

Japanese Language and Culture Program (Bekka)

2026

Spring semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

【Elective courses】



Table of contents

Course name	Targeted level							page
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Pronunciation of Japanese 3·4			●	●				...1
Pronunciation of Japanese 5·6					●	●		...3
Self-Directed Learning 1·2·3	●	●	●					...6
Self-Directed Learning 4·5·6				●	●	●		...8
Reading and Listening in Japanese 1·2	●	●						...10
Reading in Japanese 3·4			●	●				...12
Reading in Japanese 5·6					●	●		...14
Oral Expression in Japanese 2·3		●	●					...16
Oral Expression in Japanese 4·5				●	●			...18
Oral Expression in Japanese 6·7						●	●	...20
Written Expression in Japanese 4·5				●	●			...22
Written Expression in Japanese 6·7						●	●	...24
Introduction to Japanese Business Culture 4·5				●	●			...26
Introduction to Japanese Business Culture 6·7						●	●	...29

Course name	Targeted level							page
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Introduction to Japanese Society 1·2·3·4	●	●	●	●				...32
Introduction to Japanese Society 5·6·7					●	●	●	...34
Japanese Society and Culture	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	...37
History of Tokyo	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	...39

* The contents of the Course Description are subject to change.

Pronunciation of Japanese 3・4 (a)	Kazue INABA	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Thursday 2nd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 10 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In this course, students will learn about the pronunciation of Japanese such as its phones, rhythms, accents and intonations and prominence.

In the class, pronunciation practice methods and tools will be introduced. Students will practice pronunciation by methods and tools that suit themselves to try to overcome their weaknesses. Additionally, students will practice their pronunciation and participate in activities with their classmates, and get feedback from their instructor and classmates.

Students will record what they practiced in class and hand in the data as assignments. As for the final assignments, students will record rather long dialogue or text while being careful about learned pronunciation rules.

If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

*Class contents are subject to change.

Course Content (tentative)

Beats and rhythms

Accents

Intonations

Long vowel, double consonant, the sound of the kana "n/m"

Syllable separator, pose/prominence

Noun accents

Verb accents

Adjective accents

Self-introduction while being careful about pronunciation

Reading scripts of news and conversations aloud

Writing assignments and presentations

Textbook

『毎日練習(まいにち れんしゅう)! リズムで身(み)につく日本語(にほんご)の発音(はつおん)』3A

Corporation ISBN: 9784883195527

Reference

OJAD(Online Japanese Accent Dictionary) <http://www.gavo.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ojad/>

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Assignments 50%

Final assignment 30%

Messages for Students

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.

Please bring some devices to class for recording your pronunciation such as a smartphone, and headphones to listen to the sounds.

Students who can practice pronunciation a lot without being shy about making mistakes are welcome. There are activities in class to pronounce in front of classmates or in pair work, share your recordings of pronunciation and get feedback from the instructor and classmates.

You are expected to get some advice about your pronunciation and also tell what you notice about your classmate's pronunciation.

Pronunciation of Japanese 5・6 (a)	Kazue INABA	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Thursday 1st period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 10 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In this course, students will learn about various elements of Japanese pronunciation such as its phones, rhythms, accents and intonations. Students will be aware of what can be improved through not only individual practice but also working in pairs or groups.

In class, each student will record their own pronunciation, check it with instructor and classmates, and incorporate activities to think about challenges and points for improvement.

The first goal of this lesson is to understand the characteristics of their pronunciation with the feedback of instructor and classmates. The second goal is to think about effective pronunciation learning methods that match their characteristics so that they can continue to focus on their pronunciation outside the classroom. In order to find an effective learning method, we will deal with "basic knowledge of pronunciation and voice (knowledge)", "practice to hear and understand sounds (understanding)", and "practice to make sounds (production)". All explanations will be given in Japanese. Some useful practice materials on the internet such as videos and tools are introduced in class.

If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Course Content (tentative)

The following are some of the specific contents that will be covered in class. The topics handled in the class will be flexibly adjusted to the needs of the students enrolled in the course.

- (1) Impressive self-introduction and pronunciation
- (2) Japanese sounds (Japanese syllabary, foreign language sounds (example: sounds written in katakana), etc.)
- (3) Japanese rhythm and beat sensation (example: foot)
- (4) Pronunciation of spoken words (reduced form (example: personal computer), devoiced (example: "su" of "Yamada desu")) Spoken language role play (pair / group work)
- (5) Noun accents (head-high type, middle-high type, tail-high type, flat plate type, accent core)
- (6) Adjective and verb accent (accent of conjugation ending)
- (7) Intonation (Intonation and expression intention (example: ascending / descending / flat))
- (8) Accents of casual talk with friends, presentation of the roleplay

Textbook

『コミュニケーションのための日本語発音(にほんご はつおん)レッスン』スリーエーネットワーク、
3,300円、 ISBN: 9784883192953

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Assignments (Including submitting recordings) 50%

Presentation (Roleplay) 30%

Messages for Students

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.

Please bring some devices to class for recording your pronunciation such as a smartphone, and headphones to listen to the sounds.

Students who can practice pronunciation a lot without being shy about making mistakes are welcome. There are activities in class to pronounce in front of classmates or in pair work, share your recordings of pronunciation and get feedback from the instructor and classmates. You are expected to get some advice about your pronunciation and also tell what you notice about your classmate's pronunciation.

Self-Directed Learning 1・2・3 (a)	Masako MANABE	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Wednesday 3rd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

The aim of this course is to cultivate students' Japanese proficiency as well as their ability to self-direct their language learning. Students will set their own goals and contents of study, choose the skills and knowledge and interests they wish to focus on improving, make their learning plans and facilitate their own learning process. Students will reflect their study in the class by writing a learning diary at the end of each class.

The instructor will assist students in understanding various language learning strategies, introduce or recommend learning materials, and provide individual advice throughout the course so that students can discover the most suitable way(s) to learn for themselves. Students can consult with the instructor about learning methods.

* Students can choose a theme of their favorites and study related Japanese.

* Students can choose the same theme for 2 cycles or choose a different theme for each cycle.

Course Content (tentative)

Students will go through the 2 cycles of studies in a semester. After 1 cycle of study, students will share the study outcomes and learning methods with classmates in each cycle. At the end of a cycle, students will set goals for the next cycle and continue their learning process.

1st class	Set goals and study plans.	× 2 cycles
2nd class	Study according to your plan.	
3rd class	Study according to your plan.	
4th class	Study according to your plan.	
5th class	Presentation and sharing study outcomes and your reflection. Set goals for the next cycle.	

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Assignments (study plan/learning diary for every class) 60%

Presentation and sharing 20%

Messages for Students

- Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- Students will proceed with the learning process according to your goals and plans during this class. Doing assignments or preparing for tests/quizzes of other courses of KUIS in this class is not allowed.

Self-Directed Learning 4•5•6 (a)	Kumiko KOBAYASHI	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Wednesday 3rd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

The aim of this course is to cultivate students' Japanese proficiency as well as their ability to self-direct their language learning. Students will choose the skills and knowledge they wish to focus on improving, make plans and facilitate their own learning process. After the learning process, students will reflect on their studies.

The instructor will assist students in understanding various language learning strategies, introduce or recommend learning materials, and provide individual advice throughout the course so that students can discover the most suitable way(s) to learn for themselves.

* Students can study Japanese related to their favorites such as manga, music, food and fashion.

* Students can choose the same theme for 2 or 3 cycles or choose a different theme for each cycle.

Course Content (tentative)

The classes in a semester will be divided into 3 cycles. In each cycle, students will make plans and set goals, study as in plan, and reflect on a cycle. Effective learning methods will also be covered.

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Plans and Reflections 60%

Assignments 20%

Messages for Students

- Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- Attend every class and report what you have learned.
- Do not do assignments of the other courses during this class.
- Do not do non related things during this class.
- During the cycles, you will study what you have planned.

(For example the following are not allowed, “I don’t study according to my plan because I need to prepare for the test next week.”, “I want to prepare for the presentation this afternoon.”)

Reading and Listening in Japanese 1•2 (a)	Masako MANABE	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Wednesday 2nd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

This course aims to comprehensively improve reading and listening comprehension through various autonomous reading and listening activities.

Course Content (tentative)

This course consists of three sessions; "reading session", "listening session", and "activity session".

In "reading session" and "listening session", each student chooses what they want to read / listen from various resources and read/listen to it by themselves. Students will do extensive reading and listening autonomously from books/CDs by the instructor or online resources. Students can do activities like reading books while listening to recitation and listening while watching Japanese videos.

Students write a learning journal of what they have read or listened to in class (title, contents, impressions, etc.). For the journal, students can also use their first language.

In the "activity session", students participate in various activities. For example, students share their favorite characters and quotes (Book Talk), write a letter to their favorite characters, write a book review etc.

To wrap up the course, students will work on a project to express their ideas freely based on the inputs through extensive reading and listening during a semester. Students will design their own projects such as writing a story / poem / travelog, presenting their culture / traditional stories, drawing a manga and making a game. In addition to the classmates, external audiences will be invited for the final presentation.

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Class Participation 40%

Assignments 60%

Messages for Students

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.

Students will use online materials. Please bring your laptop/tablet and earphone to class.

Reading in Japanese 3・4 (a)	Young YI	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Thursday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

This course aims to deepen students' understanding of familiar topics and personal interests through reading various types of texts. By organizing information and engaging in activities such as summarizing ideas in their own words and participating in group discussions, students will develop both critical reading and communication skills.

Course Content (tentative)

Students will read various materials of beginner and intermediate level to increase knowledge for understanding texts in Japanese, aimed at cultivating reading comprehension skills. (Topics are different by semester.) Classes proceed by the following steps.

- 1) Preview the Kanji readings and meanings of the words before each class.
- 2) Deepen understanding of the reading materials by reading with classmates and discussing the contents.
- 3) After reading "summarize in sentences" what you have understood and submit them.
- 4) At the end of semester make a presentation about the contents of reading materials of your interests.

※ Reading in Japanese 3・4 is not a course doing extensive reading.

Textbooks

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

References

『日本語学習者(にほんご がくしゅうしゃ)のための 読解(どっかい)厳選(げんせん)テーマ25+10
[初中級(しょちゅうきゅう)]』凡人社 Bonjinsha

『「再話(さいわ)」を取り入れた(とりいれた)日本語授業(にほんご じゅぎょう) 初中級(しょちゅう
きゅう)からの読解(どっかい)』凡人社 Bonjinsha

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Quizzes 10%

Assignments 50%

Final assignment (presentation) 20%

Messages for Students

- 1) Use of generative AI in assignments must be done under the approval of the instructor. Submitting the output of the generative AI as your own work is considered plagiarism.
- 2) Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- 3) Most of the study materials will be available in Google Classroom. Please bring your laptop/tablet to class. Not bringing your laptop/tablet to class will also result in grade/points deduction.
- 4) If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Reading in Japanese 5•6 (a)	Chieko ABE	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Thursday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

This course aims to enable students to understand a wide range of texts, from everyday topics and personal interests to Japanese essays, newspaper articles, and texts on social or specialized subjects. Students will develop the ability to comprehend complex content through various types of written materials.

Course Content (tentative)

- I . Understanding and practicing Japanese reading strategies.
- II . Comprehending various types of texts (deepening understanding of content, author's perspectives, and rhetorical intent).
 - Everyday reading materials (e.g., SNS, websites, news reports, letters to the editor, etc.)
 - Readings on Japan (e.g., Japanese behavioral patterns, the Japanese language, literary works, current affairs, etc.)
 - Field-specific readings (e.g., media, science and technology, education, interpretation, the environment, etc.)
 - Highly specialized texts
- III . Organizing ideas for discussion based on readings, and conducting further research for presentations.

IV. Introducing texts related to one's own major and engaging in creative writing inspired by reading materials.

Textbooks/References

Handouts will be provided in class.

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Assignment I (preparation) 50%

Assignment II (presentation) 30%

Messages for Students

- Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Oral Expression in Japanese 2・3 (a)	Kumiko KOBAYASHI	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Monday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In this course, students will learn situational and functional oral expressions in Japanese to facilitate more effective and successful communication in diverse real-life settings.

Course Content (tentative)

The following daily life topics will be covered to learn conversation.

- Greetings and self-introduction
- Asking the way, time and price
- Talking about daily routines and how to spend weekends

After learning conversation models, students will make a short skit in pairs or groups and practice it. Please take the movie of the skit after practicing and submit it in class.

There will be some visitor sessions to make conversation with someone you meet for the first time using the learnt expression.

At the end of the semester, students will make a presentation in group and speech performance.

Textbooks

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

References

『新(しん)・わくわく文法(ぶんぽう)リスニング100—耳(みみ)で学(まな)ぶ日本語(にほんご)—』凡人社

『新(しん)・シャドーイング 日本語(にほんご)を話(はな)そう！初(しょ)～中級編(ちゅうきゅう へん)』くろしお出版

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Assignments 50%

Final assignment 30%

Messages for Students

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.

If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Oral Expression in Japanese 4•5 (a)	Akane TOKUNAGA	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Monday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In this course, students will learn situational and functional oral expressions in Japanese to facilitate more effective and successful communication in diverse real-life settings.

Course Content (tentative)

In Oral Expression in Japanese 4•5, students will learn necessary oral expressions in daily life scenes by using “task-oriented role-play”.

- Students will try role-play using Japanese they have learnt before in every class. After the role-play, students will reflect on their role-play and check appropriate expressions in Japanese for the scenes and situations. Also students will practice expressions they learn on the day by themselves, record and submit it.
- In the later part of the course, students will make the role card based on their own experiences as the final assignment. Students will gather information about expressions in Japanese useful for the scene, search how to speak and make the sample conversation.

Through the 15 classes in the semester, this course enhances the development of students' skill in reflecting on their communication in Japanese in daily life scenes and learning essential oral expression on their own.

Course Objectives

(1) Linguistic Competence

Students are expected to learn essential words and phrases in real life situations and understand the usage of them in actual communication.

(2) Sociolinguistic Competence

Students will be able to choose appropriate words and expressions depending on who they are talking to or by scenes.

(3) Sociocultural Competence

Students will be able to understand the difference between communication style in their own country or countries they have been to before and in Japan, take into consideration the difference when they communicate.

Textbook

Materials for the next class will be provided in class. The pdf version of the materials will also be distributed by the google classroom.

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Assignments 50%

Final assignment 30%

Messages for Students

- If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.
- Students will try role-play in front of their classmates and have discussions in every class.
- Students will submit the assignments through the google classroom.

Oral Expression in Japanese 6・7 (a)	Chieko ABE	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Monday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In this course, students will learn situational and functional oral expressions in Japanese to facilitate more effective and successful communication in diverse real-life settings.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Communicate fluently on everyday topics using appropriate expressions suitable for the context and the listener.
- Participate in discussions and debates on social and cultural themes by articulating well-supported opinions. In addition, synthesize information gathered from interpersonal interactions and present it logically.
- Provide clear explanations and arguments tailored to various situations with consideration for the audience.

Course Content (tentative)

- 1) Speeches (Topics: “What makes my friend special,” “All About Me,” “Memorable and Moving Scenes,” etc.)
- 2) Interactive communication (Activities: Role-plays, interviews, etc.)
- 3) Discussion, Debate, and Presentation
- 4) Dubbing (Afureko: Voice-over activities)

Textbooks/References

Handouts will be provided in class.

Grading

Class Participation 30%

Assignments 70%

Messages for Students

- Please bring your laptop/tablet to class.
- Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Written Expression in Japanese 4•5 (a)	Young YI	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Monday 3rd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

This course aims to improve comprehensive Japanese proficiency, with a primary focus on writing skills, through materials such as everyday events, information sharing, and creative writing. Students will study various texts to understand their structural and linguistic features, while acquiring the vocabulary, expressions, and techniques necessary for effective writing. Furthermore, through peer discussions and mutual review, students will organize their thoughts and develop the ability to revise and improve their writing by refining their expressions.

Course Content (tentative)

This course focuses on writing activities with a strong awareness of the audience, using materials such as intermediate-level explanatory texts, social media posts, essays, and narratives. (Note: Topics and genres vary by semester.)

The class generally follows these steps:

- 1) Analysis of Model Texts: Read and study model texts to understand structural organization and effective linguistic expressions.
- 2) In-class Writing & Peer Review: Compose short passages in class and share them with classmates for immediate feedback.

- 3) Assignment Submission: Complete and submit a full-length writing assignment based on the session's theme after class.
- 4) Revision & Improvement: Refine and rewrite the text based on instructor feedback and peer discussions.

Textbooks

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

References

『身近(みじか)なテーマで伝える(つたえる)! にほんご作文(さくぶん)トレーニング [初中級 (A2-B1)]』仙台国際日本語学校・遠藤和彦・瀬戸稔彦 くろしお出版 Kurosio Publishers

『グループワークで日本語(にほんご)表現力(ひょうげんりょく)アップ』野田春美・岡村裕美・米田真理子・辻之あらと・藤本真理子・稲葉小由紀 ひつじ書房 Hituzi Syobo

Grading

Class Participation 10%

In-class Writing 20%

Assignments 50%

Final Draft of Each Essay 20%

Messages for Students

- 1) Use of generative AI in assignments must be done under the approval of the instructor. Submitting the output of the generative AI as your own work is considered plagiarism.
- 2) Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- 3) Most of the study materials will be available in Google Classroom. Please bring your laptop/tablet to class. Not bringing your laptop/tablet to class will also result in grade/points deduction.
- 4) If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Written Expression in Japanese 6・7 (a)	Kumiko KOBAYASHI	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Monday 3rd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In this course, we will make use of the knowledge and skills that you have learned and aim to use these skills socially. In addition, this course will aim to improve your skills to analyze Japanese expressions in daily life and to be able to do self-directed learning. Students will actually post their outcome in class to mailing lists and bulletin boards and acquire useful writing skills in Japanese in real life.

Course Objectives

- ① Bringing up the sentences which you can use your skills as a Japanese language learner, and learn expressions' feature and necessary skills.
- ② Students will see and read many real materials written in Japanese and cultivate their skills to analyze good expressions.
- ③ Students are expected to overcome their weakness to write in Japanese through tasks to use Japanese characters.

Course Content (tentative)

- 1: Reading texts of various writing styles
- 2: Writing newspaper articles
- 3: Answering life counseling questions
- 4: Writing reviews, etc.

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Class Participation 30%

Assignments 70% (Submissions 30%, Achievement rate 40%)

Messages for Students

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.

Please bring your laptop/tablet to class to make sentences and materials.

Introduction to Japanese Business Culture 4•5 (a)	Yumi WAKAMATSU	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Friday 3rd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

Taking up common situations such as part-time jobs, the Introduction to Japanese Business Culture 4•5 course aims to help students understand business communication patterns which may be required during interactions with Japanese in the context of corporate or other employment situations. This course is intended to familiarize students with the Japanese expressions and communication patterns

in business situations while also heightening awareness of how these communication styles differ from the patterns in their native languages.

Course Objectives

1) Language competence

Learn the basic expressions of business Japanese and become able to actually use them.

2) Sociolinguistic competence

Understand the appropriate politeness of language when working with Japanese people in a Japanese-speaking workplace.

3) Social and cultural competence

While practicing with short skits in business situations, students understand the social culture required for Japanese work situations, such as job hunting.

When considering future career paths, think about how to acquire Japanese social culture hereafter.

Course Structure

<Flow of each class> * Taking the first half term as an example

1. Before class, students read the materials distributed in advance and do their own preparation tasks.
2. Students will discuss their thoughts and opinions about the reading material in class.

* In the first class, students will learn the difference in self-introduction within the company and outside the company. In later classes, students will practice writing simple business emails and telephone answering.

In a business email session, students submit the email they wrote as an assignment. In addition, telephone calls are recorded and submitted as assignments.

Course Content (tentative)

1st-5th class

The different style of self-introduction between within a company and outside of the company, how to write business emails, answer phone calls (introductory level), how to write a Japanese-style resume for part-time jobs

6th-10th class

Honorifics (use of “Uchi (in-groups)” and “Soto (out-groups)” properly), business etiquette (introductory level)

11th to 15th class

Receive part-time jobs and job interviews (introductory level)

Presentation in business situations (introductory level)

(How to make a presentation, create slides, practice presentations, make presentations) *

Presentation is the final task

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Quiz 10% (Keigo)

Assignments 40% (Preparation and Review for each class)

Final assignment 30% (Presentation)

Messages for Students

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.

Assignments are mainly distributed in Google Classroom. Please bring your laptop/tablet to class.

Introduction to Japanese Business Culture 6・7 (a)	Masako MANABE	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Friday 3rd period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

In the globalized society, the chance to work with various people with different cultural backgrounds increases. Thus there might be some unexpected conflicts in business scenes with multicultural people. In this course, we will focus on the cases of the business scenes when multicultural conflicts occur based on the real episodes and have a discussion about what are the problems. Students are expected to find how to solve the problems in cooperation with their classmates.

The course is intended to familiarize students with the Japanese expressions and communication patterns in business conversation and email while also heightening awareness of how these communication styles differ from the patterns in their first languages.

Course Objectives

- ① Communicate appropriately in formal situations and business situations.
- ② Discover and solve problems that occur in different cultures of business and formal situations.
- ③ Learn about Japanese business customs and culture and apply it to communication.

Course Structure

In each class, students discover problems in cases in different cultures and discuss solutions (case-based learning). Before class, students read the materials for each case, think about what you would do, and write them down on a worksheet (preparatory homework). Learn about customs, culture and diverse ways of thinking in business situations necessary for problem solving.

Students will learn necessary expressions for business communication and apply it to their communication. There will be quizzes to check Japanese expressions for business studied in class.

Course Content (tentative)

Weeks 1-5: Case studies 1-2, self-analysis, Japanese phrases for business communication 1

* Making a short self-introduction movie for job interviews (assignment)

Weeks 6-10: Case studies 3-4, Japanese phrases for business communication 2, writing business emails

Weeks 11-15: Case studies 5-7, Japanese phrases for business communication 3, reflections on case studies

* Report about case study 7 (final assignment)

Textbook

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Homework 20%: Students will submit worksheets for the case study and others.

Quizzes 10%: Some quizzes to check expression covered in class.

Class Participation 10%: Engagement in each session. Students will facilitate the assigned case study.

Assignments 30%: Students will make and submit a short self-introduction movie for a job interview. Submitting the self-evaluation and feedback will also be included.

Final assignment 30% : Students will write and submit a paper about the specified case. The contents will be evaluated by rubric evaluation.

Messages for Students

1. Evaluation is not based on Japanese language ability except for quizzes.
2. This is a discussion-based class, active participation is required.
3. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
4. If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Introduction to Japanese Society 1・2・3・4 (a)	Rie WAKATSUKI	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Friday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

This course is aimed for students at the very beginner and pre-intermediate level of Japanese who wish to deepen their knowledge about Japan and Japanese society. Instructions are in simple Japanese and in simple English according to students' needs.

Course Structure

Through this course students will learn Japanese cultural topics which enrich their life in Japan and open the door to deepen their thoughts about Japanese society and culture. During the first half of the semester, students will learn how to survive from natural disasters and also some information related to everyday life in Japan.

After the middle of the semester, students will learn about Japanese society and culture through research and projects. Taking into consideration students' personal interests, students will understand various opinions and thoughts through presentations and class discussions.

Course Content (tentative)

Week 1: Guidance, ice break, Deciding communication tool etc.

Weeks 2-4 (tentative): Information session

- Gain knowledge about life in Japan, disaster prevention.
- Some quizzes are asked about this information.

Weeks 5-12 (tentative): Research & Presentation Project

- Research what students are interested in or want to know according to the theme.

Interview and survey KUIS students.

- Students will present what they have learned through the research.
- After viewing the presentations of your classmates, we will have a discussion.

Weeks 13-14: Experience session of Japanese culture

- Students will join club activities at KUIS and experience Japanese culture.

*Be careful that the class schedule will be different from the usual day and time.

Week 15: Review

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced via google classroom as needed.

Grading

Class Participation 20%

Quizzes 10%

Assignments (Reflection) 30%

Presentation project 40%

Messages for Students

- Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
- Students are expected to give their own opinion or thought in class. Communication in simple Japanese or English will be required. You can use dictionaries and interpretation/translation tools.
- It is desirable to bring your own laptop/tablet to class for the Presentation project.
- If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.

Introduction to Japanese Society 5-6-7 (a)	Masako MANABE	2 credits
		Elective
		Spring semester
		Friday 4th period

Language of instruction Japanese

Class once a week (90 mins x 15 weeks)

Enrollment Quota

If over 15 students enroll, we may have to limit numbers.

Course Description

This course is aimed at students at the pre-advanced level of Japanese language study. In this course, students will study Japanese customs/behavioral patterns, cultural/social phenomena in modern Japan.

Students will develop their understanding of Japanese culture and society through discussions and interactions. Through interactions with others, students are expected to recognize different values and deepen their understanding of Japanese culture and society. Each student will choose a topic on Japanese culture/society, have some keyword-based discussions in groups in mid semester, and present the keyword in group or individually at the end of the semester.

Course Objectives

1. Be able to explain terms and ideas related to different cultures handled in class.
2. Be able to explain the relationship between language and culture / society, and organize and state your thoughts.
3. Be able to understand and cope with problems that arise in different cultures.
4. Be able to ask questions about cultural and social topics and seek answers through dialogue.

Course Structure

One theme is handled every one or two class(es) mainly in worksheets and discussions.

At the end of each class, students review their learning and summarize their opinions about the theme of the day.

Course Content (tentative)

In the beginning of the course, students will understand basic terms and concepts about cultures.

In the middle of the course, students will think about society and culture through art and also through current society by discussions and worksheets.

In the 10th class, students will have a joint class with undergraduate students in zemi and international students in Introduction to Japanese Society 1・2・3・4 class.

In the last part of the course, students will ask and present their own questions about cultural and social themes.

In the 15th class, students will reflect on the overall course in class.

Students will visit an art museum as a field trip. The schedule will be arranged later but please be aware that the visit will be on a different day from the usual class time and day.

Textbooks/References

Materials will be provided and introduced in class.

Grading

Class Participation 10%

Reflections 30%

Homework (submission of the self evaluation sheet and feedback sheet for classmates etc.)
10%

Assignments 20% (keyword presentation and dialogue)

Final assignment 30% (keyword report)

Messages for Students

1. Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Late submission will result in grade/points deduction.
2. Materials are provided and submissions of worksheets will be done online (via google classroom) in class.
3. If students completed this course in their first semester at KUIS, they cannot take this course in their second semester.
4. When the number of students is not full, students who completed the last semester class may join in the activities with the art museum. Those students will need to contact the instructor by email and apply for the activities.

Japanese Society and Culture

2026 SPRING SEMESTER

NAME OF COURSE: JAPANESE SOCIETY AND CULTURE

INSTRUCTOR: Jeffrey, Hall

CREDITS: 4

Course description

This course is an introduction to contemporary Japanese society and culture. The course will introduce students to various facets of Japanese society and dig beneath the surface to explore the structural and historical underpinnings of contemporary Japan. Topics covered range from class, gender/sexuality and ethnicity/cultural identity, war memory, politics, social control, and disaster. Students will be expected to keep up with readings, contribute to class discussion, and design and complete their own research project related to modern or contemporary Japan.

Language of instruction

Lectures will be delivered in English. All written works should be submitted in English.

Requirements

Students should be familiar with reading and writing academic papers in English.

Non-native speakers of English who have achieved a score of 520 or above in TOEFL, 730 or above in TOEIC L&R (or equivalent) are welcome. A score of 550 or above in TOEFL, 800 or above in TOEIC L&R (or equivalent) is preferable. Students do not need to submit the score.

Quota for this course

A maximum number of 40. This is a compulsory course for IES students and we may have to limit numbers.

Class meetings

Monday Period 3 and 4 (13:10 - 16:20)

Method of presentation

This course provides a survey of some of the central issues characterizing contemporary Japanese culture and society. It focuses on values, institutions, processes and patterns of social change against the background of history and tradition on the one hand, and on the other, the ways in which Japan is now having to redefine its place in the world order and in East Asia specifically. The course will expose the student to the main areas of debate in contemporary Japanese society through perspectives from the social sciences and humanities. The course will focus on classroom discussion, and students will give one or more presentations in class. We will read academic articles pertaining to each topic and discuss how the reading relates to issues and problems in Japanese society today. Through this course, students should come away with an understanding of Japanese society that is complex and nuanced, an ability to apply critical perspectives on contemporary culture, and a curiosity to find out more. They will also improve their study and communication skills through a presentation project and a research paper.

Learning Objectives

- Understand in a comprehensive manner key themes underpinning contemporary Japanese society and culture.

- Develop a foundation for detailed and critical analysis of specific aspects of Japanese society, economy, politics and popular culture.
- Utilize methods of social and cultural analysis, means of social observation and techniques for overcoming ethnocentricity.
- Develop and refine independent research and writing skills.

Grading

Mid-Term Paper 15%
Article Presentation 30%
Participation 20%
Final Paper 35%

Pass/Fail grading

History of Tokyo

2026 SPRING SEMESTER

NAME OF COURSE: HISTORY OF TOKYO

INSTRUCTOR: Tyner, Colin

CREDITS: 4

Course description

This course explores how the Tokyo metropolitan area has been produced and experienced through human and nonhuman interaction from the early-1600s to the 1970s. Throughout this course, we will be focusing on the margins, not only to bring attention to the voices of the marginalized but also to move into the places that city was at its most dynamic and occasionally at its most tragic. We will explore how this city of water was transformed into a city of land, as Tokyo was colonized by parks, statues, and railway systems within the context of empire. We will talk about how different stakeholders imagined, cooperated and contested government plans to rebuild the city of Tokyo in the context of foreign occupation between 1945 and 1952. Finally, we will talk about how people's anxieties about the future of the city have often played out in apocalyptic imaginaries about one of the warmest cities in the world. While the course is taught in a seminar format, it is intended to serve students as a "laboratory". As with any "lab class," students actively participate in class discussions based on readings, lectures, research, and presentations. Please don't be shy about sharing your daily experiences and observations with the class..

Language of instruction

Lectures will be delivered in English. All written works should be submitted in English.

Requirements

Students should be familiar with reading and writing academic papers in English.

Non-native speakers of English who have achieved a score of 520 or above in TOEFL, 730 or above in TOEIC L&R (or equivalent) are welcome. A score of 550 or above in TOEFL, 800 or above in TOEIC L&R (or equivalent) is preferable. Students do not need to submit the score.

Quota for this course

A maximum number of 40. This is a compulsory course for IES students and we may have to limit numbers.

Class meetings

Monday Period 3 and 4 (13:10 - 16:20)

Method of presentation

Discussions, lectures, and student presentations.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will:

- Critically analyze primary and secondary sources related to Tokyo transformation within a global context of the history of urbanization.
- Discriminate different historiographical practices for writing about different historical categories like gender, race, and the environment within the context of urban history.
- Reflect on their own spatial environments in relation to Tokyo's development.

Grading

1. Participation (10%)
2. Ward quiz (10%)
3. Reaction papers (25%)
4. Midterm exam (25%)
5. Place Paper (30%)

Pass/Fail grading

Course Description[Elective courses]2026 Spring

**Japanese Language and Culture Program
Kanda University of International Studies**

March 2026

Published and edited by

Japanese Language and Culture Program

Kanda University of International Studies

1-4-1 Wakaba, Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi, Chiba, Japan 261-0014

All Rights Reserved