

Syllabus format 2026

Semester	2026 January & Summer (June, July)		
Course Code	268924		
Campus Location	JF Oberlin - Shinjuku Campus		
Course	Japanese Language Beginner		
Instructor	Lead: Miho Estay-Izumi, M.A.		
Instructed only by foreign languages	Yes		
Instruction Language	English		
	Japanese		
Active Learning included			
Active Learning Type	Discussion, Debates	Group work	Presentation
	Practicum/Fieldwork		Experience
	Mock classes	PBL	Others
Course Description	<p>This intensive 2 week beginner-level Japanese language course offers international students a strong foundation in modern spoken Japanese. Through interactive aural-oral drills, practical exercises, and guided practice, students will build confidence in communicating in everyday situations. The course emphasizes spoken Japanese while also introducing the writing systems—hiragana, katakana, and selected kanji—sufficient for navigating daily life in Tokyo. Practical use is at the heart of the program: students will not only practice language skills in the classroom but also observe and apply them in real-life contexts outside class. Digital resources, such as apps and websites, are introduced to support independent study and continued language development beyond the program.</p> <p>The course meets for a total of 45 instructional hours over the two weeks. Students who successfully complete the program with a passing grade will earn (4) J.F. Oberlin University credits.</p>		
Course Objectives	<p>By the end of the session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perform Basic Communication – Successfully use Japanese to carry out essential communicative acts in familiar daily situations such as greetings, self-introductions, shopping, dining, and asking for directions. - Use Appropriate Social Registers – Speak with a basic awareness of Japanese cultural norms, demonstrating politeness and appropriate levels of formality in simple social interactions. - Recognize and Apply Written Forms – Read and write hiragana and katakana, recognize selected kanji, and use written Japanese in basic practical situations such as reading signs, menus, and transportation information. - Develop Cultural Awareness – Demonstrate an introductory understanding of Japanese customs, traditions, and communication styles, applying this knowledge to enhance language use in authentic settings. 		
Course Schedule			
Day	<p>Details</p>		
1	<p>Introduction to Japanese Language and Learning Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course orientation and expectations - Grammar check - Useful phrases for classroom interaction - Introduction to Japanese writing systems (hiragana, katakana, basic kanji) - Exploration of helpful websites and language-learning apps - Vocabulary building: greetings, numbers, classroom expressions 		
2	<p>Self-Introduction and Personal Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A2-1 Lesson 1: Talking about family and self-introductions - A2-1 Lesson 2: Discussing hobbies, where you live, and languages you speak - Role-play practice: introducing yourself in a social setting 		
3	<p>Seasons and Weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Lessons 1 & 2 (self-introduction, hobbies, family) - A2-1 Lesson 3: Describing seasons in Japan and your home country - A2-1 Lesson 4: Talking about the weather and appropriate responses - Practical vocabulary: clothing, daily activities related to weather 		
4	<p>Review and Expansion of Seasonal Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consolidated review of Lessons 3 & 4 (seasons and weather) - Practice dialogues and short presentations about favorite seasons and weather preferences - Listening exercises with real-life weather forecasts 		

5	<p>Navigating the Town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive review of Lessons 1–4 (self, hobbies, seasons, weather) - A2-1 Lesson 5: Describing your town—places, shops, and landmarks - A2-1 Lesson 6: Asking for and giving directions - Map-based activities and simulated street navigation exercises
6	<p>Appointments and Going Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Lessons 5 & 6 (my town, giving directions) - A2-1 Lesson 7: Making and confirming appointments - A2-1 Lesson 8: Socializing and going out (restaurants, cafés, activities) - Role-play practice: arranging to meet a friend in Tokyo
7	<p>Languages and Cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Lessons 7 & 8 (appointments and going out) - A2-1 Lesson 9: Talking about learning other languages - A2-1 Lesson 10: Discussing cultures of other countries and cross-cultural experiences - Group discussions on cultural similarities and differences between Japan and students' home countries
8	<p>Comprehensive review of Lessons 1–10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforcement of grammar and vocabulary through games and activities - Preparation for the final presentation (topic selection, planning, rehearsal) - Instructor feedback and guidance
9	<p>Final Assessments and Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final written and oral test covering vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills - Student final presentations demonstrating practical use of Japanese - Group feedback session and reflection on progress - Closing remarks and course wrap-up

Supplementary Activities	
	Details
Feedback Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critique and Commentary in class
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correct and return tests and reports
Textbook	Marugoto A2-2
Supplementary Reading	tadoku online https://tadoku.org/japanese/free-books/
Grading	<p>Grading Scale:</p> <p>100–90% = A (Excellent) 89–80% = B (Good) 79–70% = C (Satisfactory) 69–60% = D (Passing but Needs Improvement) 59% and below = F (Failing)</p> <p>Grade Breakdown:</p> <p>Participation – 30% Active involvement in classroom drills, discussions, and activities. Punctuality and consistent preparedness. Attendance policy applies: 5 minutes late = marked late (0.5 deduction) 30 minutes late or more = counted as absent (0)</p> <p>Speaking Tests – 40% Short oral assessments to evaluate fluency, accuracy, and communicative ability. Conducted periodically throughout the course.</p> <p>Final Exam – 20% Comprehensive test covering writing, reading, and listening skills. Designed to measure both accuracy and comprehension.</p> <p>Final Presentation – 10% Short individual or group presentation, demonstrating practical use of learned vocabulary, grammar, and cultural expressions.</p> <p>Daily homework will focus on study and fieldwork for development of the final presentation/project/test.</p>

Attendance Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to the intensive 9-day structure, attendance is mandatory. Each class represents a significant portion of instruction, and missing even one session may impact overall progress. - Punctuality is required. Arriving late disrupts the learning environment and diminishes student progress. - Arrivals 5 minutes or more after class begins will be marked as late (0.5 deduction). - Arrivals 30 minutes or more after class begins will be considered an absence (0). - Absences must be communicated to the instructor in advance whenever possible. Excused absences may be granted only in cases of illness or emergency, at the discretion of the instructor. - Impact on Grades – Excessive lateness or absences will significantly lower the participation grade, which constitutes 30% of the final grade. More than two absences may place a student at risk of failing the course.
Method of Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This course uses a communicative and interactive teaching approach that prioritizes active student participation and practical language use. - Instruction will combine multiple methods to provide a balanced introduction to Japanese: - Aural-Oral Practice – Repetition drills, pronunciation exercises, and guided dialogues to build listening and speaking skills. - Structured Grammar and Vocabulary Instruction – Introduction and practice of essential structures through examples, exercises, and contextual use. - Writing System Training – Daily practice in hiragana, katakana, and selected kanji to support reading and writing competency. - Pair and Group Activities – Role-plays, games, and small-group exercises that encourage interaction and build confidence. - Cultural Integration – Inclusion of Japanese customs, social norms, and everyday life topics to contextualize language use.
Student Conduct	<p>Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner that contributes to a positive learning environment. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect for Others – Listening attentively, not interrupting, and valuing diverse cultural perspectives in discussions. - Classroom Etiquette – Refraining from disruptive behaviors such as side conversations, excessive phone use, or distracting activities. - Preparedness and Participation – Bringing necessary materials, completing assignments, and actively engaging in class activities. - Professionalism – Arriving on time, observing deadlines, and demonstrating commitment to the short yet intensive format of the course. <p>Failure to adhere to expected standards of conduct may affect participation grades and, in serious cases, may lead to disciplinary measures in accordance with university policies.</p> <p>mended apps, websites, and online resources to reinforce classroom learning and encourage independent study. The goal is for students not only to study the language but also to use it actively in meaningful contexts, both inside and outside the classroom.</p>