KCJS Summer Program 2025



INTRODUCTION TO CLASSICAL JAPANESE ・ 古文コース

M-F 0900-1240, ROOM Hakuenkan 博遠館 103 Matthew Fraleigh マシュー・フレーリ, Brandeis University fraleigh@brandeis.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is intended primarily for beginning students who have no prior knowledge of Classical Japanese (bungo 文語 / kobun 古文 / kogo 古語, etc.). It is designed to give students a systematic and intensive introduction to the grammar of classical Japanese. Texts are taken mainly from the Heian and medieval periods, though texts from later periods will also be introduced. It is expected that by the end of the course students will have acquired a firm foundation in classical Japanese grammar and will be able to read classical Japanese texts with the aid of a dictionary. Students will generally find that they also have an improved grasp of modern Japanese grammar and will also gain experience in using Japanese-Japanese dictionaries. The course will also include some instruction in reading cursive Japanese, primarily variant kana (hentaigana), and field trips to sites related to materials covered in class.

TEXTS

The following three texts are required:

- · Shirane, Haruo. Classical Japanese: A Grammar. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005.
- · Suzuki Kazuo 鈴木一雄 et al., ed. Sanseidō Zen'yaku dokkai kogo jiten 『三省堂 全訳読解古語辞典』. 5th ed. Tokyo: Sanseidō, 2017.
- ・Nakano Kōichi 中野幸一 ed. *Hentaigana no tebiki* 『変体仮名の手引』. Revised edition. Tokyo: Musashino shoin, 1999.

Additional materials distributed by the instructor and drawn in part from the following: Shirane, Haruo. Classical Japanese Reader and Essential Dictionary. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.

Kanechiku Nobuyuki 兼築信行. Isshūkan de yomeru kuzushiji: Ise monogatari 『一週間で読めるくずし字 伊勢物語』. Kyoto: Tankōsha, 2006.

Kanechiku Nobuyuki 兼築信行. Isshūkan de yomeru kuzushiji: Kokinshū, Shinkokinshū 『一週間で読めるくずし字 古今集・新古今集』. Kyoto: Tankōsha, 2006.

Various texts from the Shin Nihon koten bungaku taikei 新日本古典文学大系 (SNKBT) or Shinpen Nihon koten bungaku zenshū 新編日本古典文学全集 (SNKBZ).

ASSESSMENT

The first part of the course will include daily short grammar quizzes that will help ensure that students stay on top of the material. Much of the class time overall will be devoted to reading primary texts in classical Japanese: students should prepare the assigned readings for class so that they are able to read the text aloud, explain important grammar points, and produce intelligible English translations for each sentence. The grading breakdown for the class is as follows:

CLASS PARTICIPATION	50%
QUIZZES	20%
FINAL EXAM	30%



Please note that the syllabus and schedule are tentative and subject to change.

SCH	HEDULE O	F CLASSES	(Hentaigana readings TBA)
0	R 12 June	Orientation, 10 AM	
1	F 13 June	Introduction CJG Chapter 1, Basic Grammatical Terms and Conce CJG Chapter 2, Orthography and Pronunciation	epts
2	M 16 June	Quiz on basic grammatical terms and concepts Quiz on orthography CJG Chapter 3, Verbs CJG Chapter 4, Irregular Verbs	
3	T 17 June	Quiz on verb conjugations Quiz on irregular verb conjugations CJG Chapter 5, Adjectives and Verbal Adjectives CJG Chapter 6, Negative and Recollective Auxiliary	v Verbs
4	W 18 June	Quiz on adjective and verbal adjective conjugations Quiz on conjugations and meaning of negative and recollective auxiliary verbs CJG Chapter 7, Perfective and Continuative Auxiliary Verbs CJG Chapter 8, Copular Auxiliary Verbs	
5	R 19 June	Quiz on conjugations and meanings of perfective auxiliary verbs Quiz on conjugations and meanings of copular auxiliary verbs CJG Chapter 9, Auxiliary Verbs of Speculation and Supposition	
6	F 20 June	Quiz on conjugations and meanings of speculative auxiliary verbs CJG Chapter 10, Negative Speculative, Desiderative, and Comparative Auxiliary Verbs CJG Chapter 11, Passive and Causative Auxiliary Verbs	
7	M 22 June	Quiz on conjugations & meanings of neg. spec., desiderative, and comparative aux. verbs Quiz on conjugations and meanings of passive and causative auxiliary verbs Hōjōki (CJR)	
8	T 24 June	CJG Chapter 12, Case Particles Hōjōki (CJR)	
9	W 25 June	CJG Chapter 13, Conjunctive Particles Hōjōki (CJR)	
10	R 26 June	CJG Chapter 14, Bound Particles Ise monogatari (CJR; SNKBT)	
11	F 27 June	NO CLASS	Independent trip (自主旅行)
12	M 30 June	CJG Chapter 15, Adverbial Particles Ise monogatari (SNKBT)	
13	T 1 July	CJG Chapter 16, Final and Interjectory Particles Ise monogatari (SNKBT)	1:00-2:30 Noh presentation
14	W 2 July	CJG Chapter 17, Nouns, Pronouns, Adverbs, Interje Makura no sōshi (CJR)	ctions, Conjunctions, & Attributive Words

15	R 3 July	Uji shūi monogatari (CJR; SNKBZ)	
16	F 4 July	Uji shūi monogatari (SNKBZ)	FIELD TRIP TO SEIMEI JINJA
17	M 7 July	CJG Chapter 18, Honorific Expressions Genji monogatari (CJR; SNKBT)	
18	T 8 July	CJG Chapter 19, Humble and Polite Expressions Genji monogatari (CJR; SNKBT)	
19	W 9 July	Genji monogatari (SNKBT)	
20	R 10 July	NO IN-CLASS SESSION FIELD TRIP TO GENJI MONOGATA	ARI MUSEUM AND BYŌDŌIN, UJI
21	F 11 July	Kokinshū Kanajo and summer poems (SNKBT)	
22	M 14 July	Heike monogatari (SNKBT)	Gion Matsuri
23	T 15 July	Heike monogatari (SNKBT)	
24	W 16 July	Heike monogatari (SNKBT)	
25	R 17 July	Noh Yashima	
26	F 18 July	Introduction to kanbun kundoku	FIELD TRIP TO SHISENDŌ
27	M 21 July	NO CLASS	
28	T 22 July	Konjaku monogatari shū (SNKBT)	
29	W 23 July	Konjaku monogatari shū (SNKBT)	
30	R 24 July	Review	
31	F 25 July	FINAL EXAMINATION 0900 – 1130	

	IMPORTANT NOTICES
ABSENCES	This is an intensive course, so regular class attendance is essential . Students who miss class for any reason are responsible for covering the material covered in the missed class themselves, and should contact a classmate to obtain notes and find out about any missed assignments, announcements or other information. In addition, if such absences will affect the completion or submission by the student of assessed assignments or examinations, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor in writing and making arrangements for the submission or completion of such work according to a revised schedule agreed upon by both the student and the instructor. Note that permission to make up missed work is entirely at the instructor's discretion and is not guaranteed.
RECORDING OF CLASSES	Please note that recording of any part of the class is permitted only with the prior written consent of the instructor or if recording is part of an approved accommodation plan.
CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM	The KCJS is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are urged to avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or any other form of academic dishonesty. PLAGIARISM Assignments submitted for assessment must be entirely your own work (or that of your group); you may not present the work of others as your own. CHEATING You may not make use of unauthorized material or information in an examination; you also may not take an exam on behalf of anyone else.
ETIQUETTE AND PROFESSIONALISM	When emailing your instructor, please give your email a meaningful subject line (referencing KCJS). Keep your messages short, clear, and to the point, and use standard spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Always proofread and remember to sign your emails. To maintain a positive and professional atmosphere, make sure you use appropriate forms of address, both in emails and in person. Unless they explicitly give you permission to do otherwise, professors should always be addressed with their title and surname, as "Professor" or "Dr" or " Sensei". Please note that students may not make or answer phone calls, read or send text messages or email, surf the web, play games, or eat during class. Doing any of these things will adversely affect your participation grade.