting per week are normally required throughout the semester.

Required texts

1. 「蛍」(短編小説) 村上春樹
2. Photocopied selected readings

The cost of copying will be charged to your account at the end of the semester. This is true for all students, including 5-college interchange students.

Students are responsible for obtaining the optional grammar dictionaries in whatever way they find convenient.

Course Objectives

General objectives for this level of Japanese at Amherst are:

1. to be familiar with characteristics of different genres of readings;
2. to be able to handle longer or book-length materials;
3. to know the difference between spoken and written Japanese;
4. to be able to judge situations for appropriate speech and writing styles;
5. to be able to discuss and support abstract ideas in sustained conversations and writings.

In order to achieve these objectives, every student must:

1. attend every class;
2. do work regularly, as suggested by your instructor;
3. communicate the problems he or she has with the material to the instructor as soon as and as often as possible.

• **Instructor's role and responsibility:**

The most important task for the instructor is to know the language level and the learning strategy of each student in the class, and make sure that he or she will learn Japanese efficiently and effectively.

In order for each student to learn Japanese optimally, the instructors will provide effective practice, suggest effective and efficient ways to study, and answer questions each student may have.

• **Students' responsibility:**

Every student must learn Japanese actively. What this means is that it is the student who should initiate his or her learning of this language. The needs of each student are different. If you need to learn a certain type of vocabulary or expressions, ask your instructor. Do not limit your learning only to what has been provided to you. Learn to search for the information on your own. Consider your instructor a resource person for your active learning.

Portfolio

Everyone in the class must progress through the material in a certain sequence, called in order to learn Japanese most efficiently and effectively and to balance the four skills. But these steps are not necessarily taken in a uniform pattern.

In order to control this individual learning pattern, each student, together with the instructor, must gain an understanding of his or her level. This is done by means of the portfolio for each and every student in the class.

In-class Writing

To see your progress in writing, there will be in-class writing at the end of each Unit. This means that you will write an essay within a given time period without referring to any materials.

Grades

Grade sheets will be distributed twice a semester: **Mid-March and mid-April.**

The final grade is based on:

(1) regular attendance	20%
(2) in-class activity	20% (10% comprehension, 10% preparation)
(3) assignments	15% (10% journal, 5% writing exercise)
(4) in-class writings (3)	15% (5% each)
(5) oral presentations (2)	10%
(6) projects	20% (process 5%, product written 10%, oral 5%)

Policies on deadlines and quizzes

Being successful in a Japanese language class requires meeting deadlines for frequent assignments and preparing thoroughly for 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.

- We allow each student to **submit two assignments late per semester**, but the late assignments must be completed by the following session.
- No make-up test will be given under any circumstances, but the students will have an option of correcting in class writing assignment; 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 writing project paper due.
- 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. 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.

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.