

EAS461H1F Modern Standard Japanese IVb

I. Objectives

This course aims at the further acquisition of reading and writing skills for those who have completed the lower intermediate level at an academic institution (approximately 360 class hours) and it is open to those whose Japanese level is equivalent to that of between N2 and N3 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and/or to that of B1 level of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR).

Learning Objectives:

- (1) to become familiar and comfortable with reading various styles of Japanese text with/without the help of a dictionary,
- (2) to grasp the overall meaning of the texts and the author's perspectives and express your thoughts or opinions.
- (3) to expand the intermediate level (JLPT N2/N3 Level) vocabulary written both with kana and kanji.

Course Goals:

- (1) to be able to summarize their content of the text and the author's perspectives in your own words.
- (2) to further investigate and discuss the issues presented in the text, broaden your own perspective, and then present summaries of your thoughts, research findings and conclusions.

Class is conducted in a seminar style. To achieve the objectives and goals above, the class will involve frequent discussions, exchange of opinions, research activities, and presentations with classmates. All of these require sufficient individual preparation/review outside of class, including re-reading the text to deepen understanding and reviewing vocabulary and grammar.

II. Eligibility

The students must have completed EAS320Y1Y/EAS1303H in the 2023-2024 academic year with a final grade of B- (70%) or above, or have passed the June/July 2024 or August 2024 placement test in order to take this course. A strong foundation of the low intermediate level grammar and wide knowledge of vocabulary with 500 basic kanji is required.

III. Instructor of the Course

Yukiko Yoshizumi (よしづみ 善積祐希子)

Office: Robarts Library (14th floor) 14-233

Email: yukiko.yoshizumi@utoronto.ca (for personal or urgent matters only)

Office Hour: 3:30-4:30 pm on Tuesdays (in-person) and 11:30am-12:30pm (online) on Thursdays, or by appointment

Course Website: Quercus, University of Toronto – It is your responsibility to check the information on Quercus on a regular basis. Important/urgent announcements on the course will be posted at “Announcements” page.

IV. Course Materials

1. 話す・書くにつながる! 日本語読解 中上級 (2016) アルク

* Available at the [U of T Bookstore](#).

*The usage of any copies violating copyright is not permitted in this course.

2. Additional supplementary handouts may be provided.

V. Meeting Time and Classrooms

Time: Monday & Thursday: 9am – 11am Classroom: SS2101

Attending classes is mandatory in order to achieve the educational goals in the course.

VI. Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined based on the followings:

1. Assignments (20%)

Various assignments will be given to prepare for and review after classes. They include preparing for discussion topics before reading each text, handwritten practice of kanji, reviewing new kanji and grammar, and completing tasks after reading the texts. In addition, students will be asked to choose kanji they wish to learn beyond those covered in each lesson and present explanations about them in class. Kanji selected by students will also be included in quizzes and tests.

The method of submission depends on the type of assignment, so check the schedule and instructions. If you miss a class, the homework assigned for that day (either the preparation for or review after that day's class) will receive a score of zero.

2. Portfolio (10%)

As you reach an intermediate level, it may become more challenging to objectively assess your actual Japanese language proficiency. During this course, you will manage your own learning progress. The portfolio serves as a file where you keep record and evidence of your learning achievements. For example, it may include your goals set at the beginning of the course, learning logs, records or kanji learned, new experiences related to Japanese language and culture outside of class, as well as short essays and quizzes etc. from assignments.

3. Quizzes (12%)

An in-class quiz will be given at the beginning of the class, including vocabulary, expression, and kanji. There will be no make-up quiz if you are absent from class. If you are late for the class to take the quiz, no extra time will be given. If you attend the class just to take the quiz (e.g., showing up before the quiz starts and/or leaving the class after the quiz, etc.), you will receive no mark for the quiz.

4. Short Essay (15% = 3% x 5)

After reading the text in each lesson, you will discuss the issues or themes presented in the text with your classmates and conduct research. You will then share your opinions and findings. After the class, you will summarize your opinions and what you have learned in an essay. There will be a total of five short essays.

5. Project (20%)

You will choose one article from a selection of provided texts and summarize its content and the author's arguments in your own words. You will then relate the issues or themes presented in the article to your own context, conduct research, and develop your own perspective. You will present your summary research findings, and personal opinions in a format of a conference-style poster presentation, and then compile them into an essay.

6. Term Test (8%)

There will be a term test, focusing on reading comprehension, vocabulary/expressions, grammar, and grammar covered in class. The test is scheduled on Thursday, October 17. Details will be announced in class.

7. Final Examination (15%)

A final exam will be given during the December Final Exam Period. The exam will focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary/expressions, grammar and kanji covered in class. Details will be announced in class.

Note 1: Students who miss a test, quiz, or assignment deadline because of circumstances beyond their control and seek consideration should notify the instructor as soon as possible, but no later than one week after the date it was administered or the deadline.

Note 2: If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, you must consult your instructor right away. Normally, you will be asked for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Please note that you may submit one absence declaration per academic term for a maximum period of seven consecutive calendar days.

Note 3: Late Submissions for assignments (other than kanji presentation) and short essays will be accepted up to twice, but only if they are turned in within 24 hours of the original due date.

VII. Guidance

Accessibility Needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights, and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities. It is our intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity, and your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Use of Generative AI

In this course, the use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT is not prohibited, and limited use will be allowed depending on the assignments. Different guidelines will be provided to each assignment on how and to what extent you may use generative AI, and it is your responsibility to ask your instructor if you are unsure whether a technology tool such as ChatGPT is permissible to use on assignments. Please also refer to the [Using ChatGPT or other generative AI tool on a marked assessment](#).

As we recommend treating generative AI as a supplementary tool, ultimately, you (and not any AI tool) are responsible for your own learning in this course, and for all the work you submit for credit. It is your responsibility to critically evaluate the content generated, and to regularly assess your own learning independent of generative AI tools. Overreliance on generative AI may give you a false sense of how much

you've actually learned, which can lead to poor performance in this course, in later courses, or in future work or studies after graduation.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment. (This includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On quizzes, tests, and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at/copying someone else's answers.
- Letting someone else look at/copy your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information from your instructor or other available campus resources like the [College Writing Centres](#), the [Academic Success Centre](#), or the [U of T Writing Website](#).

Course Materials

Course materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download some materials (i.e., homework and supplementary handouts) for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. Also, you are not allowed to take photos or video of slides during the class.

Attendance of Classes

Attending classes is mandatory. If you have to come late or leave early for a compelling reason, please notify the instructor directly by email prior to class.

Communication with the Instructor

a) **Quercus**: Check the information on the Quercus course website every day. Important announcements on the course will be posted there and/or directly e-mailed to your “utoronto’ email address.

b) **Email**: Please refer to the syllabus and the Quercus first for the general information. When you email the instructor, please write the course code in the subject heading. Also, remember that emails are more formal than text messages.

c) **Office Hours**: You are more than welcome to visit my office during office hours (or by appointment) when you have any questions and concerns.

Food in Class

No eating during class, please. Given the nature of the course, you will be speaking a lot in class.

Events and Opportunities outside the Class

Details will be given in class or in Quercus when the time approaches.

Resources

Chen Yu Tung East Asian Library (Robarts Library 8th floor) <https://east.library.utoronto.ca/>

The Japan Foundation Library (2 Bloor Street East, Suite 300, Toronto) <https://jftor.org/>

It would be impossible to acquire the language for a short period. It may take time, patience and effort. To encourage your hard work, I would like to introduce you my most favorite motto in learning.

けいぞく ちから
継続は力なり

Similar phrase in English: *Continuity is the father of success.*