

East Asian Studies EAST 540D1-2: FOURTH LEVEL JAPANESE
2024 Fall – 2025 Winter

Instructor:	Yasuko Senoo Room 264, 680 Sherbrooke W. Phone: (514) 398-6755 E-mail: yasuko.senoo@mcgill.ca	Office Hours <u>[In-person]</u> Mon. Wed. Thu. 11:00 – 12:00 Fri. 11:00 – 12:00 & 16:00 – 17:00 <u>[Zoom]</u> by appointment
Pre-requisite:	Satisfactory completion of EAST 440D or qualification by a placement test	

Course Description

This course is designed for students with intermediate to advanced level knowledge of Japanese. It aims to promote students' communicative competence, and reading and writing skills in Japanese. Students will learn how to express opinions in Japanese, and to read and comprehend Japanese texts including newspapers, essays, and novels. By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to: 1) understand a wide range of texts and recognise implicit meaning, 2) express themselves fluently and spontaneously, 3) use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes, and 4) produce clear, well-structured, detailed texts on various subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices. Ideally, students will cultivate their own views and ideas of Japanese language and culture through this course by interacting with other Japanese learners/users.

The course work contains four main types: 1) detailed listening and reading of recorded radio news and newspaper articles, 2) Kanji study, 3) reading comprehension, summary writing and discussion of contents, and 4) projects and tasks. In-class tests will be given approximately once a month. Kanji quizzes will be given approximately once every two weeks. Classes will be conducted in Japanese. **Classes will NOT be recorded.**

Required textbook and materials

- All course materials including a digital course pack are available on MyCourses.

Assessments

Final exam	25% (Winter)
In-class tests	12%
Kanji quizzes	6%
Listening assignments	6%
Reading assignments	6%
Group reading	6%
Research (Presentation & Research paper)	9% (Presentation: 3% + Paper: 6%)
Language use activities/tasks	15%
Learning portfolio	15% (Fall: 7.5% + Winter: 7.5%)

- Students with a mark of "D", "F" or "J" do not have the option of doing extra work to make up or improve their marks.
- A mark of "J" will be given to students who do not write the final exam.
- A mark of "K" (incomplete) will be given only in cases of extreme emergency.
- An unexplained absence from any quiz or exam counts for zero. You must call or send an E-mail regarding absence before the exam or quiz begins (in cases of emergency, within two days after the exam or quiz). There will be no make-up tests/assignments except in special cases (e.g., hospitalization).

Attendance

- Attendance is mandatory. Starting after the end of the Fall add/drop period, attendance will be taken every class. Depending on the number of absences, there may be a penalty (i.e., reduction of your final grade or automatic failure of the course). To pass this course, your attendance record must be higher than 60%.
 - Absences from more than 10% of the scheduled course meetings
→1.5% reduction from the final grade
 - Absences from more than 20% of the scheduled course meetings
→3% reduction from the final grade
- If a student is **more than 15 minutes late for class (including being away from the classroom more than 15 minutes during class time, or leaving class more than 15 minutes earlier)** without permission, it will be counted as one 'Absence'. If a student is **5 minutes late (including being away from the classroom more than 5 minutes during class time, and leaving class more than 5 minutes earlier)**, it will be counted as 'Late', and three 'Lates' will be counted as one 'Absence'.

Tentative Schedule – Evaluation, Project, & Research

	Content	Evaluation	Research
Sep.	Listening 1 (交通事故) Reading 1 (大根を半分)	Kanji Quiz 1 Kanji Quiz 2 Test 1 (In-class: Sep. 27)	Theme & Background (Due: Sep. 30)
Oct.	Listening 2 (ボートレース) Reading 2 (吟味された言葉)	Kanji Quiz 3 Kanji Quiz 4 Test 2 (In-class: Oct. 25) Kanji Quiz 5	Topic & Reference list (Due: Oct. 31)
Nov.	Listening 3 (大学生の人気企業) Reading 3 (日本語にはなぜ挨拶表現が多いのか)	Kanji Quiz 6 Test 3 (In-class: Nov. 22)	Outline (Due: Nov. 30)
Dec.			
Jan.	Listening 4 (地震) Reading (Group Reading 1)	Kanji Quiz 7 Kanji Quiz 8 Test 4 (In-class: Jan. 31)	1 st Draft (Due: Jan. 31)
Feb.	Listening 5 (貿易摩擦) Reading (Group Reading 2)	Kanji Quiz 9 Kanji Quiz 10 Test 5 (In-class: Feb. 28)	Presentation (TBA)
Mar.	Listening 6 (カラオケ) Reading (Group Reading 3)	Kanji Quiz 11 Kanji Quiz 12 Test 6 (In-class: Mar. 28)	Presentation (TBA)
Apr.		Final exam (TBA)	Research paper (Due: Apr. 11)

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the university's control, the contents and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Exams & Quizzes (Reading skill & Writing skill)

- Detailed instructions (format etc.) will be given in advance of tests and quizzes.

- Final exam: Formal cumulative/summative written examination; the contents learned in class (Kanji sheets, listening materials, reading materials, and class slides) will be tested.
- In-class tests: Written tests; the contents learned in class (listening materials and class slides) will be tested.
- Kanji quizzes: Written quizzes; knowledge of Kanji in Kanji sheets (both reading and writing) will be tested.

Assignments & Activities - Detailed instructions will be given in advance of each assignment/activity.

- **Listening assignments (Listening skill & Reading skill) [Fall & Winter]**

Listen to an audio-recorded text and write it down before coming to class. After completing each text, answer comprehension questions. Then, submit a completed text with Kanji and the answers for the questions.

*There are 10 points given for each assignment. (Text: 5 points + Comprehension: 5 points)

*For late submissions without permission, 2 points will be deducted from the total score. If the assignment is more than two weeks late, you will receive feedback from the instructor, but no points will be given.
- **Reading assignments (Reading skill) [Fall only]**

Read and study the text before coming to class. After completing each text, submit your study notes about the text (vocabulary notes, summary and opinion/thoughts). In this assignment, you are expected to summarize the contents of the text AND share your own opinion/ideas on the main point or theme of the text.

*There are 20 points given for each assignment (Vocabulary: 7 points + Summary: 10 points + Opinion: 3 points).

*For late submissions without permission, 4 points will be deducted from the total score. If the assignment is more than two weeks late, you will receive feedback from the instructor, but no points will be given.
- **Group reading (Reading skill) [Winter only]**

Choose one out of several books assigned by the instructor and form a group with other members of the class who chose the same book. Each group will then read their book chapter by chapter and give a short seminar to other groups once a month on what you read (summary and commentary on contents and linguistic characteristics). Prepare an abstract sheet of your seminar and submit it by the night before the seminar (by 7 p.m.).

*There are 20 points given for each seminar (Abstract/Information sheet: 10 points + Presentation: 7 points + Q&A: 3 points).

*For late submissions of Abstract/Information sheet without permission, 2 points will be deducted from the total score. If it is more than two weeks late, you will receive feedback from the instructor, but no points will be given.
- **Learning portfolio (Listening skill, Reading skill, Writing skill & Speaking skill) [Fall & Winter]**

There are several steps for this assignment. 1) Set a study goal and make your own study plan. 2) Study based on your plan and keep a record of your study. 3) Write a report of your study and submit it biweekly via Padlet. (Show your study notes etc. to the instructor.)

*There are 7.5 points given for each semester (Reports: 1 point X 5 times + Reflection: 2.5 points) if it has been done diligently.
- **Research (Writing skill & Speaking skill)**

There are several steps for this assignment. 1) Decide on a topic and create a research question 2) Do research on the topic (read materials related to the research question) 3) Create a paper outline (organize your ideas) 4) Write a first draft 5) Give a presentation to the class 6) Revise the first draft including your classmates' feedback on your presentation 7) Proofread and submit the final draft.

*There are 30 points given for this assignment (Presentation: 10 points + Research paper: 20 points).

 - ❖ **Presentation on the research paper topic (Speaking skill)**

Write a manuscript and submit it. Then, prepare and give a presentation to class.

*Presentation: 10 min. (approx.) + Q&A: 5 min. (approx.)

*Rubric for speaking is posted on MyCourses.
 - ❖ **Research paper (Writing skill)**

After the presentation, write the research paper including your classmates' feedback.

*You may consult with the instructor.

* Theme & Background: 2 points + Topic & Reference list: 3 points + Outline: 4 points + Draft: 5 points + Final version: 6 points = 20 points)

*Rubric for writing is posted on MyCourses.

- **Japanese use activities/tasks [Fall & Winter]**

- ❖ **Newspaper activities (Writing skill) [Fall]**

Copy a short newspaper article (once a week in class). Read the article and complete a reading comprehension sheet (once a week in class). Write a short article reporting trending news on campus, or in Montreal/your hometown and submit it (one time only).

* 10 points will be given for this task if they have been completed diligently and submitted on time.

- ❖ **Translation project (Reading skill & Writing skill) [Winter]**

Read a given short story (Japanese novel). Translate the story into English and submit it.

*The purpose of this project is to study characteristics of Japanese sentence/text structure and to practice reading comprehension. The focus is not English accuracy/skills. No points will be deducted for grammatical errors in English. The marking scheme is posted on MyCourses.

*There are 10 points given for this project.

- ❖ **Friendship exchange (Communication with Japanese native speakers – Communication skill) [Fall]**

Exchange emails with university students in Japan (writing in Japanese).

* 5 points will be given for this activity if it has been completed diligently.

- ❖ **Joint class (Communication with Japanese learners – Communication skill) [Winter]**

Join the EAST340: Second Level Japanese class and support beginner level students by using their current Japanese knowledge and different levels of Japanese.

* 5 points will be given for this activity if it has been completed diligently.

Course Policies & Manners

- It is required to respect others in the class (classmates, guests, and instructors). The first step to do so is to greet each other at the beginning and end of the class (in Japanese, of course).
- The use of technology (computers and phones) in class is limited to study purposes (NO SNS, texting etc.).
- The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools and apps for taking tests, writing papers, or completing assignments is prohibited unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor. This course policy is to maximize your language learning and to help you reach course learning outcomes. Use of generative AI in this course may be considered an academic offense (cheating, plagiarism etc.).
- Check MyCourses and your McGill email account at least once a day.
- Students are expected to read the textbook and do some preparation BEFORE coming to class to have a basic idea what will be taught and to be able to participate in the following class.
- If a student experiences illness, mishap or other trouble that makes absence from class unavoidable, or if a student expects to be absent from a forthcoming class, he/she should seek permission and instructions from the instructor, and where applicable, should provide a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

• According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations.

• 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 (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

• In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. (This applies to translation only. All other parts must be written in Japanese.)

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).