

EAST 241 JAPANESE WRITING BEGINNERS 1

General information

Term and Year: Fall 2024

Course prerequisite(s): EAST 240 or equivalent or permission of the instructor

Number of credits: 3

Instructor information

Name and Title: Tomoko Ikeda, Faculty Lecturer

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

Office Location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 252

Course overview

Grammar, vocabulary, kanji, and introduction of some new expressions.

This course is designed for students who have learned basic Japanese grammar and have acquired a strong command of Hiragana and Katakana. Also this is for students who can speak/understand Japanese but have never studied Japanese language officially. It is a 'bridge-course' between first level (EAST 240) and second level (EAST 340) Japanese. The goal of this course is to help students develop a solid base of knowledge for Japanese through writing practice, and to provide a smooth transition to the second level Japanese course.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- write about familiar topics and experiences in a series of sentences using the first-level grammar and Kanji reviewed in the class
- read and write about 100 Kanji

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

No textbook is required. Some lecture notes and homework sheets will be posted on MyCourses.

Assessment

Final Exam (Essay, Grammar, Kanji)	30%	
Midterm (Take-Home Essay)	20%	*See the schedule.
Homework	20%	
Self-Study Project	20%	
Kanji Quiz	10%	

Attendance

Attendance is essential to your success in this course, as it will increase your opportunities for communicative practice. 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 two classes over the semester 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:

- 0-2 classes missed (no reduction from final grade)
- 3-4 classes missed (1% deducted from final grade)
- 5-6 classes missed (2% deducted from final grade)
- 7-8 classes missed (3% deducted from final grade)
- 9 or more classes missed (4% deducted from final grade)

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 15 minutes late from class without permission (including being away from the classroom more than 15 minutes during class time, or leaving class more than 15 minutes early), it will be counted as an absence.

Quizzes (Kanji) and Exams

Kanji quizzes are administered during class hours and must be taken at the scheduled time. A schedule of quiz dates will be provided on MyCourses. Any time a quiz is missed (for any reason), you must **contact the instructor on the same day as the quiz** to discuss whether there is an option to write a make-up (there may be some penalty if no official documentation such as a doctor's note can be provided). The midterm exam will be a take-home essay, and you will write a 500-800 character essay in Japanese. The final exam will be conducted in person during the exam period and will consist of three parts: kanji, grammar, and essay writing. For the essay, you will write a 600-800 character essay in Japanese. The guidelines for both the midterm and final exam, including the evaluation criteria, will be announced in advance on MyCourses.

Homework

Since this course focuses on enhancing writing skills, you will have essay assignments every week and also have Kanji and grammar assignments. There are four (4) points given for each essay submission and two (2) points for all other assignments. You must submit the homework before class starts. If it is submitted after class or during class, it is considered late. Half of the marks will be deducted for each late submission. If the assignment is more than one week late without permission, no points or evaluations will be given. 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).

Self-Study Project

Students choose their preferred materials and set their own goals. They create a learning plan to achieve their goals and upload their progress to Padlet each week. Weekly reports, the midterm reflection report, and the final report will be evaluated.

Tentative schedule (writing topics)

Week	Topic
Week 1-2	Placement test / Introduction /Planning for self-study
Week 3-5	きくぶん 作文1 「私の一日」
Week 6-8	作文 2 「私の町」
Week 9-11	作文 3 「私のしゅみ」 (*Midterm essay)
Week 12-13	作文 4 「友だちへのメッセージ」、発表「私の勉強法」

This course includes 3 individual sessions of 30 minutes each instead of 3 class meetings. The schedule will be available in the monthly schedule on MyCourses.

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 or the take-home exam. 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.