EAJ501 Elementary Japanese I

This course is designed for students who have no experience in Japanese language learning. The class covers basic grammatical structures, ritual expressions, and basic writing system.

**Learning Objectives of Foreign Language Courses**

Students will demonstrate:

1. proficiency in the understanding and use of fundamental elements of a foreign language;
2. knowledge of distinctive features of the culture(s) associated with the language they are studying.

**Course Objectives:**
The goal of this course is for the students to gain knowledge of basic Japanese grammar, and to acquire basic Japanese language skills (listening, speaking, writing, and reading). By the end of this course, the students will be able to communicate short messages on highly predictable, everyday topics that affect them directly. The students will be able to read a limited amount of information from highly predictable texts in which the topic or context is very familiar. They will be able to meet limited basic practical writing needs using lists, short messages, postcards, and simple notes.

The students are expected to reach the ACTFL Novice Mid-level for listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills.

**Policies:**

1. Three Hiragana quizzes, three Katakana quizzes will be given. Two vocabulary quizzes, a kanji quiz (L3-L5), and a lesson test will be given for L1, 2, 4, 5. As for Lesson 6, two vocabulary quizzes will be given. We also have mid-term exams (grammar L1, 2, 3) and final exams (listening, kanji L3-L6, and grammar L4, 5, 6).

2. Speaking skill is evaluated during class work activities.

3. Students who were absent from class more than 45% of the total number of class days will fail the course. (24 times or more)

4. **All** assignments must be completed and turned in **On Time.** One day late will earn 70% of the score for the assignment. Even though overdue work more than one class/day late will earn 0% for the assignment, it will be corrected and returned to the students for reviewing the material.

5. No Cheating/Plagiarizing
Cheating/Plagiarizing will lead to failure on the test/assignment.

6. When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to find out what work and homework you missed. Homework should be turned in on the day that you return to class.
7. There will be NO MAKE-UP Quiz/Exam given unless written proof for a legitimate reason is provided, such as a medical emergency. The time for taking the make-up must be as soon as possible after the original test/quiz.

8. If you have a disability, please submit official documentation to prove your disability, and make an appointment with your instructor to discuss ways to help you succeed in the course.

9. Eating, texting, listening to music are not acceptable in class.

10. Keep your appointment with instructors. Be punctual. If you cannot come at the scheduled time or must reschedule, call beforehand. If for some reason, you could not call in advance, call afterward as soon as you can.

11. Participation
Students are always expected to fully participate in class. Your instructor will grade on how you participate in class for every session. Be prepared!

12. Instructors are your Learning Tools.
We are here to learn. If you do not understand the material, please make appointments with the instructor. You may ask any of the instructors, not just the instructor of your class.

13. Make Many Mistakes!
You learn the best when you make mistakes. Others can learn from your mistakes, too. Do not be afraid of making mistakes.

14. Ask Many Questions!
You also learn the best when you ask questions. If you do not understand something, do not hesitate to ask your instructor questions.

15. It takes TIME, EFFORT, and a RELAXED ATTITUDE to master a foreign language. Be patient, relaxed, and STUDY HARD.

Textbooks:

3. Apika Gakushuuchoo (Japanese character practice notebook) (recommended)

Class Work:

1. Students will learn greetings, and basic ritual expressions.
2. Students will learn very simple sentence structures such as X wa Y desu, X wa (object) o Activity Verb, and (place) ni X ga arimasu/imasu, etc.
3. Students will learn basic verb and adjective conjugations (long present/past forms of verbs and adjectives, te-forms of verbs).
4. Students will practice reading and writing all Hiragana characters, all Katakana characters, 57 new Kanji characters (Lesson 3 - Lesson 6).
5. Students will study from Genki I Lesson 1 to Lesson 6.
6. Japanese culture issues are discussed from time to time throughout the semester.

**Grading:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/ Preparation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kana and Kanji Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocabulary Quizzes</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Listening 5% / Grammar, Kanji)</td>
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The grading scale is shown below.
93-100% = A; 90-92% = A-; 87-89% = B+; 83-86% = B; 80-82% = B-; 77-79% = C+; 73-76% = C; 70-72% = C-; 67-69% = D+; 63-66% = D; 60-62% = D-; 0-59% = E.

**ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines**

**Speaking**

Speakers at the Novice Mid sublevel communicate minimally by using a number of isolated words and memorized phrases limited by the particular context in which the language has been learned. When responding to direct questions, they may say only two or three words at a time or give an occasional stock answer. They pause frequently as they search for simple vocabulary or attempt to recycle their own and their interlocutor’s words. Novice Mid speakers may be understood with difficulty even by sympathetic interlocutors accustomed to dealing with non-natives. When called on to handle topics and perform functions associated with the Intermediate level, they frequently resort to repetition, words from their native language, or silence.

**Writing**

Writers at the Novice Mid sublevel can reproduce from memory a modest number of words and phrases in context. They can supply limited information on simple forms and documents, and other basic biographical information, such as names, numbers, and nationality. Novice Mid writers exhibit a high degree of accuracy when writing on well-practiced, familiar topics using limited formulaic language. With less familiar topics, there is a marked decrease in accuracy. Errors in spelling or in the representation of symbols may be frequent. There is little evidence of functional writing skills. At this level, the writing may be difficult to understand even by those accustomed to non-native writers.

**Listening**

At the Novice Mid sublevel, listeners can recognize and begin to understand a number of high-frequency, highly contextualized words and phrases including aural cognates and borrowed words. Typically, they understand little more than one phrase at a time, and repetition may be required.

**Reading**
At the Novice Mid sublevel, readers are able to recognize the letters or symbols of an alphabetic or syllabic writing system or a limited number of characters in a character-based language. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.