

Chaminade University of Honolulu
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Course: Elementary Japanese (JA 105)
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Textbooks: *Situational Functional Japanese*, Volume 1: Notes,
and Volume 1: Drills (Tsukuba Language Group)

Introduction/Description:

Beginning Japanese is designed for people who have no previous knowledge of Japanese. Goals of the course are to provide a basic foundation that will enable students to acquire and develop language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and some writing. Throughout the process of learning these skills, emphasis will be on the student's ability to perform in 'real life' situations through task-based practice. Students should be able to handle daily 'survival' situations by the end of the course.

Objectives:

Listening: Able to understand simple utterances. These utterances consist of recombinations of learned elements regarding shopping, the post office, restaurants, and asking for directions.

Speaking: Able to satisfy the requirements of some basic communicative exchanges. Students will be able to make short statements and ask questions in simple sentence that are common to the situations mentioned above.

Reading: Able to read *hiragana*, *katakana* and a limited number of *kanji* (Chinese characters).

Writing: The student will be able to write *hiragana* and *katakana*. While *kanji* production is not required and will not be tested, students will be encouraged to make an effort to begin practicing *kanji*, because *kanji* recognition is required.

Attendance and grading: I do take attendance, and **unexcused** absences will have a negative impact on your grade. Even too many excused absences will hurt your grade. There is a reason language classes meet almost everyday.

Grading: Final grade will be based on the following:

Final exam.....	25%	A=100-90%
Mid-term exam.....	20%	B=89-80%
End of lesson exams.....	20%	C=79-70%
Attendance.....	10%	D=69-60%
Quizzes.....	15%	F=below 60%
In-class performance.....	10%	

What is expected of the student: The student is expected to make progress in four areas (see above). This class is performance-based, meaning we will speak in Japanese, write in Japanese, interact in Japanese. We will try to create an atmosphere where you will feel like you are in Japan. Rather than have you memorize and repeating things over and over (which can be useful *at times*), I want you to use the language and internalize it. This method is more efficient, and more interesting. A lot more fun, too.

Assesment: Students will be evaluated on the following criteria.

- * ability to use grammatical structures learned in class
- * ability to listen and comprehend simple structures
- * ability to write accurate Japanese
- * ability to speak Japanese, and have the listener comprehend the utterance

Learning Strategies

1) Everyone has their own way to learn. Find yours and use it. Some ideas:

flash cards, lists, wordbooks, post-its all over the house

2) Grammar

Remember some terms:

N noun

V verb

A adjective

S subject

O object

Japanese word-order is SOV. English word-order is SVO. See the problems this will cause? Get used to thinking like this: *I hamburger ate*. Take good notes and save the handouts. This will facilitate better review time before tests.