

KANSAI UNIVERSITY

JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSE OUTLINE 2009



JSL (Japanese as a Second Language)

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 I (Current Topic I)

Contemporary Japan II (Learning Japan)

Contemporary Japan III (Current Topic II)

Contemporary Japan IV (Researching Japan)

Business Japanese I (Speaking)

Business Japanese II (Writing)

Business Japanese III (Practical Honorifics)

Business Japanese IV (Introduction to Formal Japanese)

Course Title: JSL Level 1

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have less than 150 hours of Japanese instruction. In this course, the students will master the basic expressions and phrases necessary in daily communication in Japan.

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.

Course Title: JSL Level 2

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have up to 300 hours of Japanese instruction. In this course, the students will develop their understanding of basic grammar, and useful expressions and phrases in Japanese which are studied in the elementary Japanese course (1—a, 1—b). Level 2-a particularly focuses on oral communication skills, i.e., listening and speaking in Japanese. Level 2-b focuses on literacy skills, i.e., reading and writing in Japanese. The students will practice Japanese in interpersonal as well as presentational communicative contexts. The course guides students to aim at level 4 proficiency levels on *Nihongo Noryoku Shiken* (Japanese Proficiency Test).

Course Title: ISL Level 3

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have already studied the elementary Japanese through the program (up to level 2—a, 2—b) or equivalent content elsewhere. In this course, the students will develop their understanding of grammar and useful expressions and phrases in Japanese for intermediate proficiency up to level 4 on *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.

Course Title: ISL Level 4

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have already studied up to Intermediate Japanese II in the program or equivalent contents elsewhere. In this course, the students will study advanced level grammar and expressions and phrases in Japanese for intermediate proficiency up to level 3 on *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.

Course Title: ISL Level 5

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have already studied up to Intermediate Japanese III in the program or equivalent content elsewhere. In this course, the students will further improve advanced level grammar and expressions and phrases in Japanese for pre-advanced proficiency up to level 2 on *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.

Course Title: ISL Level 6

Course Description:

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

Course Title: Contemporary Japan I

(Focus: Current Topic I)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Japanese society and culture for people who wish to understand contemporary Japan and Japanese people. The aims of the course are to provide learners with information on Japanese social and cultural topics, to build their vocabulary and to improve their reading and speaking ability by reading content-oriented “real” Japanese. Reading materials will be provided in class, explanations of words from the text referring to Japanese culture will be explained, and key words will be handled in a discussion format.

Course Title: Contemporary Japan II

(Focus: Learning Japan)

Course Description:

This course is an introductory course to study various social and cultural issues which Japan faces today. The topics vary from politics to popular culture, and the students will be asked to actively participate in group discussions in each class. Japanese language will be the main medium of communication in this class. Each week students will be assigned to read, watch, or listen to authentic materials (e.g., newspapers, TV news, and internet news) as the resource for classroom activities. The students will be able to build basic vocabulary to handle Japan studies as well as to improve their communicative competence.

Course Title: Contemporary Japan III

(Focus: Current Topic II)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to Japanese society and culture for overseas students to understand contemporary Japan and Japanese people, particularly Wakamono ‘Young people.’ The aim of this course is to provide learners with information on Japanese social and cultural issues and to develop and improve their reading and speaking skills by communicating in Japanese.

Course Title: Contemporary Japan IV

(Focus: Researching Japan)

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.

Course Title: Business Japanese I

(Focus: Speaking)

Course Description:

The course is aimed at helping students develop oral proficiency in using Japanese for communication in a variety of business situations.

Course Title: Business Japanese II

(Focus: Writing)

Course Description:

In this course the students will learn about basic written business communication in Japanese. The students will not only be exposed to authentic business letters, email correspondences and other written materials from a Japanese business scene, they will also practice producing them by themselves. Through this course the students will study basic formal Japanese (including *keigo*) and etiquette in business communication with internet.

Course Title: Business Japanese III

(Focus: Practical Honorifics)

Course Description:

The aim of the course is to enable students to use practical honorific words and expressions in a Japanese business setting. In this course, the students will practice business conversations (how to make, receive phone calls and give messages, how to make and change appointments, how to make requests and refuse them) and e-mails after reviewing basic honorific words and expressions.

Course Title: Business Japanese IV

(Focus: Introduction to Formal Japanese)

Course Description:

In this course the students will practice fundamental business communication (email correspondence, telephone conversations, and discussions) using formal styles of Japanese language. The students will be introduced to useful honorific language and other linguistic politeness in Japanese for business scenes.

Course Instructors

IKEDA Keiko (Coordinator)

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INAGAKI Akiko

ITOH Tomohiro

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