

EAST-240D1/D2-003 FIRST LEVEL JAPANESE

General information

Term and Year: Fall/Winter 2024-2025

Course prerequisite(s): None. This course is for students who have no previous knowledge of the Japanese language. All students are required to take a placement test on the first day of class.

Number of credits: 9

Instructor information

Name and Title: Tomoko Ikeda, Faculty Lecturer

Email: tomoko.ikeda@mcgill.ca

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Office Location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 252

Course overview

Introduction to the basic grammar and sentence patterns of the Japanese language in both oral and written forms. In reading and writing skills students will be introduced to katakana, hiragana and kanji. Students will learn Japanese characters (hiragana and katakana) in the first three weeks. After that, no Latin alphabet will be used in class. About 150 Kanji will also be introduced by the end of the course.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) give a basic, short, rehearsed presentation on a familiar subject, such as yourself, your friends or your home country.
- 2) write a short composition on a familiar subject with short phrases and simple vocabulary.
- 3) follow speech on a familiar subject which is very slow and carefully articulated.
- 4) read and understand a short and simple essay on a familiar subject.

Instructional methods

This course is taught in person. Class meetings will NOT be recorded. Classes will include lectures as well as pair and group practice activities and projects.

Be sure to check MyCourses daily, and turn on notifications. If you are new to MyCourses, check out this video on [getting started with MyCourses](#). You may also wish to download the "Brightspace Pulse" app to access MyCourses from your mobile device. Additional learning resources are available [here](#).

Required course materials

1. Nakama 1 Introductory Japanese: Communication, Culture, Context. Enhanced Third Edition, by Hatasa, Hatasa, and Makino)
2. Nakama 1 Student Activities Manual
(1 and 2 are sold as a bundle at Paragraphe Bookstore, \$149.95)
3. Registration on MindTap (free): Please see "How to access your MindTap course" on MyCourses → Content → MindTap

Course Content

Fall Semester: Chapter 1- Chapter 7

Topic-Comment sentence pattern, Location of things and people/animals, Adjectives, Basic verbs and Particles, Polite Non-Past and Past tense forms, Expressing likes and dislikes

Winter Semester: Chapter 7- Chapter 12 + extra grammar points

Comparisons, Expressing desire, Basic counters, Making requests, Inviting your friends, Describing your family, Expressing opinions, Progressive tense, Expressing uncertainty, and Casual speech.

Starting from Week 3 (September 9~), every Wednesday class will be used for assessments, review sessions, and/or independent practice/project work.

Assessment:

Fall (Total 40%)

Test 1 (Chapters 1-3)	5%
Test 2 (Chapters 4-6)	5%
Regular quizzes	15%
Oral assignments (2 dialogues, 2.5% each)	5%
Homework	7%
Lab Activities	3%

Winter (Total 60%)

Final exam	25%
Test 3 (Chapters 7-9)	5%
Regular quizzes	15%
Oral assignment (1 group presentation)	5%
Homework	7%
Lab Activities	3%

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is essential to your success in this course, as it will increase your opportunities for communicative practice and thus increase your proficiency. Absences with official justification (not counted as absences) require official written documentation such as a doctor's note. You are allowed to miss up to six (6) classes over the course of the year without official justification before your grade will be affected. If you are absent beyond the number of allowed absences, a penalty will be incurred in the form of a deduction from the final course grade:

Combined Fall/Winter absences:

- 0-6 classes missed (no reduction from final grade)
- 7-8 classes missed (1% deducted from final grade)
- 9-10 classes missed (2% deducted from final grade)
- 11-12 classes missed (3% deducted from final grade)
- 13 or more classes missed (4% deducted from final grade) *1 class = 50 min

Absences of more than 40% of scheduled course meetings may result in a penalty of failure of the course.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Ideally, you will arrive a few minutes early and be prepared to start at class start time. If there is an issue which you expect may cause you to be late regularly (e.g. prior class in a building far from the classroom), please inform the instructor in advance.

If a student is more than 10 minutes late from class without permission (including being away from the classroom more than 10 minutes during class time, or leaving class more than 10 minutes early), it will be counted as an absence.

Tests and Quizzes

Tests will include dictations, kanji, vocabulary, grammar, and a reading and/or writing section. The content of quizzes will vary over the course of the year, but may include chapter quizzes (kanji, vocabulary, and grammar), vocabulary quizzes (e.g. verbs or adjectives), or specific grammar point quizzes (e.g. plain forms). Quizzes and tests (excluding the final exam) are administered during class hours and must be taken at the scheduled time. A schedule of quiz and test dates will be provided on MyCourses each semester, and guidelines (format, etc.) will be provided in advance of each quiz/test. **Any time a quiz or test is missed (for any reason), you must contact the instructor on the same day as the quiz/test** to discuss whether there is an option to write a make-up (there may be a penalty if no official documentation such as a doctor's note can be provided). The final exam will be a cumulative written exam, held during the final exam period in April.

Oral Assignments

There will be two dialogue presentations in the Fall semester, and one group presentation in the Winter semester. Students will be assessed on factors such as the quality of the script (e.g. accuracy and variety of grammar and vocabulary), speaking skills such as pronunciation, fluency, and memorization of the script, and effective cooperation with partner/group members. A schedule of oral presentation dates will be provided on MyCourses each semester, and detailed guidelines for preparation as well as the grading scheme will be provided in advance.

Homework

You must submit your homework before class starts. If it is submitted during class or after class, it is considered one session late. If you are absent from class (without a doctor's note, etc.), you can submit your homework by email by the due date/time in order to receive full marks (you must bring the hard copy the next time you are in class).

- Written homework fully completed and submitted by the due date/time: In general, 2 points each, unless it is very poorly done.
- Voice-recorded homework fully completed and submitted by the due date/time: 4 points.
- One session late: half points will be given.
- 2 sessions late: corrected but no points.
- 3 or more sessions late: No corrections, no points.

Lab Activities

Lab activities are found at the back of each chapter in the Student Activities Manual (SAM). Lab activities are designed to improve students' listening, pronunciation (by listening/repeating), and written response skills. The policy on submission is the same as that for written homework above.

AI and Translation Tools Policy

Unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor, it is strictly forbidden to use AI tools such as ChatGPT, or translation tools such as Google Translate or DeepL for homework, scripts, or

compositions (including for tests). The use of such tools will be treated as an academic offence (cheating, plagiarism, etc.).

Important Notes

- Students do not have the option of doing extra work to make up or improve their marks.
- An unexplained absence from any quiz counts for zero, unless you have a legitimate reason such as illness (normally a doctor's note is required).

"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the [Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures](#)." (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003) (See McGill's [guide to academic honesty](#) for more information.)

"In accord with McGill University's [Charter of Student Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives." (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

«Conformément à [la Charte des droits de l'étudiant](#) de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

The University is committed to maintaining teaching and learning spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in course contexts may be cause for disciplinary action.

As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and/or the [Office for Student Accessibility & Achievement](#).

Many students face wellness challenges that can impact not only their academic success but also their ability to thrive in our campus community. The university offers many resources to support students' well-being, such as the [Student Wellness Hub](#), the [GuardMe Student Support Program \(GMSPP\)](#) or the [SSP app](#) on your mobile device.

McGill University is located on unceded Indigenous lands in Tiohtià:ke, a site that has long served as a gathering place for Indigenous peoples. The Kanien'kehà:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy are recognized as the traditional custodians of these lands and waters. Today, this area is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We honour, recognize, and respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change.