

JPN 101 Course Syllabus

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Hours: Lecture: Monday & Wednesday
I. 9:00 - 9:50 am Jones 100
II. 2:30 - 3:20 pm Jones 100

Drill: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
I. 9:00 - 9:50 am
II. 2:30 - 3:20 pm

- You must attend the section to which you are assigned (See the attached sheet).
- There will be classes **during reading period** as well.
- **The final exam schedule** is set by the university, and no arrangements are made for making up the final exam without official permission from the Registrar's office.

Welcome to Elementary Japanese! Japanese 101 and 102 is a two-semester course (offered in the Fall and Spring semesters, respectively) on the fundamentals of modern Japanese with equal emphasis on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This course is divided into lectures (2 hours a week) and drill sections (3 hours a week). The lectures introduce and explain new grammar patterns; the drill sections give you the opportunities to practice new language skills in real life situations. You will be taught by 5 different Japanese teachers through out the course. It is important that you come to all lectures and drill sections on time. Attendance to all lectures and drill sessions is absolutely mandatory.

I. The Main Goals of the Course (by the end of JPN102)

(1) Listening < ACTFL guidelines: Novice-High >

- To be able to understand short, learned utterances and some sentence-length utterances, particularly where context strongly supports understanding.
- To be able to comprehend words and phrases from simple questions, statements, high frequency commands, and courtesy formulae.
- To be able to recognize characteristics of Japanese sounds and prosody.
- To be able to catch some words/phrases that they have learned in a Japanese movie/drama.

(2) Speaking < ACTFL guidelines: Novice-High >

- To be able to speak about yourself, describe objects around you, ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics, and handle simple situations or transactions such as introducing one's self, ordering a meal, asking directions, making purchases, etc.
- To be able to pronounce Japanese sounds and prosody properly.

(3) Reading < ACTFL guidelines: Intermediate-Mid >

- To be able to read consistently with increased understanding simple, connected texts dealing with a variety of basic and social needs by imparting basic information about which you have to make minimal suppositions and to which you bring personal interest and/or knowledge.

(4) Writing < ACTFL guidelines: Intermediate-Low >

- To be able to meet a limited number of practical writing needs such as writing short messages postcards, and taking down simple notes.
- To be able to write a short passage and a speech whose content involves personal preference, daily routine, everyday events, and personal experiences, etc.

(5) Culture

- To be able to deal with survival cultural behavior/knowledge/products included in Nakama 1 plus Japanese culture through supplemental readings and images by comparing it with your own/other cultures, and/or by analyzing and discussing it.

II. Textbooks

(1) *Nakama 1a/b* is the main textbook, which comes with a student activities manual and CD. It is available at Labyrinth bookstore. (*Nakama 1a* covers chapters 1 through 6. *Nakama 1b* covers chapters 7 through 12. JPN101 will cover material through chapter 8.)

(2) For your personal studies, the following reference books are available at University bookstore. These are not required, but strongly recommended.

- A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar by Makino & Tsutui, The Japan Times
- Kenkyusha's FURIGANA English-Japanese Dictionary, Kenkyusha Limited

(3) Be sure to bring the textbook to both lecture and drill class.

III. Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation

Attending class on time everyday is mandatory. The first 2 absences without legitimate excuses will not affect your grade. However, after that, every time you miss classes you will lose 1% out of 5% from your attendance. If you come to class over 10 minutes late three times, your late attendance will be counted as one absence. Only when you have a valid legitimate reason (e.g., conference, job interview, illness, etc.) will you be excused from attending class. However, in such cases, contact Tokumasu in advance by e-mail or phone. Also, you must submit a written note in which you indicate the reason of the absence (in the case of sickness, you can submit the note afterwards with the doctor note).

Your classroom behavior will be evaluated by your instructors on the basis of the following criteria.

- (1) Coming to class on time
- (2) Minimum use of English in class
- (3) Preparation for class (such as reading the textbook) is your responsibility.
- (4) Active participation:
 - You are expected not only to be present but also to actively participate in class.
 - Do your best especially to speak and listen in classroom.
 - Class time is a good chance to use what you learned and to develop your Japanese communicational skills.
 - Please study for the quiz at home. Participation points will be deducted if you are studying for the quiz during class time. Don't miss valuable opportunities for listening and speaking Japanese!
- (5) No food or gum during the class. Please take off your hat/cap in class to show courtesy to your instructor.
- (6) Contact Tokumasu via email or by phone in advance if you have to be late to class or have to miss it.

2. Grading System (Tentative)

	<u>Midterm Grade</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>
Regular, <u>on time</u> attendance	5%	5%
Active participation in class	5%	5%
Homework and assignments	15%	10%
Quizzes	20%	15%
Chapter Test	25%	15%
Project (Skits)	N/A	5%
Midterm Examination (Oral exam / Written exam)	30%	15%
Final Examination (Oral exam / Written exam)	N/A	30%

3. Course Blackboard

Course information, such as day-by-day announcements, the syllabus, schedule, instructional handouts, etc., will be uploaded onto the JPN101 Course Blackboard. It is your responsibility to look at the Blackboard to confirm all due dates and to complete the necessary tasks. Check the website at least once a day.

4. Homework Assignments

- (1) Your completed homework should be turned in **at the beginning of class** on the due date, and your homework will be graded. Lateness will be penalized, and the following points are automatically deducted from the original full score:
 - When submitted within the day of the due date: 10%
 - When submitted within 3 days after the originally scheduled day: 30%
 - When submitted within 5 days after the originally scheduled day: 50%
 - No credit is given when an assignment is more than 5 days late.

(2) Error correction

Spelling	=> SP	Wrong word	=> WW
Wrong particle	=> WP	Structure error	=> ST
Tense error	=> T	Wrong Kanji or write in Kanji	=> K
Write in Katakana	=> Kt	Incomprehensive	=> ?
Structure	=> S	Conjugation	=> Conj
Conjunction	=> C		

(3) Lab Activities (ラボのれんしゅう)

You may access the Japanese 101 audio files from your computer, as follows.

1. Go to <http://www.princeton.edu/hrc/>
2. Click on “languages”
3. Click on “Japanese”
4. You will find “nakama1a(audio)”.

If you have problems accessing the audio files, please contact the Humanities Resource Center (011 East Pyne / Phone: 609-258-2114).

5. Quizzes and Exams

Tests or quizzes may be made up only when you have a legitimate reason (i.e., conference, job interview, illness, family emergency, etc) with dated official proof for the need to change the schedule. However, in such case, you must contact Tokumasu **in advance** to make arrangements for your make-up quiz/test.

If there is no legitimate reason (or if you did not inform your instructor in advance, or if you did not submit proof of the necessity to change a quiz/test properly), you can still make up a quiz/test, but the following points are automatically deducted from the original full score:

- When the makeup is taken within the day that the test was administered: 10%
- When taken within 3 days after the originally scheduled day: 30%
- When taken within 5 days after the originally scheduled day: 50%
- No make-up is allowed after 5 days from the originally scheduled day

6. Project---Skit

Detailed information will be given later in class.

7. Individual Session (Office hours)

Individual sessions will be offered starting Monday, September 28. If you would like to come to an individual session, you need to sign up for your session with your assigned teacher. Details will be announced in class on Friday, September 25. If you have any questions or concerns before that date, please come to Tokumasu’s office. Her office hours are 3:30pm – 4:20pm from Thursday, September 17 to Friday, September 25 except Saturday and Sunday.

8. Japanese Language Table

Tuesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm at Mathey College (starting from September 29)

The language table offers a chance for students to use their Japanese in a more relaxed setting and to improve listening and speaking through casual conversation. It is a lot of fun, so we hope you can join us!

Use your meal plan to attend the language table. If you don't have it, we will distribute meal tickets to you, but the number of the tickets is limited. The sign-up sheet for tickets will be posted in front of Frist 225 (Tokumasu's office) every Monday. Please sign up in advance if you need one.

IV. How to Study Every Day

You are expected to study Japanese approximately between one and a half and two hours everyday to fulfill the course requirement. We are sure that you will develop your own method soon, but we would like to offer some suggestions on how to study Japanese:

- (1) Review constantly.** Go back to the earlier lessons from time to time to refresh your memory. By going back to the earlier lessons frequently you will become more familiar with the vocabulary and useful expressions, and eventually master them. Make vocabulary and Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji cards if necessary.
- (2) Preview the chapter to be covered before class.** You are expected to have listened to the dialogue part of the accompanying CD with each lesson and match the character lines in the dialogue with frames of the *manga* (cartoon). Moreover, you should have read the language notes in your textbook. After the lecture, before the first drill session, listen to the CD and practice the drills and the dialogue again. Then, in drill sessions, you will practice new and old grammar patterns in real life conversation. After each class, review with the CD again. It is very important for you to have practiced mechanical drills often with the CD before drill sessions because instructors focus on creative drills rather than mechanical ones in class. Your understanding and satisfaction in drill sessions depend on how much you practice the mechanical drills with the CD before the drill sessions.

V. Audio files

(1) General Guidelines

It is important to be exposed to Japanese sounds as much as possible. Office hour visits and language table participation are not enough. Use the CDs that come with the textbook, or use the online audio service from the Humanities Resource Center (See Lab Activities (ラボのれんしゅう) on page 4). Also listen to the dialogues and drills as much as possible. If you listen to the audios consistently and practice in an organized manner, the end result can be rewarding. You may find it more fruitful to go for two shorter periods than for one long one.

(2) General Rules of Thumb:

1. Speak. Do not just passively listen.
2. Use the pause and rewind buttons. Do not just let the CD run on continuously.
3. Develop good study habits. Set up a daily study timetable and stick to it.
4. Spend at least thirty minutes to one hour every day working on the CDs.

(3) *Dialogue:*

- a. The CD comes first. Listen to each conversation before you look at the textbook. Never read the translation part first.
- b. Listen to the dialogue and stop your machine to check that you understand what has been said. Look at the language and vocabulary list if you encounter new and difficult words or patterns. Lastly, imitate the conversation after the voice on the tape until you can say it fluently.

VI. Characteristics of the Japanese Language

Japanese is very different from English and other Indo-European languages. There are some features of Japanese which we advise you to always keep in mind.

1. The Japanese Writing System: Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji

You will learn to read and write in the **Hiragana** in the first & 2nd week. You will be expected to read and write all **Hiragana** letters completely, at latest, by the first chapter test. You will also learn **Katakana** in the third & fourth week. You will be introduced to **Kanji** before fall break and will learn about 30 **Kanji** (Chinese characters) in the fall semester. You will be expected to recognize and reproduce them.

にほんご

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日本語

2. **Word Order:** Japanese is typologically classified as an SOV (Subject + Object + Verb) language. Hence predicates like adjectives, verbs or copula come at the sentence end and determine important factors such as tense, mood (imperative, statement, interrogative), the distinction of negative of affirmative, etc.
3. **Particles:** Compared with English, Japanese word order is relatively flexible. Grammatical relations such as 'subject', 'direct object', 'indirect object', 'location' are specified by particles. These particles are 'post positional' and are attached to a preceding noun. There is another type of particle which is called a 'sentential particle' which comes at the end of a sentence. These particles, *wa*, *ne*, *yo*, express interpersonal feelings such as 'assertion', 'confirmation', 'sympathy', 'anger', etc.
4. **Topic:** 'Topic' indicates what the sentence is about: what the speaker is talking about. Topics in Japanese are mostly specified by a particle *wa* and normally come at the sentence's initial position. Topics may be 'subject of sentence', 'direct or indirect object', 'location', 'time', etc.
5. **Writing system:** There are three writing systems in Japanese: Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji. Kanji are used for writing content words such as verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc. They usually represent meaning as well as sound. There are two kinds of readings: (1) *Kun*-readings 'those of native Japanese origin' and (2) *On*-readings 'those of Chinese origin'. There is a tendency for on-readings to occur within compound words rather than as independent words. Katakana are used primarily for writing loan words and onomatopoeic words, and for emphasizing native Japanese words, etc. Hence they are associated with sound. Hiragana are used for anything else which is not written in Kanji, such as inflectional endings and words which

have a predominantly syntactic function as well as many ordinary verbs, nouns, etc. of Japanese origin.

6. *Pronunciation:* Japanese pronunciation is relatively easy compared with English or Chinese:

(1) There are only five vowels in Japanese: /a/ /i/ /u/ /e/ /o/

(2) A Japanese consonant is usually followed by a vowel to make a unit of sounds which is usually called a mora or syllable, and consonants are usually not grouped together.

7. *Honorific expressions:* Politeness in Japanese may be realized in various ways.

Basically, there are two ways; one is to elevate the speaker's superior (erg. a person is older than the speaker or is socially superior); the other is to lower the speaker himself/herself.

In the former case, the subject of the sentence should not be the speaker (namely, *I*). It should also be noted that there are two styles independent of the honorific expressions; they are formal styles and informal styles. Formal styles are used in official contexts; in speaking to a person who is not an in-group member; or in speaking not personally or intimately. Informal styles are used in personal context; in speaking to your family members; or in speaking to your friends.