

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Mon.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 102 (Business)
Course Subtitle	Issues in Global Business in Japan
Instructor	SHIMA Hirokazu(シマ ヒロカズ)
Course Description	<p>The goal of this course is to continue developing further analysis and understanding of the global business in Japan through discussions stressing cross-cultural and cross-functional variations in the actual business environments. Key issues in establishing a strong business concept will also be covered.</p>
Syllabus	<p>Active participation and individual creativity in assignments and presentations in English are always essential. Therefore, the ability to produce a PowerPoint presentation is necessary for submitting the project. It is also recommended that students taking this course have completed the introductory version of this course offered during the spring semester.</p> <p>The main topics to be covered in this class are as follows:</p> <p>授業計画</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 第1回 Globalization in Japan today 第2回 The spirit of Japanese companies 第3回 Making the first contact 第4回 Getting acquainted 第5回 The all-important pre-agreement meetings/The written document system 第6回 Mid-term presentation (Part 1) 第7回 Mid-term presentation (Part 2) 第8回 How to use interpreters/Killing with silence 第9回 Mastering the art of doing business at night 第10回 Business on the greens/When the going gets tough 第11回 The art of servicing customers/Grinding sesame seeds 第12回 Final presentation (Part 1) 第13回 Final presentation (Part 2) <p>Note: The content of this course outline is subject to change, and it is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance and accuracy of information. Also, this course has a Google site. Students will be given materials and assignments for each class, so please access Google Meet from the first class. Group interviews and discussions will be held frequently using Google Meet and/or in class. Generative AI use will be addressed separately, and to be discussed in class at the appropriate time.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grades will be based on class participation (20%), mid-term presentation (40%), and final presentation (40%).
Textbooks	<p>Boye Lafayette De Mente, BUSINESS GUIDE TO JAPAN, Tuttle Publishing, 1989</p> <p>Handouts will be provided on a continuous basis</p> <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yamakuse Yoji, Mike Mania, Michael Brase, ALL TOO PERFECT JAPANESE, IBC Publishing, 2011 Charles W. L. Hill, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (International Edition, 5TH ed.), McGraw Hill, 2004 Warren J. Keegan and Mark C. Green, GLOBAL MARKETING (4TH ed.), Pearson International Edition, 2005 Jeffrey K. Liker and David Meier, THE TOYOTA WAY, McGraw Hill, 2006

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Wed.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 104 (Business)
Course Subtitle	Entrepreneurs, Corporations, and Industries in Japan
Instructor	Wu Yun(ウ- ユイン)
Course Description	<p>This course aims to pique students' interest in Japanese business by introducing legendary Japanese entrepreneurs, reputable corporations, and competitive industries. By understanding the roles of these key players in the Japanese economy, students are expected to grasp the driving forces behind business growth in Japan and develop insight into the implications of global business strategy and operations.</p> <p>※About the use of generative AI, separate instructions will be provided by the course instructor.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The class will be conducted in English, and students are required to submit written assignments and give presentations in English. Active participation in frequent group discussions will also be required.</p> <p>Note: The course content is subject to change and may be revised based on student feedback and engagement.</p> <p>Week1 Introduction Week2 Innovation Theories Week3 Innovative Entrepreneurs in Japan Week4 Leading Companies and Long-Living Companies Week5 Research and Group Work Week6 Group Work: Presentation Preparation Week7 Mid-term Presentations(Part 1) Week8 Mid-term Presentations(Part 2) Week9 Industries in Japan: Focusing on Industrial Competitiveness Week10 Research and Group Work Week11 Group Work: Presentation Preparation Week12 Final Presentation (Part 1) Week13 Final Presentation (Part 2)</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Grades will be determined by contributions to class activities, such as group work, discussions, presentations, and the final report.</p> <p>※Using text or other outputs generated by AI as-is is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this rule will result in appropriate measures, including the denial of course credit.</p>
Textbooks	No textbooks are required, handouts will be provided on a continuous basis.

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Wed.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 105 (Business)
Course Subtitle	The contemporary Japan Business Landscape : summarizing the key point
Instructor	TAKITA Yoichi(タキタ ヨウイチ)

Course Description	<p>This course explores the business environment surrounding Japanese companies as well as actual business practices in Japan.</p> <p>Students will acquire foundational knowledge of corporations and management while also studying the economic and social contexts that influence businesses. Lectures by external experts will provide valuable real-world insights into current developments and help deepen understanding of what is actually happening in the field.</p>
Syllabus	<p>This course will be conducted entirely in English. Students are required to attend all classes and deliver presentations in English.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction: Japan's current business environment as of 2026 序説 2. Macroeconomic Situation: Escape from deflationary stagnation マクロ経済 3. Business: Companies shifting to offense 企業活動の全体像 4. The political landscape surrounding companies 政治・行政環境 5. Theoretical considerations and historical background 理論・歴史考察 6. Women's empowerment and transformation of corporate culture 女性進出 7. Corporate governance and management reform 企業統治改革 8. Midterm presentation 中間報告 9. Theoretical considerations and historical background 理論・歴史考察 10. Global expansion and risk management 海外活動・リスク管理 11. Adaptation to changes in the international environment 國際環境対応 12. Enhancement of corporate financial efficiency 財務改革 13. Final presentation 最終報告 <p>Note The content of this course outline is subject to change. And it is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance and accuracy of information.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grade will be based on class participation (30%) and presentation (70%).
Textbooks	Course materials will be distributed on an ongoing basis as required during the sessions.

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Mon.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 116 (Sociology)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Japanese Culture and Hospitality
Instructor	SHIMA Hirokazu(シマ ヒロカズ)
Course Description	<p>This is an introductory course in Japanology that will focus on and analyze socio-cultural aspects of the Japanese lifestyle. The course objective is to offer general knowledge of Japanese society and hospitality called Omotenashi with an emphasis on Japanese perspectives among the tourism industry. A typical class consists of the instructor giving lectures, audio-visual presentations, and the students having small group discussions.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The class will be conducted in English, and students are required to submit assignments and make presentations in English. Active participation is expected for the class as it will be conducted interactively.</p> <p>The main topics to be covered in this class are as follows:</p> <p>第1回 Introduction to the course 第2回 A year in Japan: a beginning a new life in April to prepare for the next life in March 第3回 Basics of daily life: Family, housing, and culinary life 第4回 Living in Japan: Enjoying daily life 第5回 Everyday manners: Ceremonial occasions, unwritten rules, and expressions of emotion. 第6回 Harmony and omotenashi 第7回 Mid-term presentation (Part 1) 第8回 Mid-term presentation (Part 2) 第9回 Samurai legacies/When and how to bow 第10回 Dining and omotenashi/The importance of gift-giving 第11回 Expressing appreciation 第12回 Final presentation (Part1) 第13回 Final presentation (Part2)</p> <p>Note: The content of this course outline is subject to change, and it is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance and accuracy of information. Also, this course has a Google site. Students will be given materials and assignments for each class, so please access Google Meet from the first class. Group interviews and discussions will be held frequently using Google Meet and/or in class. Generative AI use will be addressed separately, and to be discussed in class at the appropriate time.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grades will be based on class participation (20%), mid-term presentation (40%), and final presentation (40%).
Textbooks	<p>Boye Lafayette De Mente, "Etiquette Guide to Japan," Tuttle Publishing ISBN 978-4-8053-1361-9</p> <p>Additional handouts will be provided on a continuous basis.</p>

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Thu.1Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 203 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Reading Japanese Society Through Contemporary Short Fiction
Instructor	Alessandro G. Gerevini(アレッサンドロ・ジエラード・ゲレビニ)

Course Description	Course Description
	This course examines contemporary social and cultural issues in Japan through the study of short stories written by major contemporary Japanese authors and read in English translation. Students will develop critical thinking skills by closely reading and analyzing literary texts, with particular attention to how these works engage with social themes and problems in modern Japanese society.
	Course Format and Learning Activities
	Class sessions will primarily consist of student presentations, followed by structured, instructor-guided discussion activities.
	Throughout the semester, students will work in groups to prepare and deliver at least one formal presentation on a selected short story. These presentations will focus on the analysis of the text's principal themes and their relationship to contemporary social issues in Japan.
Course Description	Students' comprehension and analytical abilities will be assessed through group presentations and active participation in class discussions.
	The titles of the short stories to be presented by the students during the course will be confirmed at the beginning of the semester, based on the students' specific interests. Therefore, the titles proposed in this syllabus are only indicative and may be changed, or the presentations may be delivered in a different order.
	Generative AI use is permitted under specific conditions.

Syllabus	Week 1: Class presentations and students introductions.
	Week 2: Defining the presentation schedule. Grouping. Explanation of the required presentation structure, to be used as a model.
	Week 3: Screening the first part of a Japanese movie.
	Week 4: Screening the second part of a Japanese movie. Discussion about the topics.
	Week 5: Student presentation 1. Discussion. YOSHIMOTO, Banana, "Blood and water"
	Week 6: Student presentation 2. Discussion. KANEHARA, Hitomi, "Snakes & earrings"
	Week 7: Student presentation 3. Discussion. MURAKAMI, Haruki
	Week 8: Student presentation 4. Discussion. YANG, Yi, "Wan-chan"
	Week 9: Student presentation 5. Discussion. KOIKE, Masayo, "Genjitsu House"
	Week 10: Student presentation 6. Discussion. ISHII Shinji, "When the bowling pins stand"
	Week 11: Student presentation 7. Discussion. FUJINO Chiya, "Her room"
	Week 12: Student presentation 8. Discussion. OGAWA, Yoko, "Pregnancy diary"
	Week 13: Student presentation 9. Discussion. MURATA, Sayaka, "Convenience store woman"

Evaluation Criteria	Active participation (attendance, participation in class discussions): 20% Homework assignments: 20% Presentation(s): 60%
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Textbooks	Students are not required to purchase any books for this course. (However they may do so if they wish). All assigned stories will be distributed by the instructor. Some of the stories are included in the following collections: 1) "Short Stories in Japanese", EMMERICH M. (ed. by), Penguin Books, New York, 2011. 2) "Inside and other short fiction", LAYNE C. (ed. by), Kodansha International, Tokyo, 2006. 3) "The book of Tokyo", EMMERICH M. et al. (ed. by), Comma Press, Great Britain, 2015.
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Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Thu.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 208 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Geography of Japan from the Perspective of Culture, Society, and Tourism
Instructor	Jakub E. Marszalenko(ヤコブ・マルシャレンコ)
Course Description	<p>The objective of this course is to equip students with knowledge about the Japanese Archipelago from the perspective of culture, society, history, and tourism. In each class, a different one of the nine regions* of Japan will be covered, introducing its unique aspects. After completing the course, the students will be well versed in Japan's geography, with their knowledge going beyond stereotypes and commonly known trivia.</p> <p>*The Kyushu Region has been divided into "Kyushu" and "Okinawa and the Ryukyus" due to the cultural and historical differences between the present-day Okinawa Prefecture and "mainland" Japan.</p>
Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Orientation and Introduction to the Course 02. Hokkaidō 03. Tōhoku 04. Tokyo and the Kantō Region 05. Nagoya and Central Japan 06. Kinki (Kansai) 07. Hiroshima and Western Japan 08. Shikoku 09. Kyūshū 10. Okinawa and the Ryukyus 11. Group Presentations (Group 1) 12. Group Presentations (Group 2) 13. Final Exam
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Final Project and Presentation: 45%</p> <p>Final Test: 45%</p> <p>In-class Performance and Participation: 10%</p>
Textbooks	None. All class materials will be provided by the instructor.

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Mon.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 209 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Japanese Literature
Instructor	Ryan Morrison(ライアン モリソン)

Course Description	<p>All the assignments and readings and lectures will be distributed via Google Classrooms! There will be one [relatively short] assigned Japanese literary masterpiece per week! You may familiarize yourself with my Youtube Channel immediately, and notify me in advance of any works you would like to read!</p> <p>In this course students will a) become familiar with a handful of representative literary works from the pre-Meiji, Meiji, Taishō, Shōwa, and Heisei periods, b) develop critical skills, c) improve their writing, d) increase their knowledge of Japanese culture, history, and literature, and e) grow accustomed to expressing their ideas in a class discussion setting.</p> <p>Update: Number of preparatory hours per week : 1 ~ 3 hours. Classes will be conducted via Google Classroom (諸課題配布), with links to my Youtube Video Lectures. All instructions and explanations will be provided through Google Classroom. This class will be very easy to follow so long as you check Google Classroom regularly.</p> <p>Attendance: Regular attendance is required for face-to-face classes. Pop quizzes may be given.</p> <p>The Class: I will begin each class with some prefatory remarks about the assigned reading. In general, my remarks will be limited to general historical and literary context (i.e., the "background stuff" you need to know in order to appreciate the text), as I prefer to let students develop and share their own ideas and interpretations.</p>
	Group Discussions: Following my short lecture, students will break up into groups of three to five students (depending on class size) and discuss for 20-30 minutes their assigned question(s). Following this, one member from each group will take turns presenting their answers to the entire class. Students are free to challenge or question the presenter.
	Two Short Essays: You will submit three short essays at various points in the semester. See "Short Essay Instructions" (on Moodle) for details.
	Office Hours: Bldg 2, Floor 5. Thursday 3rd period. Email in advance!
	Language: Readings, discussions, quizzes, and essays will all be in English. While knowledge of Japanese is not a prerequisite for enrollment in the class, students are encouraged to read the stories in the original as well. Japanese students may submit their assignments/essays in Japanese.
	Net Sources: In recent years the Internet has become an invaluable resource for the study of Japanese literature. I expect students to use online sources such as Aozora Bunko, JSTOR, CiNii, and Project Muse.
	Students will become familiar with the major works of Japanese literature, and learn how to analyze and interpret those works.
	Day 1: Introduction: Morrison's 13 rules of narrative; semester goals; form groups. 第2回
	Day 2: Pre-Meiji reading 第3回
	Day 3: Pre-Meiji reading (cont.) 第4回
	Day 4: Meiji reading 第5回
	Day 5: Meiji reading 第6回
	Day 6: Related Film 第7回
	Day 7: Taishō reading 第8回
	Day 8: Taishō reading (cont.); first essay deadline 第9回
	Day 9: Shōwa reading 1 第10回
	Day 10: Shōwa reading 1 (cont.) 第11回
	Day 11: Shōwa reading 2 第12回
	Day 12: Shōwa reading 2 第12回
	Day 13: Heisei Reading 1

Syllabus	<p>Students will become familiar with the major works of Japanese literature, and learn how to analyze and interpret those works.</p> <p>Day 1: Introduction: Morrison's 13 rules of narrative; semester goals; form groups. 第2回</p> <p>Day 2: Pre-Meiji reading 第3回</p> <p>Day 3: Pre-Meiji reading (cont.) 第4回</p> <p>Day 4: Meiji reading 第5回</p> <p>Day 5: Meiji reading 第6回</p> <p>Day 6: Related Film 第7回</p> <p>Day 7: Taishō reading 第8回</p> <p>Day 8: Taishō reading (cont.); first essay deadline 第9回</p> <p>Day 9: Shōwa reading 1 第10回</p> <p>Day 10: Shōwa reading 1 (cont.) 第11回</p> <p>Day 11: Shōwa reading 2 第12回</p> <p>Day 12: Shōwa reading 2 第12回</p> <p>Day 13: Heisei Reading 1</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grading: Class Assignments & Quizzes: 40%. Final Essay & Assignments: 50%. Participation: 10%.

Textbooks	Assigned Texts: You do not have to purchase any books for this class. All assigned stories—both the original Japanese and the English translation—will be distributed via Google Classroom, as PDF files. My video lectures will be posted on my youtube channel: https://bit.ly/3KR2QTJ . Study Guides: There is a study guide for each assigned reading. Use the study guides as you read the stories. Group discussions will proceed from the problems/questions raised in these guides.
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Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Thu.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 211 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature- Showa to Present
Instructor	Raymond Gordon Rees(レイモンド ゴードンリース)

Course Description	<p>This course is a survey of modern Japanese literature from the Meiji period (1868) to the present, with primary emphasis on works written during the Showa era (1926–1989). Students will read translated short stories and related materials in order to develop skills in close reading and interpretation of modern Japanese literary prose.</p> <p>Through these texts, students will examine major literary themes and gain an understanding of modern Japanese society and culture. Literary works will be studied in relation to key historical events, including war, postwar reconstruction, social change, and environmental issues. Class activities will emphasize discussion, contextual analysis, and written literary interpretation.</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and explain major themes in modern Japanese literature. 2. Recognize important authors, genres, and literary movements, particularly from the Showa era. 3. Analyze modern Japanese literary works within their social and historical contexts. 4. Write a basic literary analysis and discuss key elements of the short story, such as theme, character, setting, and narrative technique.
	<p>Classes will combine short lectures, student presentations, films, and guided discussions based on the assigned readings. Lectures provide historical and literary background necessary for understanding the texts. Films and audiovisual materials will be used to deepen comprehension and encourage comparative analysis between literature and visual media.</p> <p>Google Classroom will be used to distribute materials and manage homework, quizzes, and assignments.</p>
	<p>第1回 Course guidance and introduction Overview of the course and expectations Introduction to Kawabata Yasunari, Snow Country, and onsen culture Screening: Snow Country (Episode 1) Homework: Read: Snow Country (Miniature), pp. 1–16; "Through a Glass Darkly" Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p>
	<p>第2回 Kawabata Yasunari and Snow Country Analysis of the opening scene Kyoto geisha, onsen geisha, and the "danna" system Screening: Snow Country (Episode 2) Homework: Read: Snow Country (Miniature), pp. 16–33 Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p>
Syllabus	<p>第3回 Literary circles and early Showa context Literary circle discussions and short student presentations on Snow Country Introduction to atomic bombing literature Homework: Read: "Insects," pp. 373–385 Read short article on the history of Christian persecution in Japan Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p>
	<p>第4回 Nagasaki, memory, and persecution Seirai Yūichi and Nagasaki literature Christianity in Nagasaki Homework: Read: "Insects," pp. 385–399 Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p>
	<p>第5回 War memory and social discrimination Hibakusha and postwar discrimination</p>

Screening: Film on the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima (Part 1)

Homework:

Watch: Film (Part 2)

Prepare responses to discussion questions

第6回

Postwar literature and testimony

Discussion of Hiroshima film

The "Scorched Earth Generation" and Nosaka Akiyuki

Homework:

Read: "American Hijiki," Part 1, pp. 406–425

Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第7回

Occupation and everyday life

American occupation of Japan

Tokyo black markets

Homework:

Read: "American Hijiki," Part 2, pp. 426–444

Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第8回

Early Showa literature and society

Audio analysis: "American Hijiki"

Student presentations (Early Showa era)

Homework:

Read: "A Bond for Two Lifetimes," Gleanings, pp. 170–187

Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第9回

Gender, adaptation, and classical literature

Tales of Moonlight and Rain / Tales of Spring Rain

Enchi Fumiko

Homework:

Read: "Factory Town," pp. 273–277

Read short article on environmental pollution in Japan

Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第10回

Environmental literature and theater

Betsuyaku Minoru

Screening: Film on Minamata disease (Part 1)

Homework:

Watch: Film (Part 2)

Prepare responses to discussion questions

第11回

Late Showa literature

Discussion of Minamata disease

Yoko Ogawa

Homework:

Read: "The Tale of the House of Physics"

Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第12回

Contemporary literature

Student presentations (Late Showa era)

Introduction to Haruki Murakami

Homework:

Read: "Drive My Car," pp. 8-31

第13回

Final activities and assessment

In-class literary analysis writing assignment- "Drive My Car"

Factory Town readers' theater group performance

Evaluation Criteria	Class participation and discussion/ literary circle participation PowerPoint presentation (1) Homework/reading questions/quizzes Short reaction papers/literary analysis/literary circle reflections Use of generative AI tools is strictly prohibited in this course.	30% 25% 30% 15%
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Textbooks	The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories Edited by Jay Rubin
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Penguin Classics
978-0-241-31190-5

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Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Mon.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 213 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Intercultural Competence for College Students in Japan
Instructor	SAKURAI Shogo(サクライ ショウゴ)

Course Description	<p>This course is entitled " intercultural competence for college students in Japan" in which both domestic and exchange students study the subject in English. By completing this course, students will learn the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. what intercultural competence is and why we need it 2. what culture is 3. how we react to cultural difference 4. how we define intercultural competence 5. how we develop intercultural competence while at college 6. what critical incidents are and how we can get the most out of them 7. what the links between intercultural competence and career development
Syllabus	<p>This course will be conducted in-person on the Nissin campus throughout the semester. Students will learn several chosen intercultural competences by using the following steps: read the assigned reading, write reflective journal, and share it with the class. In the middle of the semester and at the end of the semester, there will be group projects based on their chosen topic (the teme will be given by the instructor). The class is conducted entirely in English; thus, domestic students should possess at least 500 on TOEFL ITP or equivalent English proficiency and/or at least a semester of study-abroad in an English speaking country.</p> <p>Detailed syllabi will be given in the first class meeting.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Weekly assignments (30%) Mid-term project (20%) Final project (20%) Quiz (10%) Active participation/group discussion (10%) Attendance (10%)</p>
Textbooks	<p>The handouts (reading materials) will be given in the class.</p>

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Thu.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 214 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japanese Culture Through Film
Instructor	Raymond Gordon Rees(レイモンド・ゴードン・リース)

Course Description	<p>Japanese Culture Through Film surveys major Japanese films and influential directors as a way to explore key aspects of Japanese culture and society. Through the close viewing and discussion of selected films, students will gain insight into Japanese values, social norms, and historical experiences, and will be encouraged to compare these perspectives with their own cultural backgrounds. In this course, film is treated as a cultural text that reflects social attitudes, historical memory, and everyday life in Japan.</p> <p>While the primary focus of the course is cultural analysis, class discussions will also address the social issues and historical contexts depicted in the films. Students will develop a broad understanding of Japanese culture through guided film viewing, assigned readings, and in-class discussion.</p> <p>Each class will include film excerpts and discussion with the instructor and classmates. Weekly homework assignments and quizzes will be used to check students' understanding of film content and course readings. Course materials and assignments will be managed through Google Classroom.</p>
Syllabus	<p>In principle, this course will be conducted face-to-face. However, due to the academic calendar for exchange students, one class session may be held online. Details regarding this session will be explained during the first class meeting.</p> <p>The following broad themes will be discussed in the course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samurai ideals and realities 2. Japanese folklore and horror 3. Religion in Japan 4. Japanese collective memories of World War II 5. Employment and corporate life in Japan 6. The Japanese education system 7. Japanese food culture 8. Japanese comedy <p>The course schedule is organized around key films and themes that allow students to analyze Japanese culture, history, and social values through close viewing and discussion.</p> <p>Week 1 – Akira Kurosawa: Samurai and social order; course overview; Warring States Period; class system; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Film questions.</p> <p>Week 2 – Akira Kurosawa: Agrarian culture and power; director's influence; character analysis; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Film questions; short monologue & Padlet recording.</p> <p>Week 3 – Akira Kurosawa: Samurai ideals vs. reality; ochimusha; armor; myth and history; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Bushidō reading; Samurai/Bushido code essay.</p> <p>Week 4 – Masaki Kobayashi: Folklore and history; Lafcadio Hearn; The Tale of the Heike; onryō vengeful spirits; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Hearn questions; Battle of Dan-no-ura reading.</p> <p>Week 5 – Masaki Kobayashi: Memory, trauma, and the supernatural; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Kwaidan article; comprehension questions.</p> <p>Week 6 – Isao Takahata: War and civilians; American firebombing of Japan; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Firebombing reading; questions.</p> <p>Week 7 – Isao Takahata: Collective memory of WWII; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: WWII collective memory reading; short paper (1).</p> <p>Week 8 – Yōjirō Takita: Death and ritual in contemporary Japan; symbols; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Film questions.</p> <p>Week 9 – Yōjirō Takita: Life, death, and cultural values; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p>

	<p>HW: Reading on life and death in Japan.</p> <p>Week 10 – Takita / Kiyoshi Kurosawa: Religion, economy, and social change; quiz on reading HW; Lost Decade; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p> <p>HW: Lifetime employment reading; questions.</p> <p>Week 11 – Kiyoshi Kurosawa: Family, work, and social anxiety; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p> <p>HW: Film analysis; Tokyo Sonata reading.</p> <p>Week 12 – Jūzō Itami: Food culture and modernity; in-class reaction paper (2) ending; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p> <p>HW: Tampopo readings; questions.</p> <p>Week 13 – Jūzō Itami / Kōki Mitani: Comedy and society; guided viewing and discussion of film; in-class reaction paper (3).</p> <p>HW: Kōki Mitani reading.</p>								
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Evaluation criteria:</p> <table> <tr> <td>1. Attendance/Participation in discussions:</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Homework, questions on readings and films and quizzes</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Short reaction papers-(3)</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Samurai/Bushido code essay</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Use of generative AI tools is strictly prohibited in this course.</p>	1. Attendance/Participation in discussions:	20%	2. Homework, questions on readings and films and quizzes	40%	3. Short reaction papers-(3)	20%	4. Samurai/Bushido code essay	20%
1. Attendance/Participation in discussions:	20%								
2. Homework, questions on readings and films and quizzes	40%								
3. Short reaction papers-(3)	20%								
4. Samurai/Bushido code essay	20%								
Textbooks	<p>This textbook is not required, but you may find it useful when you write your Samurai/Bushido code essay.</p> <p>Bushido: The Soul of Japan Illustrated Inazo Nitobe Create Space Independent Publishing 978-150-5489194 981 yen</p> <p>Any student use of AI-generated content constitutes academic misconduct.</p>								

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Mon.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 216 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japanese Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective
Instructor	Kevin Ottoson(ケビン・オットソン)

Course Description	<p>This course examines salient Japanese cultural patterns that are often difficult to recognize and articulate explicitly. Through the study of conventional principles and everyday practices in contemporary Japan, particularly those not typically presented in media or standard textbooks, students will explore how cultural patterns shape perception, behavior, and social interaction.</p> <p>By engaging with Japanese culture from a cross cultural perspective, students will develop a deeper understanding of how cultural values influence actions, communication styles, and social expectations. The course also emphasizes critical reflection, encouraging students to examine cultural generalizations and consider the diversity and complexity within Japanese society. Through readings, structured discussion, and a small scale ethnographic research project, students will strengthen their intercultural awareness and analytical skills.</p> <p>Course Objectives</p> <p>Through this course, students will develop intercultural competence and research skills. By the end of the course, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">① Demonstrate knowledge of key Japanese cultural patterns and orientations.② Explain how cultural values influence observable behavior in contemporary Japan.③ Critically examine cultural generalizations and recognize cultural complexity.④ Reflect on their own cultural positioning and identity.⑤ Conduct and present a small scale ethnographic interview using appropriate research practices. <p>Class Preparation</p> <p>Students are expected to spend approximately 180 minutes per week preparing for class. Preparation includes assigned readings, written responses, research tasks, and preparation for discussion activities. Mini lectures, guided discussion, and collaborative activities will be used to explore weekly themes. Students will complete a final ethnographic research project that applies course concepts to interviews or observations conducted outside the classroom.</p> <p>Regarding the use of generative AI, the course instructor will provide additional instructions separately. It will be discussed in class at the appropriate time.</p>
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Syllabus	<p>Weekly Schedule</p> <p>Week 1-Introduction to culture and cultural patterns. Surface and deep culture. High and low context communication.</p> <p>Week 2-Group consciousness. Individualism and collectivism.</p> <p>Week 3-Uchi and soto. Social distance and in group and out group distinctions.</p> <p>Week 4-Tatemae and honne. Public and private self.</p> <p>Week 5-Formality and ritual. Hierarchy, <i>giri</i>, and <i>omotenashi</i>.</p> <p>Week 6-Silence in communication. <i>Ma</i> and the values associated with silence.</p> <p>Week 7-Hedataru and <i>najimu</i>. Relationship stages and social distance.</p> <p>Week 8-Harmony and communication. Indirectness, alignment, and nonverbal communication.</p> <p>Week 9-Time orientation. Punctuality and long term orientation.</p> <p>Week 10-Nemawashi and decision making. <i>Ringi seido</i>.</p> <p>Week 11-Ethnographic research workshop. Research design and interview preparation.</p> <p>Week 12-Ethnographic research workshop. Data analysis and concept integration.</p> <p>Week 13-Student presentations.</p> <p>Note: The content of this course outline is subject to change.</p>
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Evaluation Criteria	<p>Class participation: 20%</p> <p>Weekly written assignments and journals: 50%</p> <p>Final ethnographic research project and presentation: 30%</p> <p>Participation includes active engagement in discussions and collaborative activities. Weekly assignments include reading responses and analytical reflections related to course themes. The final ethnographic project requires students to conduct a small scale orientation, analyze their findings using course concepts, and present their results to the class.</p>
Textbooks	<p>None. Materials provided by the instructor. This course will utilize Google Classroom. Students will be given materials and assignments for each class on Google Classroom. Selected readings will be provided as PDFs or links. Some chapters may be excerpted to fit student reading levels. Supplementary media (film clips, interviews, and documentaries) may be added to enhance weekly topic.</p>

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Tue.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 218 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japanese Popular Culture: Media and Society in Contemporary Japan
Instructor	Julian Pimienta(ジュリアン・ピミエンタ)

Course Description	<p>Course Overview Japanese popular culture is woven into everyday life in contemporary Japan, from media and music to characters, toys, and the spaces where people gather. This course explores key forms and trends in Japanese popular culture and develops practical cultural literacy through research-informed discussion and case studies. Each week, we build understanding by placing a topic in historical context, identifying the main conversations surrounding it, and analyzing a concrete case such as a work, creator, place, event, or trend. Students will finish the course ready to speak about Japanese popular culture with confidence, cultural awareness, and clear examples.</p> <p>Learning Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place topics in context by identifying key milestones and turning points that shaped Japanese popular culture. 2. Explain cultural significance by connecting each topic to contemporary Japanese life, values, identity, and everyday practices. 3. Engage with major conversations by summarizing important debates in research and society, including contested meanings and social concerns. 4. Serve as a cultural bridge by introducing Japanese popular culture to others clearly, thoughtfully, and responsibly, using accurate context and concrete cases. <p>Message from the Instructor Welcome to Japan Studies! This course is designed for students who want to enjoy Japanese popular culture and understand what it means in contemporary Japan. You do not need to be an expert. Bring your curiosity and the examples you care about. Each week we will connect pop culture to real life through history, discussion, and case studies. My hope is that you leave with the confidence to explain Japanese popular culture as a thoughtful cultural bridge. See you in class.</p>

Syllabus	<p>Week 1: Manga. Genres and Key Works. An introduction to major manga genres and influential examples.</p> <p>Week 2: Anime. Styles, Studios, and Landmarks. Explore major styles and key works that shaped anime.</p> <p>Week 3: Video Games. Genres and Iconic Franchises. Survey major game genres and representative franchises.</p> <p>Week 4: Music. J Pop and Popular Scenes. Look at major trends in Japanese popular music and how they spread.</p> <p>Week 5: Idols. Performance and Fan Culture. Examine idol culture through key examples and discussion topics.</p> <p>Week 6: Fashion. Street Style and Subcultures. Introduce major style scenes and what they represent socially.</p> <p>Week 7: Character Culture. Kawaii and Branding. Explore how characters and mascots shape everyday culture.</p> <p>Week 8: Toys and Collecting. Gacha, Figures, and Hobby Culture. Look at collecting and toys as a major pop culture practice.</p> <p>Week 9: Film. Major Voices and Popular Hits. Survey key filmmakers, genres, and well known films.</p> <p>Week 10: Television. Drama, Variety, and Celebrity Culture. Explore major TV formats and their role in everyday life.</p> <p>Week 11: Theme Parks and Pop Culture Spaces. Examine pop culture as physical experience and place.</p> <p>Week 12: Food as Pop Culture. Trends, Branding, and Everyday Life. Explore how food connects to pop culture through trends and branding.</p>
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Week 13: Final Presentations. Cultural Bridge Showcase.
Students present a final topic designed to teach a newcomer.

Evaluation Criteria	Midterm Presentation (40%) Final Presentation (40%) Class Engagement and Participation (20%)
Textbooks	All materials will be provided by the instructor.

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Tue.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 222 (Language)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Community Interpreting and Translation in Japan: Focus on the Legal Setting
Instructor	Jakub E. Marszalenko(ヤコブ・マルシャレンコ)
Course Description	The goal of the course is to familiarize students with basic concepts, issues, and challenges in the realm of community interpreting and translation in Japan. Before turning its attention to Japanese-English interpreting and translation in the legal setting, the course will first provide an introduction to Interpreting and Translation Studies at large, and an overview of relevant literature on public interest interpreting and translation, forensic linguistics, as well as related paradigms in English studies (especially those focusing on the global nature and role of the English language).
Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01. Introduction to the Course: goals, schedule, evaluation, and rules 02. Basic concepts and paradigms in Interpreting and Translation Studies: Equivalence (Part I) 03. Equivalence (Part II): Nida's formal and dynamic equivalence 04. Equivalence in the legal interpreting context 05. Community Interpreting and Forensic Linguistics 06. Legal System in Japan (I): Criminal Investigations 07. Legal System in Japan (II): Criminal Trials 08. Role(s) of Court Interpreters 09. English as the Language of Interpreting in Japan's Legal Proceedings 10. Student Presentations (Group 1) 11. Student Presentations (Group 2) 12. Student Presentations (Group 3) 13. Final Exam
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Final Exam: 45%</p> <p>Final Presentation or Term Paper: 40%</p> <p>Class Participation: 15%</p>
Textbooks	All class materials will be provided by the instructor.

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Thu.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 223 (Language)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
Instructor	SAKURAI Shogo(サクライ ショウゴ)

Course Description	<p>This course introduces the basics of Japanese linguistics. By taking this course, students will become familiar with the following aspects of Japanese linguistic properties and be able to understand the unique characteristics of each by comparing with the ones of their native language. The class will be conducted entirely in English; thus, all students should possess either 500 on TOEFL ITP or equivalent English proficiency, and/or at least one semester of study abroad in an English-speaking country. Exchange students must be enrolled in at least JLPT Level 2 or above Japanese language classes.</p> <p>1. Phonetics 2. Phonology 3. Morphology 4. Syntax</p>
Syllabus	<p>This course will be conducted in-person on the Nissin campus throughout the semester. Students are expected to read assigned material before coming to the class, take weekly quizzes, participate in class/group discussion, and take the final exam at the end of the semester.</p> <p>The detailed syllabus will be handed out in the first class meeting.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Weekly quizzes (20%) Active participation (10%) Homework (10%) Final Exam (50%) Attendance (10%)</p>
Textbooks	Handouts (reading materials) will be given in the class.

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Tue.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 901 (Special Course)
Course Subtitle	Project based learning in collaboration with local governments and communities
Instructor	TOKUMOTO Hiroko(トクモト ヒロコ)

Course Description	<p>『Course Description』</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is no doubt that no country can survive alone without understanding and cooperating with other nations. It is also true with local governments. Now, with so many visitors and residents with overseas roots in Japan, not just the central government, but also local governments are facing many new problems which require urgent attention and implementation of measures to survive in this globalized society. It is surely meaningful to have a clear overview of those problems and to ponder over the possible solutions. ● This class adopts the project-based learning (PBL) method and includes activities which are akin to an internship. We will work closely with local governments in this region and students are expected to work actively on the projects assigned by the local governments. Domestic and exchange students work together to reach possible solutions. At the end of the semester, students present their solutions to the local governments. <p>***** IMPORTANT!!! *****</p> <p>This class has an enrollment limit. If the number of students registering exceeds the limit, a lottery will be held. After the lottery, there will be an “add-and-drop” period. Even if you are not selected in the lottery, some students may drop and create openings. These spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>If you are not selected in the lottery but would like to wait for an opening, you must attend the class from the beginning, even while you are waiting. If you start attending partway through, you will NOT be allowed to register, as you will not be able to catch up with the course content. Attendance will be allowed without registration until the end of the “add-and-drop” period.</p>
	<p>『Approaches』</p> <p>The course will use the active learning approach, whereby students are expected to engage actively of their own initiative in activities rather than being taught in a passive manner. It will take as interactive a form as possible. The class activities include on-site observation visits, discussions with people from the governments, on-site surveys and such. Details will be explained during the orientation in Week 1. ALL students who are interested MUST ATTEND the orientation including the waiting students regardless of their registration status then.</p> <p>***** IMPORTANT!!! *****</p> <p>ALL students MUST attend (1) presentations by two cities (Week 2), (2) BOTH in-class presentations (Weeks 8 & 9) and (3) BOTH final presentations (Weeks 11 & 12). If you know that you are unable to attend any one of these five events, you should not register for this class. If you miss one of these events, you will automatically fail regardless of the reason. Please note that some activities including the final presentation could be scheduled OUTSIDE of the regular timetable.</p>

Syllabus	<p>『Schedule』</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The partner cities and schedules are subject to change. Final schedule will be announced during the first week orientation. <p>Week 1 Orientation (in Room 531) Week 2 Presentations by Nagoya and Nagakute cities on the tasks Week 3 Groupings and brainstorming Week 4 Research: grasping the existing conditions Week 5 Research: investigating the possible causes of the problems Week 6 Research: compiling the information gathered Week 7 Research: contemplating the possible solutions Week 8 In-class presentation (Nagakute teams) Week 9 In-class presentation (Nagoya teams) Week 10 Add & correct the presentations Week 11 Final presentation to Nagakute city Week 12 Final presentation to Nagoya city Week 13 Reflection</p>

Evaluation Criteria	<p>Presentation (including corrections & improvements after in-class presentation) : 60%</p> <p>Portfolio & Reflection : 40%</p>
Textbooks	None

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Wed.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 902 (Special Course)
Course Subtitle	Japan through Japanese Traditional Performing Arts
Instructor	TOKUMOTO Hiroko(トクモト ヒロコ)

Course Description	<p>『Course Description』</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is no doubt that the root of modern Japanese culture is Japanese traditional culture. Deepening knowledge in traditional Japan is surely essential for understanding Japan and Japanese culture now. To recognize the uniqueness of Japan in the world, we should start with comparing and evaluating Japan seen from outside and Japan seen from inside. ● The first half of the semester will be lectures and discussions on the history and uniqueness of Japanese traditional arts and cultures. The second half of the semester will be hands-on practices of Japanese traditional dances (by the school of Ohtsuki Noh play), Japanese traditional drum (by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza), and Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute (by the master Kineya Santaro). <p>***** IMPORTANT!!! *****</p> <p>This class has an enrollment limit. If the number of students registering exceeds the limit, a lottery will be held. After the lottery, there will be an “add-and-drop” period. Even if you are not selected in the lottery, some students may drop and create openings. These spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>If you are not selected in the lottery but would like to wait for an opening, you must attend the class from the beginning, even while you are waiting. If you start attending partway through, you will NOT be allowed to register, as you will not be able to catch up with the course content. Attendance will be allowed without registration until the end of the “add-and-drop” period.</p> <p>『Approaches』</p> <p>The course will use the active learning approach, whereby students are expected to engage actively in activities rather than being taught in a passive manner. It will take as interactive a form as possible through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Lectures on Japanese traditional performing arts in various aspects. (2) Hands-on practices by the leading performers of Japanese traditional dances and music. (3) Submission of reflection quiz and papers. <p>* From Week 1 to Week 6, the class will meet in Room 532. From Week 7 on, the class will meet in Sub-arena.</p>
	<p>『Schedule』 ● Hands-on practices schedule is subject to change.</p> <p>Week 1 Orientation (in Room 532)</p> <p>Week 2 Lecture: Relationship between religion and Japanese traditional performing arts: Buddhism & Shintoism</p> <p>Week 3 Lecture: Japanese traditional way of thinking: Philosophy underlying Japanese traditional arts</p> <p>Week 4 Lecture: Japanese traditional stage performances (dances & musics): Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki, Bunraku</p> <p>Week 5 Lecture: Japanese traditional face expressions and costumes & Japanese traditional music 1 Wadaiko (Drum)</p> <p>Week 6 Lecture: Japanese traditional music 2 Shamisen (3 stringed lute) & Japanese traditional dance, Shimai Noh dance</p> <p>Week 7 Performance: Japanese traditional dance 1: introduction by the master of Ohtsuki Noh school</p> <p>Week 8 Performance: Japanese traditional dance 2: practice by the master of Ohtsuki Noh school</p> <p>Week 9 Performance: Japanese traditional drum: introduction by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza</p> <p>Week 10 Performance: Japanese traditional drum: practice by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza</p> <p>Week 11 Performance: Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute: introduction by the master Kineya Santaro</p> <p>Week 12 Performance: Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute: practice by the master Kineya Santaro</p> <p>Week 13 Performance: Final presentation (drum and Shamisen together)</p>

Syllabus	<p>『Schedule』 ● Hands-on practices schedule is subject to change.</p> <p>Week 1 Orientation (in Room 532)</p> <p>Week 2 Lecture: Relationship between religion and Japanese traditional performing arts: Buddhism & Shintoism</p> <p>Week 3 Lecture: Japanese traditional way of thinking: Philosophy underlying Japanese traditional arts</p> <p>Week 4 Lecture: Japanese traditional stage performances (dances & musics): Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki, Bunraku</p> <p>Week 5 Lecture: Japanese traditional face expressions and costumes & Japanese traditional music 1 Wadaiko (Drum)</p> <p>Week 6 Lecture: Japanese traditional music 2 Shamisen (3 stringed lute) & Japanese traditional dance, Shimai Noh dance</p> <p>Week 7 Performance: Japanese traditional dance 1: introduction by the master of Ohtsuki Noh school</p> <p>Week 8 Performance: Japanese traditional dance 2: practice by the master of Ohtsuki Noh school</p> <p>Week 9 Performance: Japanese traditional drum: introduction by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza</p> <p>Week 10 Performance: Japanese traditional drum: practice by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza</p> <p>Week 11 Performance: Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute: introduction by the master Kineya Santaro</p> <p>Week 12 Performance: Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute: practice by the master Kineya Santaro</p> <p>Week 13 Performance: Final presentation (drum and Shamisen together)</p>

Evaluation Criteria	<p>Reflection quiz : 35%</p> <p>Reflection paper : 13%</p> <p>Performance practice : 42% (6% x 7times)</p> <p>Class performance (including attendance) : 10% (2% x 5times)</p>
Textbooks	None

Year/Semester	2026年度 2期
Day/Period	Wed.2Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 904 (Special Course)
Course Subtitle	Oriental Traditional Writing Culture – Calligraphy
Instructor	TOKUMOTO Hiroko(トクモト ヒロコ)

Course Description	<p>This course is for students who want to experience calligraphy and learn how the Japanese writing system – Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji were developed.</p> <p>No prior knowledge of Japanese is required. We will start writing very simple strokes to introduce the basis of calligraphy. Students are required to purchase their own brushes, ink, and calligraphy papers from the instructor. Please bring 1500 yen in cash for the orientation.</p> <p>The class capacity is 5 students.</p> <p>Students who are selected in the lottery MUST attend the orientation session in the first week. Even if you are registered, your registration will be canceled if you are absent from the first session.</p>
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Syllabus	<p>The schedule is subject to change.</p> <p>Week 1 Orientation, An introduction of history of Japanese letters (in Room CP1)</p> <p>Week 2 Basic strokes - How to write with brush</p> <p>Week 3 Katakana Basic - Writing your name</p> <p>Week 4 Katakana Basic - Relationship with Hiragana</p> <p>Week 5 Katakana – Writing words</p> <p>Week 6 Test 1 (Katakana)</p> <p>Week 7 Kanji Basic - Relationship with Hiragana and Katakana</p> <p>Week 8 Kanji - Writing words</p> <p>Week 9 Test 2 (Kanji)</p> <p>Week 10 Hiragana Basic - Summary of development of Japanese letter</p> <p>Week 11 Hiragana - Writing words</p> <p>Week 12 Test 3 (Hiragana)</p> <p>Week 13 Kana & Kanji mixed - Typical Japanese writing forms</p>
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Evaluation Criteria	<p>Class performance : 40%</p> <p>Tests : 60%</p> <p>Your class performance will be evaluated every week. If you miss any class, the class performance point for the day will be zero regardless of the reason. Try not to miss any classes!</p>
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Textbooks	Handouts and samples will be provided by the instructor.
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