

Time: Thursday, 2nd period

Room: #103, Bldg. 10 Type: Elective Credit: 2 credits

Instructor: Tatsuhiko Matsushita

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Office Hour: Afternoon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (appointment preferable)

The First Half (A1 Term) - Kanji

Course Objectives/Overview

This course is designed for students at the elementary level. In this course students will acquire basic Kanji knowledge (mainly targeted at non-Kanji background students) and reading skills to understand texts on given topics.

Specifically, by the end of the course, students are expected to be able to at least

- 1) recognize and type/handwrite basic Kanji.
- 2) understand common Kanji signs, basic sentences and short simplified passages on specific situations or topics.
- 3) use various effective ways for reading and learning Kanji by themselves including the use of dictionaries, reference books, smartphone applications and web-based tools.
- 4) for Chinese-background students, pay more attention to the similarities and differences between Chinese and Japanese in terms of the use of Kanji vocabulary.

Keywords

Kanji, recognition, basic reading, learning strategies, Chinese and Japanese

Teaching Methods

For the first couple of class meetings, lectures on Kanji will be given, followed by the reading program and individual (one-to-one basis) conference with the instructor on Kanji learning. 'Genki' Kanji resources will be used partly for the course to assist your learning in the core courses i.e. Intensive Japanese or Integrated Japanese. The methods of learning Kanji will differ depending on the student's background, i.e. Chinese/non-Chinese background. Individual mode of learning will be encouraged partly particularly for learning Kanji if the students' language backgrounds are various. Students are expected to exercise Kanji at home while they learn the tips and strategies for learning them in class.

Tentative Schedule *Subject to change

- 9/28 Orientation, Introduction to Kanji
10/5 Introduction of different exercise/reference books
10/12 Number of common Kanji and practical goal of learning Kanji,
Origins of Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana, Genki L.3 Kanji
10/19 Principles of stroke order, Radicals and Structure of Kanji, Common radicals and their meanings,
On-yomi (On-reading) and Kun-yomi (Kun-reading), Importance of On-Kun relation, Genki L.4 Kanji
10/26 Rules of Okurigana, Common phonological components of Kanji, Font-based variations in form
Useful online tools and smartphone apps, Genki L.5 Kanji
11/2 How to handwrite Kanji more neatly and beautifully, Genki L.6 Kanji, Orientation for reading activities
11/9 Sharing the ideas of Kanji learning, Genki L.7 Kanji, Reading activity
11/30 Genki L.8 Kanji, Reading activity
12/7 Genki L.9 Kanji, Book Talk (presentation), Reading activity
12/14 Genki L.9 Kanji, Reading activity
12/21 Genki L.10 Kanji, Final exam for Kanji (Kanji analysis, Compounds, Genki Kanji)
12/27 (Wed.) Exam feedback, Submission of portfolio, Genki L.11 Kanji
(1/8 (Mon.) Due: Assignment (E-mail attachment))
1/11 Genki L.12 Kanji, Reflection, Plan for spring vacation and forward

Textbooks, reference books, exercise books and databases

No textbook is designated; however, preparing a Kanji dictionary (including an online tool) and an exercise book/notebook is **required**. Some recommended dictionaries and exercise books will be introduced in class. You have to come by some dictionaries and books by yourself. You can order books at either Seikyo (coop) or online e.g. Amazon. A Kanji database edited by the instructor will be provided.

Advice for Students

- *Plan out the whole Kanji learning. Allocate the number of Kanji to learn at each step. Fix your time for learning at a certain period of time in your daily/weekly schedule.
- *Be persistent and patient in learning Kanji up through to 1,000 Kanji at least (, and hopefully to 1,500). Otherwise, your effort will not be paid. Number of known Kanji and the degree of comprehension is not in proportion. You are expected to reach to the threshold level which we assume is at around 1000 Kanji.
- *Different students have different learning styles. Find your favorite way of learning Kanji for yourself.
- *Copy common Kanji outside so you can be familiar with the daily Kanji use of your needs and interests.
- *Chinese-background students are also encouraged to take this course for learning the differences between Japanese Kanji and the Chinese characters.

Course-Related Websites

Stroke Order Movies

Gahoh http://marinebat.com/gahoh/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=41

Kakijun <http://kakijun.jp/> Paste a Kanji in the box on the upper left of the web-site and click 漢字筆順 button to the right of the box.

Other useful sites to learn Kanji

Memorize Japanese Kanji with Asahi Kanji <http://www.japanese-kanji.com/index.htm>

<http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~ik2r-myr/kanji/kanji1pa.htm#intro>

Web CMJ Japanese Kanji Online <http://opal.ecis.nagoya-u.ac.jp/webcmjk/index.html> You can learn basic 300 Kanji through this site. If you use ON YOUR OWN mode, you can record and manage your learning.

Java Kanji Flashcards 500 <http://nuthatch.com/java/kanjicards/> You can look at all cards by "Browse", search for cards by "Search" and review a subset of cards by "Drill".

A Door to the World of 漢字 <http://www.neverland.to/kanji/>

This site introduces common Kanji used in daily life settings with photos.

Extension system

You are expected to become an autonomous learner. For this, we employ a self-directed learning system called "Extension". You are encouraged to extend your learning of Kanji and reading by studying in your own way, and to create a portfolio as a record of your study. The portfolio for this course can also include your learning records with in-class materials for the "Baseline" study. The portfolio will take account of 40% of your course grade.

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The Second Half (A2 Term) – Pleasure Reading

Course Objectives/Overview

This course is designed for students who are at the first half of the elementary level. This course aims to help students find pleasure in their reading. Through graded readers and other materials, students will not only gain fluency on processing vocabulary and grammar but also learn Japanese culture and society.

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- 1) enjoy reading Japanese and engage in independent reading,
- 2) expand knowledge of Japanese culture and society, and
- 3) process lexical and grammatical knowledge more fluently.

Keywords

independent reading, fluency, literature, culture

Teaching Methods

In principal, students choose what they want to read from reading materials according to their own levels and interests. There is a presentation opportunity called 'Book Talk', where each student will give a talk to recommend a book within 3 minutes. Details are explained later in class.

Method of Evaluation

The performance on following items will be taken into account for the course grade of the first half of this course

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Participation in class activities | 10% |
| 2) Kanji assignments | 5% |
| 3) Kanji final exam | 25% *to measure your progress on Kanji learning. |
| 4) Kanji portfolio | 15% |
| 5) Comment sheets on reading activity | 20% |
| 6) Writing assignment (Letter/Diary) | 5% |
| 7) Presentation (Book talk) | 5% |
| 8) Reading portfolio | 15% |

The proportion is subject to change within $\pm 5\%$ based on the evaluation of the assessment items themselves.

Attendance Policy

Second language learning is a cumulative process and success in your proficiency depends on how much you devote to it. Missing even one class will affect your subsequent study. Please be on time to avoid disturbing the class. You are required to attend 70% or more of the scheduled classes in order to receive credits for PEAK Japanese courses*. If you attend a class, but miss 30 minutes or more, it will be considered as one absence. If you come late or leave early three times, this will also be considered as one absence.

* Missing 4 times out of 13 times per course (per semester) equals less than 70%.

Makeup Policy

-Final exam: If you are absent for the final exam, you may request a makeup exam with a valid, documented excuse. You cannot take the final exam prior to the assigned date and time.

Due date

Students must submit each assignment at the beginning of the class on the assigned date. In principle the instructor will NOT accept any homework after the due date. It is each student's responsibility to keep the deadline; instructors will not tell you the due date of each individual assignment. Confirm the schedule carefully so as not to miss the due date.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, either in the form of cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students are expected to understand that all the assignments to be submitted are their own ORIGINAL piece of work. All the sources of information must be acknowledged. Any proven instances will result in an automatic grade of "F", not only for the course concerned, but for ALL the courses taken in that semester. This is a general regulation of the University of Tokyo.

We hope you enjoy your journey of learning Kanji and reading!