

Syllabus format 2026

Semester	2026 January & Summer (June,July)										
Course	Japanese Language Advanced										
Course Code	268945										
Campus Location	JF Oberlin - Shinjuku Campus										
Instructor	Lead: Tomoyuki Yabe, Ph.D.										
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 two week Advanced Japanese Language Course is designed for international students who already have strong proficiency in Japanese and wish to refine their skills for more complex communication. The course emphasizes modern spoken Japanese through advanced aural-oral drills, interactive exercises, and the mastery of nuanced grammatical structures. Special focus is given to developing the ability to shift smoothly between different speech styles—casual, formal, polite, and honorific—depending on the context and relationship between speakers.</p> <p>While the main emphasis is on spoken fluency, students will also continue to expand their competence in Japanese writing systems, including kanji, to meet practical and academic needs. The course integrates exposure to authentic written materials such as blog posts, online reviews, recipes, and news updates to strengthen reading and writing abilities. Cultural immersion and real-world application form an essential part of this course. Students will analyze authentic Japanese media, explore cultural norms of communication, and apply their language skills in both classroom activities and field-based experiences. CREDITS: This course will meet for a total of (45) class hours. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits upon receiving a passing grade in the course.</p>										
Course Objectives	<p>By the end of the session, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage in Advanced Communication – Successfully perform advanced-level communicative acts in diverse real-life situations, such as debating, narrating, persuading, and expressing nuanced opinions. - Master Social Registers – Demonstrate full understanding of Japanese cultural norms by appropriately using various registers of speech (casual, polite, honorific, and humble) in formal and informal interactions. - Advance Reading and Writing Skills – Read and produce coherent texts in Japanese using hiragana, katakana, and a broad range of kanji, including essays, online reviews, and opinion pieces. - Analyze and Express Cultural Perspectives – Understand and articulate cultural references in media, literature, and everyday communication while reflecting critically on cultural differences. - Apply Strategies for Real-World Communication – Use advanced strategies for navigating authentic Japanese environments, from online platforms to face-to-face interactions. 										
Course Schedule	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th><th>Details</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td> Orientation and Self-Expression - Course guidance and expectations - B1 Topic 1: Meeting people for the first time - Delivering coherent self-introductions when joining a new community - Reading and writing social media-style profiles - Discussing strategies for initiating conversations with strangers </td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td> Food and Culinary Culture - B1 Topic 2: Food I recommend - Talking about online restaurant reviews and recommendations - Reading and writing recipes and ingredient lists for a dish - Discussing the unique characteristics of a local dish and how to describe it in detail </td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td> Music and Personal Interests - B1 Topic 3: My favorite music - Describing genres of music and their characteristics, appeals, and cultural context - Reading and writing blog posts about impressions of a concert or performance - Explaining reasons for liking specific music, musicians, or performances </td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Day	Details	1	Orientation and Self-Expression - Course guidance and expectations - B1 Topic 1: Meeting people for the first time - Delivering coherent self-introductions when joining a new community - Reading and writing social media-style profiles - Discussing strategies for initiating conversations with strangers	2	Food and Culinary Culture - B1 Topic 2: Food I recommend - Talking about online restaurant reviews and recommendations - Reading and writing recipes and ingredient lists for a dish - Discussing the unique characteristics of a local dish and how to describe it in detail	3	Music and Personal Interests - B1 Topic 3: My favorite music - Describing genres of music and their characteristics, appeals, and cultural context - Reading and writing blog posts about impressions of a concert or performance - Explaining reasons for liking specific music, musicians, or performances
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4	<p>Travel and Hospitality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B1 Topic 4: Let's go to a hot spring! - Listening to and understanding travel TV reports about hot springs and traditional Japanese inns - Discussing strategies for communicating personal requests and preferences to hotels or inns - Reading and writing online reviews of accommodation experiences
5	<p>Keeping Up with Current Life and News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B1 Topic 5: How have you been lately? - Discussing strategies for predicting meaning and following extended conversations - Talking about recent news with details and personal insights - Reading and writing social media posts to share updates and stay connected
6	<p>Reading and Discussing Manga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B1 Topic 6: Let's read manga - Listening to and discussing favorite manga, characters, and themes - Identifying and analyzing unique linguistic expressions in manga - Talking with detail about a storyline, including plot and character development
7	<p>Test Preparation and Cultural Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance for the final test - Structured review of grammar, vocabulary, and key expressions from Topics 1–6 - Field trip activity to observe and apply Japanese in real-life contexts
8	<p>Final Assessment and Presentation Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Exam: listening, grammar, writing, reading, and vocabulary from Topics 1–6 - Guidance for final presentations - Individual and group preparation for presentations
9	<p>Presentations, Feedback, and Wrap-Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback and reflection on the final exam - Student presentations applying advanced-level Japanese in a structured context - Peer and instructor feedback on presentations - Course summary and remarks

Feedback Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Critique and Commentary in class <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correct and return tests and reports
Textbook	Marugoto Intermediate (B1)
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.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>

Grading	<p>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)</p> <p>Grade Breakdown: Participation – 30% Active involvement in classroom drills, discussions, and activities. Punctuality and consistent preparedness.</p> <p>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.