

EAST-440D1/D2 THIRD LEVEL JAPANESE

General information

Term and Year: Fall/Winter 2024-2025

Course prerequisite(s): EAST 340D or equivalent or permission of the instructor

Number of credits: 6

Instructor information

Name and Title: Jodie Beck, Faculty Lecturer

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:30a.m.

Office Location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 263

Course Overview and Learning Outcomes

More advanced study of the Japanese language. Emphasis will be placed on reading.

This course is designed for students who have acquired a solid foundation in Japanese grammar and the four skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, and want to improve their Japanese further.

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

- read a variety of types of relatively short, intermediate-level writings such as biographical articles, guidebook articles, roundtable discussion documents, and formal letters and emails, and express your thoughts and opinions regarding the topic of the article in Japanese.
- read short, intermediate-level stories and understand the content such as the events and the psychology of the characters.
- write a short, well-structured composition on a familiar topic.
- understand conversations and speeches on various topics when pronounced clearly.
- use different speech registers appropriate for the occasion and for the listener(s).
- present a short, original dialogue using honorific language.
- give a presentation on a familiar topic.
- express enhanced understanding of Japanese social and cultural life.

Instructional methods

This course employs a "flipped classroom" methodology. This means that previewing and studying materials thoroughly before each class is essential. You will need to study kanji, vocabulary, grammar points, and/or readings PRIOR to seeing them in class. The purpose of this is to ensure that class time can be used as effectively as possible for communicative practice, interactive activities, and to check and/or go over any difficult points. As such, it is crucial that you dedicate plenty of time to homework, preview, and review activities every day. Your success, and the success of the class as a whole, depends on your coming to class prepared to engage with the materials that you have studied in advance.

You should plan on spending at least 2.5 hours to do preparation activities, review, and homework for each class (sometimes more, sometimes less). If you are not able to dedicate the time required, this course may not be suitable for you.

Your study sessions between classes should include:

- 1) Previewing (grammar, vocabulary, readings, and/or kanji)
- 2) Completing any assigned exercises, readings, preview questions, and/or oral preparation (e.g., prepare to discuss a given question), etc.
- 3) Checking and reviewing feedback received on assignments
- 4) Regularly reviewing prior material, and attempting to integrate it into new material (revisit, recycle, and make connections)
- 5) Daily kanji practice

You are responsible for your own learning, and you must monitor your progress by:

- reviewing and proactively using new vocabulary, structures, and kanji
- identifying areas of difficulty and taking immediate action to improve them
- consulting with me if you find that you are struggling, so that we can work on challenging areas together

This course is taught in person, and class meetings will NOT be recorded. Classes will be conducted primarily in Japanese. Be sure to check MyCourses daily and turn on notifications.

Class Expectations

Language learning is an interactive and collaborative process; as such, all members of the group are expected to contribute to the construction and maintenance of a positive, productive, and supportive learning space. All students should feel free and comfortable to explore the language, to try out new material in class, and to make mistakes. Students are expected to stay off cell phones, social media, etc., and to be actively engaged in class activities. You should also regularly switch up who you work with in class. Please bring your textbook to class every day. If you need to bring your workbook, you will be informed in advance.

Required Course Materials

1. Sakamoto, Takashi (Supervising editor), Akemi Yasui, Yuriko Ide, Miyuki Doi, Hideki Hamada (Authors). Quartet I: Intermediate Japanese Across the Four Language Skills. The Japan Times, 2019. \$62.50

2. Sakamoto, Takashi (Supervising editor), Akemi Yasui, Yuriko Ide, Miyuki Doi, Hideki Hamada (Authors). Quartet I: Intermediate Japanese Across the Four Language Skills Workbook. The Japan Times, 2019. \$32.50

3. Sakamoto, Takashi (Supervising editor), Akemi Yasui, Yuriko Ide, Miyuki Doi, Hideki Hamada (Authors). Quartet II: Intermediate Japanese Across the Four Language Skills. The Japan Times, 2020. (price unconfirmed, but expected to be the same or very similar to that of Quartet I)

4. Sakamoto, Takashi (Supervising editor), Akemi Yasui, Yuriko Ide, Miyuki Doi, Hideki Hamada (Authors). Quartet II: Intermediate Japanese Across the Four Language Skills Workbook. The Japan Times, 2020. (price unconfirmed, but expected to be the same or very similar to that of Quartet I)

*Please note that we will only be covering approximately half of Quartet II textbook and workbook.

Hard copies of the Quartet I textbook and workbook are available at the McGill Bookstore at the prices listed above. Alternatively, an e-book for the textbooks can be purchased at The

Japan Times Digital Store (12-month subscription; cheaper price than physical book, but no option to return or get refunds).

Digital Quartet I textbook: (12-month subscription: 3,000 yen; 3,300 yen including tax)

https://store.jtpublishing.co.jp/en/products/1695?pr_prod_strat=jac&pr_rec_id=42bcbfeaa&pr_rec_pid=7171643015354&pr_ref_pid=7171643113658&pr_seq=uniform

Digital Quartet II textbook: (12-month subscription: 3,000 yen; 3,300 yen including tax)

https://store.jtpublishing.co.jp/en/products/1745?pr_prod_strat=pinned&pr_rec_id=f6f83ca19&pr_rec_pid=7171643080890&pr_ref_pid=7171643015354&pr_seq=uniform

If you are considering purchasing an e-book, be sure to read the "System Requirements" and use the "Preview" function to test out how the book appears on your device. There is NO option to return or get refunds.

Although there is an e-book version of the workbooks as well, you may not use e-workbooks for this course (because there is no way to print out or digitally submit pages to the instructor).

Quartet II textbook and workbook will be available for purchase in the Winter session (after the instructor has determined how many students in the class would like hard copies).

*Please note that it can take a couple of days to receive the email with the download link if you order an E-book.

*Some additional materials will be provided on MyCourses.

Course Schedule

Fall: Quartet I: Chapters 1,2,3,4

Winter: Quartet I: Chapter 6, Quartet II: Chapters 7, 9, 10

Assessment:

*Students do not have the option of doing extra work to make up or improve their marks.

(16%) Homework/preparation activities (Fall/Winter 8% each)

(8%) Compositions and Book Report

(1%) *Keigo* quiz

(13%) Kanji/Vocab quizzes

(24%) Written tests (4 tests @ 6% each)

(4%) Oral presentation: Dialogue (Fall)

(3%) Oral presentation: Speech (Winter)

(6%) Oral reading tests (1 Fall, 1 Winter @ 3% each)

(25%) Final exam

A schedule for chapter progression, quizzes, tests, presentations, etc. will be provided on MyCourses each semester.

Homework/preparation activities

This course is fast paced, so staying on top of homework and preparatory tasks is essential both to your own success, and to your ability to participate effectively in class with others.

All homework or other submissions must be submitted before the beginning of class. Submission during or after class is considered late. If you are absent from class (without a doctor's note, etc.), you can scan and 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).

You will be informed each day what homework/preparation activities are due the following class, and how many points they will be worth. Full points will be given for assignments that are completed thoroughly, with instructions followed, with only minor mistakes. Points will be deducted for lateness, incompleteness, failure to follow instructions, or work that has been extremely poorly done. Late homework (maximum one class-day late) will receive half points. Assignments will not be accepted more than one class-day late.

Unless instructed otherwise, written assignments must be completed by hand, and you must use kanji for any words whose kanji you have learned (even if they are "read only" kanji, because you can check how to write them as you are doing your homework). Workbook homework must be completed by using the actual workbook (not on a separate sheet).

Some homework will be given in the form of "preview quizzes" (予習クイズ) on MyCourses. These count as homework points, not real quizzes, but you must earn a score of at least 65% on the quiz in order to receive full homework points. If you receive less than 65%, you can see me to discuss options to make up the homework score. Usually this will involve making an appointment with me to go over what you didn't understand. It is up to you to contact me if you want to make up the points; I will not contact you.

***NOTE:** You are responsible for ensuring that your homework submissions do not have any missing pages, incomplete sections, etc. You will NOT be given a reminder or second chance to re-submit if you forget or miss parts. Be sure to double-check the homework list for that day carefully, and to ensure that you have completed all the necessary materials before submitting them.

Compositions (*sakubun*)

At the end of each chapter, there is a *sakubun* (composition) assignment. Instead of counting as regular homework, these will be graded. Each *sakubun* is worth equal weight, regardless of length. For each *sakubun*, your score will be based on your performance on the first draft, and in most cases, your submission of a revised version based on the feedback you received. Compositions will be assessed according to your ability to: address the task completely and effectively, organize the writing in a clear and logical manner, use a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures accurately, and employ accurate kanji and spelling. Detailed guidelines and rubrics will be provided in advance.

Book report

You will choose a book from the *tadoku* (extensive reading) library, read it, and write a report consisting of a summary of the book and your thoughts and impressions about it. The book report is due on the first day of Winter semester, January 6. Detailed guidelines and a rubric will be provided in advance.

Quizzes and tests

There will be one Keigo quiz in the fall session. Other quizzes will focus on kanji and/or vocabulary and will be given frequently. Written tests will cover grammar, vocabulary, and kanji. A schedule of quiz and test dates will be provided on MyCourses each semester. Guidelines (format, etc.) will be given in advance.

Quizzes and tests are administered during class hours and must be taken at the scheduled time. Students who arrive late for an in-class quiz or test will not be given extra time. 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). Except in cases of extreme emergency (e.g., hospitalization), missing a quiz or test without contacting the instructor on the same day will result in a grade of zero.

Please be aware that there will be also homework due on quiz days (but not test days), so be sure to plan your time accordingly and not wait until the night before to study for quizzes.

Oral presentations

For the Fall presentation (dialogue), students will work in pairs or small groups to create a dialogue using *keigo*, video record themselves acting out the dialogue, and upload the video to Padlet. Assessment will be based on 1) script: content and organization, variety and accuracy of vocabulary and grammar, ability to determine and use appropriate types of keigo accurately according to factors such as the situation, relationship between interlocuters, and so on; 2) speaking and presentation skills: pronunciation, fluency, interaction, memorization of the script, and 3) peer evaluation: understandability.

For the Winter presentation (speech), individual students will prepare a short speech to present to the class. Assessment criteria will include 1) script: content and organization, variety and accuracy of vocabulary and grammar; and 2) speaking and presentation skills: pronunciation, fluency, interaction with/by audience, memorization of the script.

Detailed guidelines and evaluation criteria for oral presentations will be provided in advance.

Oral Reading Test

An oral reading test will be held at the end of the Fall and Winter semesters. Students will each be presented with a text that they have studied during the semester (you will not know in advance which text you will be given). The test will consist of 1) reading the text aloud; and 2) answering questions orally about both the content of the text, and about related issues (e.g. your thoughts, opinions, or personal experience about an issue related to the text). Assessment will focus on your ability to read the text smoothly (including kanji), and your performance in answering oral questions. The oral test will be held in the AMLF (language lab) and be done on computers with microphone and headset (this format is tentative and subject to change).

Final Exam

The final exam will be a cumulative written exam covering the content from both the Fall and Winter semesters, held during the final exam period in April.

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 four (4) 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:

- 0-4 classes missed (no reduction from final grade)
- 5-6 classes missed (1% deducted from final grade)
- 7-8 classes missed (2% deducted from final grade)
- 9-10 classes missed (3% deducted from final grade)
- 11 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 you are 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), you may participate in the class, but it will be counted as an absence.

AI and Translation Tools Policy

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) and online translation tools for taking tests, writing compositions, or completing assignments is strictly prohibited unless explicitly stated otherwise in writing by the instructor. Use of such tools in this course will be considered an academic offense (cheating, plagiarism etc.).

McGill Policy Statements

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)

Additional Statements

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.

It can be difficult to balance your academic life with your work and life outside of school. The university offers many resources through the [Student Wellness Hub](#) to support students' well-being. In addition, you can reach a counselor 24/7 through the [GuardMe Student Support Program \(GMSPP\)](#) or the [SSP app](#) on your mobile device.

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, assessment tasks in this course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change.