



Fourth Year Japanese I

Japanese for Reading Comprehension

JAPA 440 – Fall 2014

Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30PM – 5:45PM
Aquia Building Room 346

The first semester of fourth year Japanese is designed to help students surmount the hurdles experienced by many language learners attempting to progress from intermediate to advanced Japanese. Instead of working from a textbook, students will be exposed to a variety of material so that they may gain a broad familiarity with different types of spoken and written Japanese.

This course has two primary goals. The first goal is to give students the skills they need to understand the main ideas presented by texts encountered outside of a formal classroom setting. We will work on scanning written material quickly and accurately while improving listening comprehension. We will also strive toward the development of a large base of knowledge concerning kanji readings and meanings while exploring more everyday components of vocabulary, such as onomatopoeia and *katakana* words. By the end of the course, students will have acquired the tools they need to search for and select Japanese language material that interests them for future study or personal enjoyment.

The second goal of the course is to prepare students for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), an internationally recognized standard measurement of linguistic competence that is held every year on the first Sunday in December. By the end of the semester, students should feel confident in their ability to pass the Level 3 or the Level 2 of the JLPT.

Instructor

Kathryn Hemmann

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Aquia Building Room 326

open office hour from 2:00 to 3:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

or by appointment

Grading and Assignments

Participation: 40%

Weekly Kanji Quizzes: 30%

Final Exam: 20%

Class Presentation: 10%

Participation

Students are expected to make a good faith effort to complete all required reading assignments and to be engaged and attentive during class discussions. In addition, students are expected to maintain a positive attitude and to be supportive of their peers. The course material will be difficult, but we will all do our best make it through the semester together. Participation grades will be returned with the second kanji quiz of each unit.

Weekly Kanji Quizzes

There will be a kanji quiz every Thursday, even if it is not specified on the syllabus. A new set of kanji will appear on each week's quiz, but the material covered by the quizzes will be cumulative, meaning that any kanji from a previous week may appear on the current week's quiz. Students are not expected to write kanji but will instead be asked to provide readings (in *hiragana*) and meanings (in English).

There are twelve kanji quizzes in total, and no student will be allowed to make up any quiz except in the case of a legitimate, documented absence. These quizzes are not weighted or graded on a curve, and the lowest quiz grade will not be dropped. Please do your best!

There will be no kanji quiz on the following Thursdays:

October 30, November 27, and December 4

Final Exam

The final exam will be given on **Thursday, December 4**, the final day of class. This exam, which will take the full hour and fifteen minute class period, will be a combination of a mega kanji quiz and several passages of sight reading. Sample reading passages and questions and a practice kanji exam will distributed before Thanksgiving Break on Thursday, November 20.

The point of having the final exam on the last day of class instead of during the scheduled exam period is so that students will feel more confident about taking the JLPT, which will be given on **Sunday, December 7** at Georgetown University. We will prepare for the JLPT over the course of the semester, and students are strongly encouraged to register online at <https://www.aatj.org/jlpt-us>. The deadline for registration is **9:00PM on Friday, October 3**.

Class Presentation

Each student is required to give a short presentation introducing a Japanese podcast or online radio program to the class. This podcast/program (1) must be in Japanese and (2) should not be intended to help non-native speakers learn Japanese, and (3) it must be freely accessible to anyone outside Japan. Outside of these three stipulations, any podcast or program is permissible. Each student will only be allowed five minutes to present her or his chosen podcast, which will not allow for the podcast in question to be sampled. The student will therefore prepare a one-sheet handout for the class. I can print this handout if it is mailed to me at any point before the day of the presentation. Presentations will be scheduled on Thursday, August 28.

Course Policies

Attendance

Each student is allowed **two unexcused absences**, no questions asked and no excuses necessary. If you need to excuse an absence, you must submit at least one form of written proof of legitimacy (photocopies and printouts are fine). If your documents are not submitted within three days of your absence, they become forfeit. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in half a letter grade being deducted from the student's final course grade. Documentation for an excused absence is necessary if a student wishes to make up a missed kanji quiz.

Technology

Electronic dictionaries are welcome, and tablets are also permitted in their capacity as e-readers and electronic dictionaries, but laptop computers are absolutely not allowed without a formal letter from the Office of Disability Services. Although there are fantastic Japanese dictionary apps for both Android and iOS devices, **smartphones are not allowed** in the classroom.

Issho ni gambarō!

The transition from intermediate to advanced Japanese is extremely difficult, and there will be times when you hate this class. There will also be times when you feel overwhelmed by the workload and want to give up. Because we will move quickly from one text to another, you may be tempted to skip a day of class, thus skipping an entire reading altogether. Although the course is designed so that you will not fall behind if you haven't fully digested a reading, I encourage you to come to class anyway. Each day of class is extremely valuable, and it's crucial that you absorb as much material as you can – if not actively then passively – at this stage in your acquisition of a higher level of Japanese language proficiency.

August 26 (Tuesday)

- Course Goals
- Course Structure
- Dictionaries and Resources
- How to Give a Self-Introduction

August 28 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz One
- JLPT Level 3 Listening Questions
- JLPT Level 2 Listening Questions
- Self-Introductions, Take One

UNIT ONE: SPEED READING, PART ONE

In this unit, we will practice reading short essays for the purpose of picking up the author's main argument, ideas, tone, and writing style. Vocabulary lists will be provided.

September 2 (Tuesday)

ひと味違う自己紹介の仕方

Hitoaji chigau jikoshōkai no shikata

from *Authentic Japanese: Progressing from Intermediate to Advanced*, pp. 3-4

September 4 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz Two
- JLPT Level 3 Reading Question
- JLPT Level 2 Reading Question
- Self-Introductions, Take Two

September 9 (Tuesday)

地球人の世紀へ

Chikyūjin no seiki e

from *Authentic Japanese: Progressing from Intermediate to Advanced*, pp. 84-85

September 11 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz Three
- JLPT Level 3 Listening Questions
- JLPT Level 2 Listening Questions
- Fun with Katakana Neologisms and Portmanteaus

UNIT TWO: CLOSE READING

In this unit, we will read a short essay paragraph by paragraph for the purpose of better understanding how the author guides the flow of the information and presents his or her argument. Vocabulary lists will be provided.

September 16 (Tuesday)

家庭のない家族の時代

Katei no nai kazoku no jidai

from *Integrated Japanese Advanced Course, Volume One*, pp. 132-133; 134-135; 150-151

September 18 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz Four
- JLPT Level 3 Reading Question
- JLPT Level 2 Reading Question
- Fun with Onomatopoeia

September 23 (Tuesday)

家庭のない家族の時代

Katei no nai kazoku no jidai

from *Integrated Japanese Advanced Course, Volume One*, pp. 132-133; 155; 159

September 25 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz Five
- JLPT Level 3 Listening Questions
- JLPT Level 2 Listening Questions
- Let's Order a Pizza!: Navigating Restaurants and Menus

UNIT THREE: SPEED READING, PART TWO

In this unit, we will practice more speed reading, but the essays will be significantly longer and more difficult than those in Unit One. Although vocabulary lists will be provided, the purpose of our reading exercises is not to attain full comprehension but rather to pick up on the gist of each essay. Broadly speaking, what is the essay about, and what is the writer's main argument?

September 30 (Tuesday)

国際語の意味

Kokusaigo no imi

from *For Advanced Learners of Japanese: Facets of Culture*, pp. 6-9

October 2 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz Six
- JLPT Level 3 Reading Question
- JLPT Level 2 Reading Question
- Telephone and Email Etiquette

***** OCTOBER 3 – DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE JLPT *****
***** REGISTER ONLINE AT: <http://www.aatj.org/jlpt-us> *****

October 7 (Tuesday)

正しい翻訳とは

Tadashii honyaku to wa

from *For Advanced Learners of Japanese: Facets of Culture*, pp. 64-68

October 9 (Thursday)

- Kanji Quiz Seven
- JLPT Level 3 Listening Questions
- JLPT Level 2 Listening Questions
- Fun with Dialects and Gendered Speech

October 14 (Tuesday)

NO CLASS – COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

UNIT FOUR: READING MAGAZINES

In this unit, we will read articles from three different types of magazines: a news and opinion magazine (*Wedge*), a lifestyle magazine (*Spoon*), and an entertainment media magazine (*Weekly Famitsu*). As in our speed reading exercises, our goal will be to scan the articles for broad topics and main ideas. The point of this type of reading is to quickly ascertain whether or not the article merits further attention. Although we will focus on one article per magazine, other articles will be provided as points of comparison to help familiarize students with layouts and typography.

October 16 (Thursday)

シンガポールをフォローするだけではアジア No. 1 にはなれない

Shingapōru o forō suru dake de wa Ajia No. 1 ni wa narenai

from *Wedge* Issue 26:7 (July 2014), pp. 32-33

October 21 (Tuesday)

アナ雪批評が話題の堀越英美とマーニーの関係を女子バディとして読み解き

Ana Yuki hihiyō ga wadai no Horikoshi Emi to Mānii no kankei o joshi badi toshite yomitoki

from *Spoon* Issue 101 (August 2014), pp. 14-17

October 23 (Thursday)

みんな参戦！だれでも参戦！

Minna sansen! Dare demo sansen!

from *Weekly Famitsu* Issue 1333 (July 3, 2014), p. 188

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October 28 (Tuesday)

October 30 (Thursday)

NO CLASS – PROFESSOR IN AUSTRALIA

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UNIT FIVE: READING NON-FICTION

Unlike the previous unit, this unit will focus less on speed reading and more on reading for in-depth comprehension. In particular, we will focus on the rhetorical styles and patterns of short essays contained within books written by scholars for a popular audience. We will also familiarize ourselves with the vocabulary common in this type of writing.

November 4 (Tuesday)

うしろ向きになると、性格はネクラになるが、女はセクシーに見える

Ushiro muki ni naru to seikaku wa nekura ni naru ga onna wa sekushii ni mieru

from Ueno Chizuko, *Sekushii gyaru no daikenkyū*, pp. 75-81

November 6 (Thursday)

女とミミズは、なぜ暗いところへ行きたがるのか

Onna to mimizu wa naze kurai tokoro e ikitagaru no ka

from Ueno Chizuko, *Sekushii gyaru no daikenkyū*, pp. 162-167

November 11 (Tuesday)

プリンセス—世界の女の子の「かなわぬ夢」

Purinsesu: Sekai no onna no ko no "kanawanu yume"

from Wakakuwa Midori, *Ohimesama to gendā*, pp. 40-44

November 13 (Thursday)

他力本願の人生プラン

Taryoku hongan no jinsei puran

from Wakakuwa Midori, *Ohimesama to gendā*, pp. 44-46

UNIT SIX: READING FICTION

In our final unit, we will make full use of all the skills we have acquired over the course of the semester to work on one of the hardest aspects of language learning: reading for pleasure. The goal of this unit is read without a dictionary, allowing the momentum of the story to help us bridge over unknown words and expressions.

November 18 (Tuesday)

SHERLOCK: 死を呼ぶ暗号

Shārokku: Shi o yobu angō

Chapter One, pp. 1-33

November 20 (Thursday)

ママ、痛いよ

Mama itai yo (by Tokaji Keita)

from *5 fun de yomeru kowai hanashi*, pp. 163-169

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November 25 (Tuesday)

November 27 (Thursday)

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

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December 2 (Tuesday)

ぼくと猫と満月の夜

Boku to neko to mangestu no yoru (by Matsuo Yumi)

Chapter One, pp. 6-16

December 4 (Thursday)

FINAL EXAM

*** * * SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 – JLPT TEST DAY * * ***

*** * * GOOD LUCK EVERYONE !!! * * ***

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