



# KANSAI UNIVERSITY

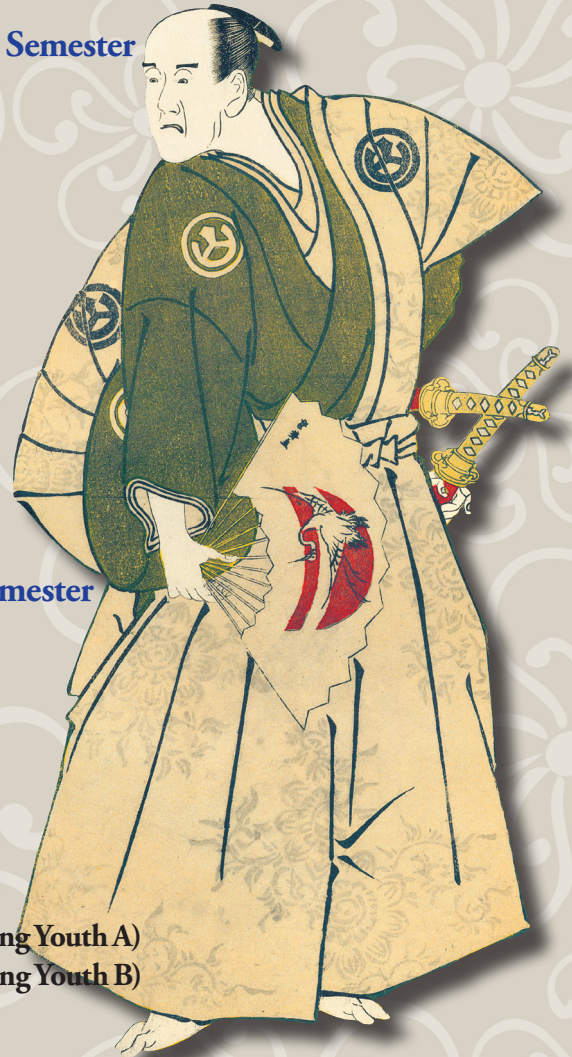
## JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE OUTLINE 2011

### JSL (Japanese as a Second Language) 2011 Spring Semester

- Japanese (1-a), (1-b)
- Japanese (2-a), (2-b)
- Japanese (3-a), (3-b)
- Japanese (4-a), (4-b)
- Japanese (5-a), (5-b)
- Japanese (6-a), (6-b)
- Contemporary Japan (Understanding Japan)
- Contemporary Japan (Japan in Mass Media)
- Communication in Japanese Society
  - (Communication Among Working People A)
- Communication in Japanese Society
  - (Communication Among Working People B)

### JSL (Japanese as a Second Language) 2011 Fall Semester

- Japanese (1-a), (1-b)
- Japanese (2-a), (2-b)
- Japanese (3-a), (3-b)
- Japanese (4-a), (4-b)
- Japanese (5-a), (5-b)
- Japanese (6-a), (6-b)
- Contemporary Japan (Researching Japan)
- Contemporary Japan (Japan in Mass Media 2)
- Communication in Japanese Society (Communication Among Youth A)
- Communication in Japanese Society (Communication Among Youth B)



### JSL Level 1: Elementary Japanese

Spring and Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have less than 50 hours of Japanese instruction. In this course, students will master the basic expressions and phrases necessary in daily communication in Japan. The course content focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., listening and speaking in Japanese. The class is limited to a small number of students in order to provide personal attention to each student's improvement. The course will enable students to manage Japanese language interactions regularly encountered in daily life and classroom situations, and they will also become able to pick up necessary information from short conversations when spoken slowly. Students in this course will be encouraged to aim for N5, or Level 4 in proficiency level in the old

*Nihongo Nōryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test).

Level 1-a particularly focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., listening and speaking in Japanese. Level 1-b focuses on literacy skills, i.e., reading and writing in Japanese. The class is limited to a small number of students in order to provide personal attention to each student's improvement.

### JSL Level 2: Intermediate Japanese I

Spring and Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have up to 150 hours of Japanese instruction. In this course, students will develop their understanding of basic grammar, and useful expressions and phrases in Japanese, beyond the elementary Japanese level. This course will focus on oral communication

skills, i.e., listening and speaking in Japanese. The students will practice using Japanese in interpersonal as well as presentational communicative contexts. They will further develop skills in comprehending and participating in conversations without much difficulty concerning topics regularly encountered in daily life and classroom situations. Students in this course will be encouraged to aim for N4, or Level 3 in proficiency level in the old *Nihongo Nōryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test). Level 2-a focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., listening and speaking in Japanese. Level 2-b focuses on literacy skills, i.e., reading and writing. Students will practice Japanese in interpersonal and presentational communicative contexts.

### **JSL Level 3: Intermediate Japanese II**

Spring and Fall- 2 Credits x2

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have already studied elementary Japanese in this program (up to level 2-a, 2-b) or equivalent content elsewhere. In this course students will develop their understanding of grammar and useful expressions and phrases for intermediate proficiency up to N3 Level, which is in-between Level 2 and Level 3 in the old *Nihongo Nōryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test). Level 3-a particularly focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., speaking and listening in Japanese. In addition to practice using Japanese in interpersonal as well as presentational communicative contexts, students will gain the ability to make short speeches on topics familiar to them. Level 3-b focuses on literacy skills, i.e., reading and writing in Japanese. The students will gain the ability to read short written passages on various topics. They will also practice writing short essays using previously studied grammar.

### **JSL Level 4: Intermediate Japanese III**

Spring and Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have already studied up to Intermediate Japanese II in this program, or equivalent content elsewhere. In this course, students will study advanced level grammar and expressions and phrases in Japanese for intermediate proficiency up to N2, or Level 2 in the old *Nihongo Nōryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test). Level 4-a particularly focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., speaking and listening

in Japanese. The students will gain the ability to make short speeches on both casual and academic topics. They will improve interactional competence through various communication activities, such as open role-plays, guest lectures, discussions, and debates in groups. Level 4-b focuses on literacy skills, i.e., reading and writing in Japanese. The students will practice writing letters, essays, and simple reports on topics of their interests, using previously studied grammar and expressions. The students are also encouraged (with the instructor's guidance) to further develop their language skills through independent studies outside of the classroom.

### **JSL Level 5: Advanced Japanese I**

Spring and Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have already studied up to Intermediate Japanese III in this program, or equivalent content elsewhere. In this course, students will further improve advanced level grammar and expressions and phrases in Japanese for pre-advanced proficiency up to Level 1 in the old *Nihongo Nōryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test). Level 5-a particularly focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., speaking and listening in Japanese. They will improve interactional competence through various communication activities, such as open role-play, guest lecturer and discussions, and debates in groups. In addition, the course is designed to guide students to learn beyond daily life communication, for example they will practice how to present their opinions in groups or manage decision-making interaction in Japanese. Level 5-b focuses on literacy skills. They will practice reading short newspaper articles, essays and reports on various topics and discuss critically on the issues mentioned in them. The students will also be introduced how to research on a topic of their interests and write a short report using an appropriate writing style.

### **JSL Level 6: Advanced Japanese II**

Spring and Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have already studied up to Intermediate Japanese III in this program, or equivalent content elsewhere. In this course, the students will further improve advanced level grammar, expressions and phrases in Japanese for advanced proficiency up to N 1 in the new

*Nihongo Nōryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test). Level 6-a focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., speaking and listening in Japanese. They will improve interactional competence through various communication activities, such as open role-play, guest lecture and discussions, and debates in groups. In addition, the course is also designed to develop the students' command of Japanese for university level study and research. The students will conduct a small research of their own interest and present it in the class. Level 6-b focuses on literacy skills. The class will read various authentic readers (e.g., literacy texts, newspaper and magazine articles, research reports). The students will practice how to write a report based on the self-conducted small research, using formal writing style in Japanese.

### *Contemporary Japan (Understanding Japan)*

Spring- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

In this course students will pursue a small research project on a topic of interest selected from various Japanese social and cultural issues. Students will first learn a set of general topics in class, and will then be encouraged to find their own focus for a project in topics as diverse as politics to popular culture. Students will learn how to make oral presentations in Japanese, and will be asked to actively participate in the group discussions each class. Japanese language will be the main medium of communication in this class. Students will be asked to give a progress report on their project while seeking advice from their peers and instructor each week. Required Levels: Students must be taking level 3 or level 4 Japanese language courses concurrently with this class. Those who do not meet this requirement may be given permission to register upon consultation with the instructor.

### *Contemporary Japan (Japan in the Mass Media I)*

Spring- 2 credits

#### **Course Description:**

In this course, students will learn about Japan and how various aspects of Japan (e.g., culture, contemporary living styles, social issues, people, art, etc) are portrayed in mass media. The course will take a broad view of what constitutes "mass media", and will consider such sources and materials as radio, television, paper-based media such as newspapers and magazines, internet-based mediums (e.g., podcast, online newspapers), mobile phone-based

mediums (e.g., websites specialized for cell-phone access), film, and various forms of animation. Students will be provided with opportunities to critically examine the "Japan" in mass media with guidance and some linguistic assistance by the instructor. Students will be encouraged to construct their own critical evaluation on the ways which mass media portrays Japan. In this course, students are expected to do one group research project and one individual mini-project under supervision of the instructor.

### *Communication in Japanese Society (Communication Among Working People A)*

Spring- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

Students are encouraged to construct their own critical evaluation on the ways which Japanese language is in use among working people in contemporary Japan. In this course, students are expected to do one group research project and one individual mini-project under supervision of the instructor.

### *Communication in Japanese Society (Communication Among Working People B)*

Spring- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

In this course, we will explore various aspects of Japanese communication. The students will have a reader each week as well as language materials (e.g., media, film, newspapers). Concepts such as *uchi* vs. *soto*, and Politeness will be presented to analyze features of Japanese and why they are so. Students will be encouraged to draw on their language use as well their L1 and take a close look at Japanese language. It is hoped that the course will give an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the dynamics of Japanese communication.

### *Contemporary Japan (Researching Japan)*

Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

In this course students will pursue a small research project on a topic of their interests selected from various social and cultural issues about Japan. The topics vary from politics to popular culture, and the students will first learn a set of general topics in class,

then they are encouraged to find their own focus for a project. The students will learn how to make an oral presentation in Japanese. They will be asked to actively participate in the group discussions at each class. Japanese language will be the main medium of communication in this class. Each week students will be assigned to make a progress in their small project with advice from their peers and their instructor.

### Contemporary Japan (Japan in Mass Media 2)

Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

In this course, students will learn about Japan and how various aspects of Japan (e.g., culture, contemporary living styles, social issues, people, art, etc.) are portrayed in mass media. The course will take a broad view of what constitutes ‘mass media’, and will consider such sources and materials as radio, television, paper-based media such as newspapers and magazines, internet-based mediums (e.g., podcast, online newspapers), mobile phone-based mediums (e.g., websites specialized for cell-phone access), film, and various forms of animation. The students will be given opportunities to critically examine the “Japan” in mass media with guidance and some linguistic assistance by the instructor. The students are encouraged to construct their own critical evaluation on the ways which mass media portrays Japan. In this course, students are expected to do one group research project and one individual mini-project under supervision of the instructor.

### Communication in Japanese Society (Communication Among Youth A)

Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course highlights the youth in Japanese communities—particularly how they communicate in the modern Japan. The students will be exposed to various mediums of communication, such as internet (2channel site, Blogs, Twitter, etc.) used by younger generation. The students will have chances to discuss their own evaluation of these different types of communication, and why the youth prefer them over simple person-to-person interaction. The course will provide the students opportunities to be exposed to realistic Japanese language use, including youth language (*wakamoto kotoba*), and more specifically to the region of our residence, Osaka dialectal use in the youth language.

### Communication in Japanese Society (Communication Among Youth B)

Fall- 2 Credits

#### **Course Description:**

This course highlights youth communication in how and what they communicate. Drawing from various data in both on-line and print-based materials, we will explore language use by youth by taking a look at (1) its characteristics seen in various genres such as film, *manga*, animation, twitter, blogs etc., (2) how it is related with gender, age, region/community, and identity. The students themselves will have much to contribute to this course by bringing their own observations and experience in Japan.

#### Course Instructors

IKEDA Keiko (Coordinator)

FUKUI Nanako

FURUKAWA Tomoki

INAGAKI Akiko

ITOH Tomohiro

KAWASHIMA Nobue

KITE Yuriko

MIYAKE Setsuko

TACHIBORI Shoko

YAMAMOTO Yukie

