



JAPANESE LANGUAGE INTERMEDIATE ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NAME: Japanese Language Intermediate

COURSE CODE: 268934

CAMPUS LOCATION: JF Oberlin - Shinjuku Campus

CREDITS:

The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits with a passing grade.

DESCRIPTION:

This intensive 2 week intermediate-level Japanese course is designed for international students who already possess a foundation in basic Japanese and wish to further develop their communication skills. Building on previously learned grammar and vocabulary, the course emphasizes active use of the language through aural-oral drills, interactive exercises, and situational practice. Students will strengthen their ability to participate in real-life conversations, expand their vocabulary for a wider range of contexts, and refine their understanding of grammatical structures.

While the primary focus is on spoken Japanese, students will also engage with the writing systems—hiragana, katakana, and kanji—to a greater degree than at the beginner level, enabling them to read and write with improved accuracy in practical situations such as menus, signs, or simple texts.

Practical application and cultural understanding are central to this program. Students will observe and practice Japanese both inside and outside the classroom, gaining confidence in navigating daily life in Tokyo.

COURSE LEVELS:

Classes are taught and conducted in English and Japanese.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES:

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Perform Intermediate-Level Communication
- Use Japanese effectively in everyday situations such as meeting new people, dining out, asking for recommendations, giving directions, and making simple travel arrangements.
- Apply Social Registers Appropriately – Communicate with a stronger command of Japanese cultural norms, including polite, casual, and neutral speech styles, and adapt language use to different social contexts.
- Develop Reading and Writing Skills – Recognize and use hiragana, katakana, and an expanded set of kanji to interpret menus, advertisements, signs, and short passages.-
- Express Opinions and Explanations – Construct sentences that explain reasons, give advice, or express preferences using intermediate-level grammatical forms.
- Deepen Cultural Awareness – Strengthen understanding of Japanese social interactions, food culture, and travel customs through language-based discussions and activities.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

- 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.

TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR CLASS MATERIALS:

Marugoto A2-1

SUPPLEMENTARY READING:

tadoku online: <https://tadoku.org/japanese/free-books/>

GRADING:

Grading Scale:

- 100–90% = A (Excellent)
- 89–80% = B (Good)
- 79–70% = C (Satisfactory)
- 69–60% = D (Passing but Needs Improvement)
- 59% and below = F (Failing)

Grade Breakdown:

- 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)

- Speaking Tests – 40%
Short oral assessments to evaluate fluency, accuracy, and communicative ability.
Conducted periodically throughout the course.

- Final Exam – 20%
Comprehensive test covering writing, reading, and listening skills.
Designed to measure both accuracy and comprehension.

- Final Presentation – 10%
Short individual or group presentation, demonstrating practical use of learned vocabulary, grammar, and cultural expressions.

Daily homework will focus on study and fieldwork for development of the final presentation/project/test.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- 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.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner that contributes to a positive learning environment. This includes:

- 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.

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.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

CLASS DAY 1:

Orientation and Grammar Foundations

- Course guidance and expectations
- Self-introductions in both casual and polite registers
- Review of three types of sentences: verb, adjective, noun-based structures-
- Practice in expanding short self-presentations

CLASS DAY 2:

Making New Friends (Part 1)

- A2 Topic 1: Talking about new friends
- Using ~という to name or describe items/people
- Introduction to short form usage (plain style) in conversation
- Pair work: introducing friends and classmates

CLASS DAY 3:

Making New Friends (Part 2)

- Continuation of A2 Topic 1
- Noun modification: describing people, places, and things with additional details
- Expressing impressions: “It looks...” / “It seems...”
- Role-play practice: describing a new friend or acquaintance

CLASS DAY 4:

Eating Out (Part 1)

- A2 Topic 2: Dining in Japan
- Giving reasons using ~ので
- Offering recommendations: ~なら ...がいいですよ
- Conversation practice: recommending restaurants and foods to others

CLASS DAY 5:

Eating Out (Part 2) Continuation of A2 Topic 2

- Expressing prohibitions: ~てはいけません (“You must not...”)
- Phrases for asking about how to eat unfamiliar food
- Introduction to A2 Topic 3: Okinawa trip (Lesson 3 overview)
- Group activity: role-play ordering food at a restaurant



CLASS DAY 6:

Talking About Travel (Part 1)

- A2 Topic 3: Planning and describing an Okinawa trip
- Giving advice: ~ほうがいい ("It's better to...")
- Talking about actions and conditions using ~とき ("When...")
- Practice dialogues: giving advice to a traveler

CLASS DAY 7:

Talking About Travel (Part 2)

- Continuation of A2 Topic 3
- Expressing ability: the potential form
- Adding reasons with ~し
- Pair and group practice: planning and describing a short trip in Japan

CLASS DAY 8:

Review and Preparation for Assessments

- Comprehensive review of Topics 1–3
- Grammar and vocabulary reinforcement through interactive activities
- Guidance and rehearsal for final presentations
- Review exercises for the final exam

CLASS DAY 9:

Final Assessments and Closing

- Final written, listening, and reading exam
- Student final presentations showcasing practical application of Japanese
- Course reflection and feedback session
- Closing remarks