



Spring 2025

Elementary Japanese I (JA 101; 4cr)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides beginners with basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Japanese. Special emphasis is on oral-aural skills.

Instructor: Yuka Iwata, Ph.D.
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 Phone: 671-735-2804 (or 2800)
 Classroom: HSS 106
 Moodle: JA-101-02 ELEMENTARY JAPANESE I - SP'25 - Y. IWATA
 Time: MTWTh 9:00-9:50
 Office Hours: See Moodle

JA101 COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This face-to-face course is designed for students with no prior background in Japanese. The main goal of JA101 is to develop proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and familiarize with Japanese culture. Teaching is done in Japanese whenever possible, starting from the first day of class. You are expected to prepare before class, attend and participate in class, review materials and practice required vocabulary and dialogues, and do your homework on a daily basis.

STUDY MATERIALS:

All required materials (*Nihongo 1*, *Japanese Writing Practice*, and JA101 Homework Worksheets) are available on Moodle. Print all materials and bind or staple them.

GRADING:

The final grade will be determined according to this scale. There may be slight changes to the scale, but there will be no grading on a curve. (You may use a grading score sheet (p.6) to keep your records.)

Attendance/Participation	10%
Homework	10%
Quizzes	20%
Oral Performances (3)	30%
Mid-term Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
97-100	93-96	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	70-76	60-69	<59

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Institutional Learning Outcomes	Program Learning Outcomes	Course Learning Outcomes	Methods of Assessment
<i>1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving</i> <i>3. Effective oral and written communication</i> <i>4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context</i> <i>7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning</i>	1. Students develop proficiency of language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational). 2. Students will be able to demonstrate Japanese language proficiency to “novice-low” or “novice-mid” in ACTFL proficiency guidelines. 3. Students will be able to demonstrate skills for effective intercultural communication with Japanese people. 4. Students will obtain knowledge and understanding of Japanese culture.	Upon completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to: •Understand simple everyday conversation within a limited topic. •Demonstrate basic language skills. •Handle some survival situations with circumlocutions and repetitions. •Read and understand simple, short reading materials including semi-authentic materials. •Write words and phrases in <i>hiragana</i> . •Read and comprehend about 45 <i>kanji</i> .	Homework Quizzes Oral performance Written exams Class participation

PREPARATION FOR CLASS:

The course schedule (posted on Moodle) provides what materials you should prepare for a given date before the class meets. Preview the assigned pages.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

Because of the cumulative nature of language learning, it is very important that you come to class and practice Japanese every day. Attendance and active participation in class are mandatory. Be punctual. If you are late for 15 minutes or more for three (3) classes, it will be counted as one absence. If you are late for 30 minutes or more, it is also considered as one absence. **If your unexcused absences exceed six days, you will automatically fail the course.** Excused absences require documented evidence, such as a doctor's note, jury duty notification, accident/police report, or receipt for car repair. (See page 5 for Criteria of Excused or Unexcused Absences/Reasons.)

You will be provided 2 bonus points for perfect attendance. The attendance and participation points (10 points) will be determined in the following manner:

<u># of Absence</u>	<u>Points</u>
0	12 (2 bonus points are given.)
1 or 2	10
3-6	7 to 0

If you are late or miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor or ask your classmates what you have missed.

HOMEWORK:

You are assigned to do listening and writing homework on a regular basis which are already indicated in the course schedule. Every time you finish your assigned homework, check your answers using the Answer Keys posted on Moodle. The ones that say, "Answers will vary," will be checked by the instructor. Bind the entire homework worksheets in a thin ($\frac{1}{2}$ " or less) three-hole punch folder and bring it to every class. You are asked to turn in your folder to be graded on the due dates. Your grade will be determined based on the amount of your work (not the performance of the work). If any of your homework is INCOMPLETE, MISSING, OR NOT CAREFULLY SELF-CORRECTED, your homework grade will be lowered. Don't use online translation tools. I will not accept any of your homework sent by email. No late homework will be accepted for credit **without instructor's prior consent**. If you cannot meet the deadline, please request for extension prior to the deadline. Your homework will **NOT be accepted** unless the following criteria are met. Check thoroughly BEFORE turning in your homework.

- ✓ Write your answers directly to the worksheets **with a pencil**. Provide your answers **in complete sentence in Japanese**.
- ✓ Correct your answers by using **a red pen**. Check spellings carefully.
- ✓ Make sure that your homework is properly bound in a thin ($\frac{1}{2}$ " or less) folder. Use pins or hinges attached to the folder to hold pages together. (Please do NOT use clear plastic sheets.)
- ✓ Don't include any other documents. Worksheets only.

QUIZZES:

There will be regular quizzes to check your understanding. It may include reading, writing, and grammar that have been introduced. Each quiz is given at the beginning of the class period. Because three (3) lowest scores of your quizzes will be dropped at the end of the term, no make-up quizzes are given.

EXAMS:

There are three speaking exams and two written exams. Make-up exams are given only when the students have been granted permission **prior to the exam dates**.

1. Oral Performance:

There will be 3 role-play exams based upon the functions that you have been practicing. You will be graded mainly on your communicative skills, but accuracy, fluency, and expansion will also be taken into account.

2. Written Exams:

You will be given a 50-minute (mid-term) exam and a 75-minute comprehensive final exam. The exams assess your abilities in listening comprehension, reading, writing and grammar, within the context of what has been done in class.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:

Quizzes and exams are NOT open book. The use of any notes, books, or other sources of information during these assessments is strictly prohibited. Any student found copying someone else's work will receive a zero for the assignment or exam. Furthermore, any incident of cheating or plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. This may include reporting the incident to the academic dean, which could lead to further academic penalties, including suspension or expulsion.

CLASS RULES and EXPECTATIONS:

1. Come to class every day **on time**.
2. You must turn off your cell phones and put them away prior to the beginning of class. If you are expecting an emergency call, please notify the instructor before the class starts. Personal computers are not to be used during class.
3. Don't use any kinds of online/electronic translators or dictionaries. Instead, try to use circumlocution (talking around what you don't know by using the words and phrases that you know.)
4. Bring pencils and an eraser; pens are not allowed. **Use pencils for quizzes and exams.**
5. Bring your own materials to avoid the need to ask classmate to share.
6. Respect others. Show consideration towards the instructor and classmates. Misbehaviors and disrespectful actions, such as chatting with classmates in English, using inappropriate language, sleeping, or texting are not tolerated. Repeated offences will be reported to the University Academic Disciplinary Committee.
7. In Japan it is considered rude to put your hands in your pockets while talking to others.

BUDDY SYSTEM:

Students are strongly encouraged to pick a buddy for conversational practice. It is fine to work with a Japanese friend, but a classmate would know what is being covered. Working together is encouraged, but **copying materials will be considered cheating and eventually work to your disadvantage** since you are not making your own mistakes (necessary for learning the language.)

STUDY TIPS

For the following class:

Preview the contents of upcoming class and read appropriate pages on the course materials. Read the grammar explanation in the textbook. Familiarize with the newly introduced vocabulary.

After class:

Review and practice what you learned that day and do your homework. Listen to the audio files for the dialogues that were introduced in the class. It is essential that you constantly put your effort listening to Japanese outside of class to be used to the natural sound, intonation, speed of Japanese. Also, questions on quizzes and exams are drawn from the homework.

Developing Study Skills

Learning a foreign language is different from learning other subjects. To enhance Japanese language skills, daily practice and constant review are inevitable (say at least one hour for every class hour). Many students tend to claim that they do not have time to study due to their busy schedule, but time management becomes important to achieve academic success. You need to make time to study and practice to develop language skills.

ADA ACCOMMODATION:

*For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.*

CRITERIA OF EXCUSED OR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES/REASONS

Although the instructor makes the final decision whether an absence is excused or unexcused, here are some examples. Your first two day-absences are excused but from the third, all excused absences must be verified with appropriate documents or the absence becomes unexcused.

Excused Absences

In general, excused absences include (but not limited to):

- Personal illness or injury
- Medical or dental appointments
- Illness or death in the family
- Funeral services for a member of the immediate family or relative
- Serving on jury duty
- Personal court appearance; appointments for court
- Participating in religious activities
- Participating in a sport competition as a member of national team
- Military training

Unexcused Absences

- Personal illness or injury that does not require medical attention
- Experiencing transportation problems at home or on the way to school
- Going to work
- Babysitting and taking care of family members
- Oversleeping
- Any form of recreation including going on (family) vacation and attending club or sport activities
- Working on school projects or doing homework
- Repairing car or household items
- Attending a job-related training or seminar

GRADE SCORE SHEET (For Your Record)

Oral Performance	Score
OP1 (10%)	
OP2 (10%)	
OP3 (10%)	
Total	/30%

Exams	Score
Mid-term (10%)	
Final (20%)	
Total	/30%

Homework	Score		Attendance (Dates of absence)
#1			
#2			
#3			
#4			
#5			
Essay #1			
Essay #2			
Total	/10%		/10%

Quizzes (20%)

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