

Japanese Language and Japan Studies Courses <2008 curriculum>

Akita International University welcomes International Students to study for one semester or more. Criteria for admission includes a 2.5 GPA or higher and for non-native English speakers, a TOEFL score of at least 500 (CBT173, IBT61) or an IELTS score of at least 6.5.

Our Japan Studies Curriculum is divided into Japanese Language and Japanese Culture Courses, as well as business, economics, politics, and history courses. International Students are not required to take Japanese Language courses, but we encourage you to try them to gain a deeper understanding of Japan.

Japanese Language Courses

Japanese Language Courses are divided into 4 major levels: Elementary, Intermediate, Higher-Intermediate and Advanced, and each major level is further divided into 2 to 4 sublevels. Each level features courses to improve your "Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing" skills. Placement tests will be given at the beginning of your first semester to determine your appropriate level.

To degree-seeking international students who wish to take Japanese Language courses

From Spring 2010 semester, degree-seeking international students can take Japanese language courses for credits.

Please note that the course code of Japanese language courses for non-degree seeking international students is "JPL" and

that for degree-seeking international students is "JPN" and the credit numbers of JPN courses are half of those of JPL courses.

Degree-seeking international students are also required to take the placement test given at the beginning of the first semester if they plan to take JPN courses.

Courses Offerings

General Japanese Courses

Elementary Japanese

JPL/JPN101 Elementary Japanese 101

JPL/JPN102 Elementary Japanese 102

JPL/JPN201 Elementary Japanese 201

Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN300 Intermediate Japanese 300

JPL/JPN302 Intermediate Japanese 302

JPL/JPN303 Intermediate Japanese 303

JPL/JPN304 Intermediate Japanese

304Higher-Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN401 Higher-Intermediate Japanese 401

JPL/JPN404 Higher-Intermediate Japanese 404

Advanced Japanese

JPL/JPN501 Advanced Japanese 501

JPL/JPN504 Advanced Japanese 504

Japanese Language Skill Courses

Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN342 English-Japanese

Translation (for students in JPL/JPN303& 304)

JPL/JPN361 Pronunciation (for students in JPL/JPN302, 303 & 304)

JPL/JPN372 Grammar (for students in JPL/JPN302)

JPL/JPN374 Grammar (for students in JPL/JPN303)

JPL/JPN375 Grammar (for students in JPL/JPN304)

JPL381 Kanji Foundation (for students in JPL300, 302, 303 & 304. Not available for degree-seeking students) students in JPL/JPN401, 404, 501 & 504)

JPL/JPN463 Reading Current Topics (for students who have completed JPL/ JPN401)

JPL382 Kanji Consolidation (for students in JPL300, 302, 303 & 304. Not available for degree-seeking students)

JPL/JPN390 Reading Comprehension (for students in JPL/ JPN300)

JPL/JPN391 Reading Comprehension (for students in JPL/ JPN302)

JPL/JPN394 Reading Comprehension (for students in JPL/ JPN303)

JPL/JPN395 Reading Comprehension (for students in JPL/ JPN304)

Advanced Japanese

JPL/JPN521 Japanese-Chinese Translation (for Chinese speaking students in JPL/JPN501 & 504)

JPL/JPN522 Chinese- Japanese Interpretation (for Chinese speaking students in JPL/JPN501 & 504)

JPL/JPN541 Listening (for students in JPL/JPN501)

JPL/JPN553 Japanese Language in Films (for students who have completed JPL/JPN501)

JPL/JPN562 Reading Authentic Materials (for students in JPL/JPN504)

JPL/JPN563 Reading Current Topics (for students who have completed JPL/JPN501)

JPL/JPN572 Speaking (for students in JPL/JPN504)

JPL/JPN581 Writing (for students in JPL/JPN501)

Higher-Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN411 Speaking (for students in JPL/JPN401)

JPL/JPN412 Speaking (for students in JPL/JPN404)

JPL/JPN421 Writing (for students in JPL/JPN401)

JPL/JPN422 Writing (for students in JPL/JPN404)

JPL/JPN441 Listening (for students in JPL/JPN401)

JPL/JPN452 Audiovisual Japanese (for students in JPL/ JPN404)

JPL/JPN453 Japanese Language in Films (for students who have completed JPL/JPN401)

JPL/JPN461 Pronunciation (for

Self-Directed Japanese Courses

Elementary Japanese (JPL102-201)

JPL/JPN131 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN132 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN133 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN231 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN232 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN233 Japanese Practice

Intermediate Japanese (JPL300-304)

JPL/JPN331 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN332 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN333 Japanese Practice

Higher-Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN431 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN432 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN433 Japanese Practice

Advanced Japanese

JPL/JPN531 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN532 Japanese Practice

JPL/JPN533 Japanese Practice

Course Descriptions

Course syllabi are available at <http://www.aiu.ac.jp/en/syllabus/index.html>

Elementary Japanese

JPL/JPN 101 Elementary Japanese 101 (JPL: 6 credits/JPN: 3 credits)

Designed for those who have little or no knowledge of Japanese to learn how to express their own ideas and use the language both orally and in writing through a variety of classroom activities. Instruction will focus on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as background cultural knowledge.

Textbooks: Banno, Eri and others, *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki I*, The Japan Times, 2002.

Chapters 1 to 8 will be covered.

Workbook: Banno, Eri and others, *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki I*, The Japan Times, 2002.

JPL/JPN102 Elementary Japanese 102 (JPL: 6 credits/JPN: 3 credits)

Designed for students who have successfully completed JPL/JPN101; classes are ₀ and to creatively use the language orally and in writing. Instruction will focus on the

development of listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as cultural knowledge.

Textbooks: Banno, Eri and others, *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki I and II*, The Japan Times, 2002.

Chapters 9 to 16 of Genki I and II will be covered.

Workbooks: Banno, Eri and others, *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki I Workbook and Genki II Workbook*, The Japan Times, 2002.

JPL/JPN201 Elementary Japanese 201 (JPL: 6 credits/JPN: 3 credits)

Designed for those who have successfully completed JPL/JPN102; classes are conducted mainly in Japanese.

Learn how to express your own ideas and to creatively use the language orally and in writing. Instruction will focus on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as cultural knowledge.

Textbook: Banno, Eri and others, *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki II*, The Japan Times, 2002.

Chapters 17 to 23 will be covered.

Workbook: Banno, Eri and others, *An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese: Genki II Workbook*, The Japan Times, 2002.

Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN300 Intermediate Japanese 300 (JPL: 6 credits/JPN: 3 credits)

Designed for those who have successfully completed JPL/JPN201; Elementary Japanese with Genki I and II or equivalent textbooks. Instruction will focus on the development of listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as cultural knowledge. This course will help students develop oral fluency so that they can interact in various

situations within their daily lives and express their own ideas in Japanese with ease. This course will also consolidate their grammatical knowledge learned in the elementary level classes and expand vocabulary and expressions in order to prepare for their study in the Intermediate Japanese classes.

Textbook: Akira Miura & Naomi Hanaoka McGloin, *An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese [Revised Edition]*, 2008, The Japan Times

An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese [Revised Edition] Workbook.

JPL/JPN302 Intermediate Japanese 302(JPL: 4credits/JPN: 2 credits)

Designed for those who have successfully completed JPL/JPN300 or equivalent. This course is for improving overall Japanese language skills with a special focus on reading and writing. Expressions and vocabulary as well as the appropriate styles of writing found in academic texts and newspapers will be studied. The main textbook will be supplemented with Japanese materials from various academic disciplines.

Textbook: Akira Miura & Naomi Hanaoka McGloin, *An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese [Revised Edition]*, 2008, The Japan Times

An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese [Revised Edition] Workbook.

JPL/JPN303 Intermediate Japanese 303 (JPL: 4credits/JPN: 2 credits)

Designed for those who have successfully completed JPL/JPN302 or equivalent. This course is for improving overall Japanese language skills with a special focus on reading and writing. Expressions and vocabulary as well as the appropriate styles of writing found in academic texts

and newspapers will be studied. The main textbook will be supplemented with Japanese materials from various academic disciplines.

Textbook: Akira Miura & Naomi Hanaoka McGloin, *An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese [Revised Edition]*, 2008, The Japan Times

An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese [Revised Edition] Workbook.

JPL/JPN304 Intermediate Japanese 304 (JPL: 4credits/JPN: 2 credits)

Designed for the students who have successfully completed JPL/JPN303. This course will mainly focus on the development of students' speaking skills, especially those required to conduct effective oral presentations. Another focus of this class is developing reading and writing skills relating to textbook topics. New sentence patterns as well as new vocabularies of intermediate level Japanese language will be introduced and practiced in the classroom. Students will learn about Japanese cultural and social background through presentation projects and activities.

Textbook: Sasaki, Kaoru and others, *Topic ni yoru Nihongo Sogo-enshu*, Higher-Intermediate Level. 2001, Three A Network

JPL/JPN342 English Japanese Translation (JPL: 2 credits/JPN: 1 credit)

Designed for JPL/JPN303 and 304 level students who are native or near native English speakers. We will practice translating mainly from English to Japanese and compare the differences between English and Japanese in order to produce natural Japanese.

JPL/JPN361 Pronunciation (JPL: 2 credits/JPN: 1 credit)

This course is for intermediate Japanese learners who are concurrently enrolled in JPL/JPN302, 303 or 304. This course helps students to improve their listening ability and fluency as well as accuracy of pronunciation and accent patterns with conversational Japanese. Students will learn various forms of contractions, euphonic changes in daily conversation. They will be advised how to solve their own problems in pronunciation and prosody. The classroom activities are mainly recitation and exercises on the Japanese accent rules.

Textbook: Saito, Hitoshi and others, *Shadowing, Nihongo o Hanaso, Kuroshio Shuppan, 2006.*

JPL/JPN372, JPL/JPN374 & JPL/JPN375 Grammar (JPL: 2 credits/JPN: 1 credit)

JPL/JPN372, 374 and 375 are designed for students in JPL/JPN302, 303 and 304 respectively. These courses provide students with opportunities to increase and consolidate their understanding and accurate usage of intermediate level grammar, in order to prepare for study in more advanced level courses. Throughout the course, students learn how to use intermediate level grammar in various contexts: They will demonstrate their understanding of grammatical rules through oral/written tasks and class discussions.

JPL381 Kanji Foundation (1 credit)

This is a Kanji Foundation course aimed mainly for students at the intermediate level (JPL300, 302, 303 and 304) whose first language DOES NOT make use of Chinese characters (but not exclusively), or those who

have not yet built a reasonable foundation of Kanji to learn effectively in their intermediate level courses. This course provides students with opportunities to learn and review Kanji introduced in elementary level classes, and to expand their knowledge of Kanji, in order to prepare for their study in the higher-intermediate level courses. In class, students practice reading and writing Kanji with several compounds used in daily life. They also try to find interesting kanji used in signboards, menus, flyers, magazines, comics, TV and movie subtitles, homepages on the web, etc.

JPL382 Kanji Consolidation (1 credit)

This is a Kanji Consolidation course aimed mainly for students at the intermediate level (JPL 300, 302, 303 and 304) whose first language includes use of written Chinese characters (but not exclusively.), or those who have learned a reasonable number of Kanji characters and are able to use them in reading and writing effectively. This course provides students with opportunities to review Kanji introduced in elementary level classes, and to expand their knowledge of Kanji, in order to prepare for their study in the higher-intermediate level courses. In class, students practice reading and writing Kanji with several compounds used in daily life. They also try to find interesting kanji used in signboards, menus, flyers, magazines, comics, TV and movie subtitles, homepages on the web, etc.

JPL/JPN390, 391, 394 and 395 Reading Comprehension (JPL: 2 credits/JPN: 1 credit)

JPL/JPN390, 391, 394 and 395 are designed for students in JPL/JPN300, 302, 303 and 304 respectively. These courses provide opportunities for students

to read intermediate level materials, and to understand information about Japanese culture and society through these readings and class discussions. It is expected that the readings and discussions will prepare students for study in more advanced level courses.

Higher-Intermediate Japanese

JPL/JPN401 Higher-Intermediate Japanese 401 (JPL: 4 credits /JPN: 2 credits)

This course is designed for students at the higher-intermediate level. Although this course focuses on the development of all four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening, emphasis will be placed on reading comprehension. In this course the first half of "Intermediate Japanese J501" will be used as the core text, supplemented with authentic Japanese materials from several academic disciplines. Authentic materials may include newspaper articles on relevant social or political issues, short essays, and short articles from academic texts. Class activities will also include class and small group discussions and individual presentations. Textbook: Satoshi Toki. Intermediate Japanese J501. Three A Network, 2001

JPL/JPN404 Higher-Intermediate Japanese 404 (JPL: 4 credits /JPN: 2 credits)

This course is a continuation of JPL/JPN401 and is designed for students at the higher-intermediate level of Japanese who want to further expand their understanding and use of vocabulary and expressions found in Japanese texts. As in JPL 401, though the course focuses on the development of all four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening,

much emphasis is placed on literacy, and in particular reading and responding to text, particularly academic texts. Class activities include class and small group discussions as well as individual presentations.

Textbook: Satoshi Toki. Intermediate Japanese J501. Three A Network, 2001

JPL/JPN411 Speaking (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

Designed for students at the higher-intermediate level(JPL/JPN401). This course provides students with opportunities to objectively analyze Japanese conversations, and to apply their findings to their own Japanese conversation skills. In class, students analyze conversations spoken in Japanese. The conversations are based on TV programs.They analyze and practice using Japanese discourse strategies (e.g., confirmation questions, making brief responses while listening, sentence connections, final particles, questions, assessments, polite expressions, topic shifts and turn-taking techniques). They also analyze and practice Japanese free conversation, storytellings, discussions, conversations about traveling, dating and TV talk-shows. In the final project, students make and present their own original video.

JPL/JPN412 Speaking (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at higher-intermediate level (JPL/JPN404) who want to improve their speaking skills. Through a variety of interactive learning activities including role-plays, students will learn to use various speech styles appropriate for given situations, especially with regard to the use of Keigo(honorific words).

JPL/JPN421 and 422 Writing (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

These courses are designed for students who are in JPL/JPN401 and 404 respectively. This course provides students with opportunities to develop the writing skills and writing styles necessary to perform a variety of writing tasks. The tasks include both informal writing as well as academic writing required at the university level, such as essays and reports. Class activities include group and class discussions and presentations.

JPL/JPN441 Listening (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at higher-intermediate level (JPL/JPN 401) to improve their listening and speaking skills for conversational Japanese. Students will learn various useful expressions to be used in everyday life, and the speech styles appropriate for formal and informal situations. Students will also practice conversations using the learned expressions and phrases with appropriate intonation patterns.

JPL/JPN452 Audiovisual Japanese (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at the higher-intermediate level (JPL/JPN 404.) In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of audio-visual materials for the purpose of improving aural comprehension, particularly with regard to their ability to understand, predict, and summarize the contents of important information. It is expected that in addition to comprehending literal and metaphorical uses of language, students will also recognize cultural assumptions/beliefs embedded in specific programs/genres, and the accompanying modes/styles of language used. Students will

respond to the materials orally and in writing: They will discuss and exchange opinions, and write reports. Supplementary reading materials such as newspaper articles will be used to reinforce learning.

JPL/JPN453 Japanese Language in Films (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is for higher-intermediate Japanese learners. This course aims to improve learners' overall communication skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening, mainly through films. Students will acquire new vocabulary and expressions from the films. Class activities will include reading film scripts, discussions about their content, writing essays on their themes and giving presentations. Students evaluate one another's performances in the classroom and on their own by watching DVDs recorded during class activities.

JPL/JPN461 Pronunciation (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is for higher-intermediate and advanced Japanese learners who are concurrently enrolled in JPL/JPN401, 404, 501, or 504. This course helps students to improve their listening ability and fluency as well as accuracy of pronunciation and accent patterns using Japanese. Students will learn various forms of contractions, euphonic changes in different styles of spoken Japanese. They will be advised how to solve their own problems in pronunciation and prosody. The classroom activities are mainly recitation and exercises on the Japanese accent rules.

JPL/JPN463 Reading Current Topics (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at

the higher-intermediate level who want to improve their reading skills. This course will focus on the development of reading and speaking ability to be able to cope with various current topics in today's Japan. Students will read a variety of Japanese newspaper articles from politics, business, and fashion to pop culture and will discuss those issues in the classroom.

Advanced Japanese

JPL/JPN501 Advanced Japanese 501 (JPL: 4 credits /JPN: 2 credits)

This course is designed for students at the advanced level of Japanese. The purpose of the course is the improvement of students' overall Japanese language abilities and skills. Authentic materials, including current topic, popular magazines and TV programs will be used. Class activities will include reporting and discussion of current topics in Japan, particularly on issues of politics, economics and culture.

JPL/JPN504 Advanced Japanese 504 (JPL: 4 credits /JPN: 2 credits)

This course is a continuation of JPL/JPN501. As in JPL/JPN501, the purpose of the course is the improvement of students' overall Japanese language abilities and skills. Authentic materials, including current topic, popular magazines and TV programs, will be used. Class activities will include reporting and discussion of current topics in Japan, particularly on issues of politics, economics and culture.

JPL/JPN521 Japanese-Chinese Translation (3 credits)

Designed for Chinese speakers with an Advanced Level of Japanese.

Investigate the differences between Japanese and Chinese, examine linguistic issues that are problematic for Chinese speakers, and learn skills necessary for translation. We will do in-class practice and use materials to understand which form of translation is most appropriate as a means of transmitting information. To enhance learning, students are required to do a great deal of in-class practice. Emphasis is on:

1. Basic views on translating Japanese into Chinese.
2. Translation as a means of information communication.
3. Differences between Japanese and Chinese translation skills.
4. Developing a better understanding of the cultural differences between Japan and China through translation exercises.

JPL/JPN522 Chinese-Japanese Interpretation (3 credits)

Designed for Chinese speakers with an Advanced Level of Japanese. Through lectures and a variety of class activities, gain background knowledge and learn expressions and skills needed for Chinese-Japanese interpretation. Improve your Japanese language speaking ability and to develop a better understanding of the cultural differences between expressions used in Chinese and Japanese.

Emphasis is on:

1. Basic linguistic knowledge needed for interpretation.
2. Differences between Chinese and Japanese language.
3. Necessary skills for Chinese-Japanese interpretation.
4. Cultural differences between Chinese and Japanese expressions.

JPL/JPN541 Listening (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This is an advanced Japanese course designed to improve students' listening and speaking skills for conversational Japanese. Students will learn various useful expressions to be used in everyday life, and the speech styles appropriate for formal and informal situations. Students will also practice conversations using the learned expressions and phrases with appropriate intonation patterns.

JPL/JPN553 Japanese Language in Films (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is for advanced Japanese learners. This course aims to improve learners' overall communication skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening, mainly through films. Students will acquire new vocabulary and expressions from the films. Class activities will include reading the scripts of the films, discussions about the content of the films, writing essays on the films and give presentations. Students evaluate one another's performances in the classroom and on their own by watching DVDs recorded during class activities.

JPL/JPN562 Reading Authentic Materials (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at the advanced level who want to improve their reading skills and increase their knowledge of Japanese literature. The primary learning materials include novels and short stories written by contemporary Japanese writers. Students will use several pre-reading strategies such as scanning, skimming and predicting in order to become more effective and autonomous readers.

JPL/JPN563 Reading Current Topics (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at the advanced level who want to improve their reading skills. This course will focus on the development of reading and speaking ability to be able to cope with various current topics in today's Japan. Students will read a variety of Japanese newspaper and magazine articles ranging from politics and business to fashion and pop culture, and will discuss them in the classroom.

JPL/JPN572 Speaking (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at the advanced level of Japanese. The focus of this course is to improve students' presentation ability in the Japanese language. To improve speaking skills, students will carry out academic style presentations. For these presentations, students will have to collect data through interviews with various Japanese groups, in the Japanese language. The final presentation is planned to be held in front of guests from both inside and outside the program.

JPL/JPN581 Writing (JPL: 2 credits /JPN: 1 credit)

This course is designed for students at the advanced level (JPL501) who want to improve their writing skills. In this course, students will first learn vocabulary, expressions, organization and the rules necessary for academic writing and will then write their own papers on a wide range of topics, utilizing the skills they have acquired.

Self-Directed Japanese Courses

JPL/JPN 131, 132, 133, 231, 232, 233,

**331, 332, 333, 431, 432, 433, 531, 532
and 533 Japanese Practice (1 credit)**

"Japanese Practice" courses are one-credit courses with Pass/Fail grades. By taking these courses, students are expected to find ways to improve their Japanese language skills through the utilization of audio visual materials such as Japanese movies, TV dramas, and other authentic materials. Topics of study are not limited to linguistic aspects of Japanese. Rather, students are encouraged to learn about cultural and interpersonal aspects of Japanese society and life. At the beginning of the semester, students receive guidance regarding the course and advice on how and what to study in the course.

Then students are required to spend 2 to 3 hours or more per week (5 hours per week in Winter) for their independent study and keep their records of study. During the semester students will meet the instructor several times at the classroom to report their progress and discuss problems. The proof of more than 35 hours of independent study and records of their studies must be submitted to the instructor at the end of the semester to pass the course.