

**East Asian Studies EAST 242**  
**JAPANESE WRITING BEGINNERS 2**  
**Winter 2024**

**Pre-requisite:** EAST 240 or EAST 241 or equivalent.

**Instructor:** Tomoko Ikeda ([tomoko.ikeda@mcgill.ca](mailto:tomoko.ikeda@mcgill.ca)) Office: Rm252, 680 Sherbrooke West

**Office Hours:** Monday and Friday 2:30-3:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

**Required Textbook and Materials:**

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

**Course Description:**

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. 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 160 *Kanji*

**Grading:**

Final Exam (Essay, Grammar, Kanji)	30%	
Homework	20%	
Self-Study Project (Weekly Reports, Presentation)	20%	
Midterm (Take-Home Essay)	15%	*See the schedule.
Kanji Quiz	10%	
In-class Participation & Performance	5%	

**Attendance:**

Please note that **absences in excess of 20% of class meetings may result in failure in the course.** No attendance points will be given if you arrive more than 15 minutes late or leave more than 15 minutes early without permission. Attendance marks will be calculated as follows:

Number of missed classes	Attendance mark	Number of missed classes	Attendance mark
up to 1 class	5%	6 to 7 classes	2%
2 to 3 classes	4%	8 to 9 classes	1%
4 to 5 classes	3%	More than 11 classes	0%

**Quizzes:**

Quizzes are always given at the beginning of class. 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).

## 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 set own goals and make plans for self-study. Weekly progress reports, midterm reflection report and final report are evaluated.

## Tentative schedule (writing topics):

Week	Topic
Week 1-2	Introduction /Planning for self-study 作文1 「冬休み」
Week 3-5	作文2 「私の好きな × ×」
Week 6-8	作文3 「私の国のしゅうかん」
Week 9-11	作文4 「私のしょうらい」 (*Midterm essay)
Week 12-13	ブックレポート、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.

## Important Notes:

- ÿ Students do not have the option of doing extra work to make up or improve their marks.
- ÿ An unexplained absence from any quiz counts for zero, unless you have a legitimate reason such as illness. (Normally 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 may face mental health challenges that can impact not only their academic success but also their ability to thrive in our campus community. Please reach out for support when you need it; many resources are available on-campus, off-campus, and online.

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 University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.