

**Fourth-Year Japanese
Nakata
Syllabus
Spring Semester 2026**

Contact Information

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Instructor	中村 伊都子 (Itsuko Nakamura)	in2008@columbia.edu
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Course Information

Class Hours

1 st period	9:00-10:00
2 nd period	10:10-11:10

Classroom: F205b

Credits: 8 points

Objective of KCJS's Japanese Program

The objective of KCJS's Japanese Program is to enhance the student's communicative competence and to enable interactions with others in Japanese. In particular, a KCJS student will come to:

1. Understand the intentions of others when Japanese is spoken;
2. Understand the intentions of others when written materials of various genres and media are presented;
3. Control the use of Japanese expressions, both spoken and written, in order to fit the socio-cultural settings and purposes of communication;
4. Expand the modes of communication used to include such genres as formal presentations, negotiations, projects, the organization of events, and their follow-up.

Course Description

The 4th-year Japanese program is designed for those who have completed at least three years of college-level Japanese or the equivalent (around 450 hours of Japanese study). The students who want to take this course are expected to be at the **Intermediate-High level** or above of [the ACTFL \(American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages\) Proficiency Guidelines](#) at the beginning of the course.

For a more detailed description, please follow the links provided below:

ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines Intermediate: [Speaking](#) | [Writing](#) | [Listening](#) | [Reading](#)
(see the section of "INTERMEDIATE HIGH")

Please note that the language levels used at KCJS (i.e. 2nd-year, 3rd-year, etc.) may not exactly match those used at your home institution. The placement test, however, will help ensure that you are enrolled in a class that will improve your skills most effectively.

In addition to the classroom activities, students will have the opportunity to pursue an individualized project that is based on their own interests. They will deliver a presentation on their project at the end of the program.

Course Objectives

Our goal is for our students to find their own voice in Japanese language, with which they can express and negotiate their individual identities by seamlessly switching between their own cultural communicative styles to those of the host culture in order to facilitate mutually desired outcomes, empathize with others, and communicate creatively and effectively.

To this end, we will assist students to achieve Intermediate-High or above of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Upon successful completion of the course, the students will:

1. have a command of intermediate-level grammar and vocabulary, including kango 漢語 vocabulary and idiomatic expressions (equivalent to JLPT N3-N2);
2. understand general ideas presented in both speaking and writing;
3. be able to participate in discussions on a wide range of topics,
4. be able to narrate and describe people, places, and events effectively and at length;
5. be able to infer the meaning of unknown words/phrases/passages from context;
6. acquire skills and strategies for self-directed learning.

Course Materials

1. 「TRY!日本語能力試験 N1 文法から伸ばす日本語」改定版(英語訳付き)
ABK 財団法人 アジア学生文化協会 (著)
出版社 : アスク(2023/4/17)
ISBN-10 : 4866396180
ISBN-13 : 978-4866396187
2. 「日本語能力試験問題集 N1 漢字スピードマスター」
倉品さやか (著)
出版社: J リサーチ出版 Multilingual 版 (2021/1/23)
ISBN-10 : 4863924992
ISBN-13 : 978-4863924994

Supplementary Materials

A wide range of authentic materials such as newspaper, novels, movies, and documentaries will be used alongside the textbooks.

IMPORTANT: You are not allowed to, unless otherwise instructed:

- Share all materials distributed in class, such as, but not limited to, handouts in paper/PDFs, grammar videos, Zoom recordings, with others including classmates;
- Audio- or video-record class meetings;
- Take screenshots at any time during online class meetings.

Useful Tools

See the [Resources](#) page on CourseWorks

Course Policy

General

1. In the event of illness or other absence, please notify your language instructor by the beginning of the class hour (i.e. 9am) by E-mail.
2. Students are expected to abide by the "Participation Agreement" they signed during the admissions process for KCJS, as well as the code of Academic Conduct outlined in [Columbia University's General Handbook](#) and your KCJS Handbook.
3. Students with disability paperwork should contact their instructors as soon as possible at the beginning of the term in order to discuss accommodations.
4. You are strongly encouraged to communicate with each other in Japanese in the Japanese classroom.
5. No consuming food in class.
6. Use formal speech (です / ます) style when talking to Japanese instructors and staff members.
7. Emails sent after 5pm Monday through Thursday will NOT be answered until the following morning. Emails sent after 5pm on Friday as well as on Saturday and Sunday will NOT be answered until Monday morning.
8. It is your responsibility to check time and keep the deadline of homework, quizzes, etc.

Attendance/Participation

1. Daily attendance is mandatory. NO make-up classes will be given.
2. If you are absent from or late to class, one point will be deducted from your participation score for every 5 minutes you are absent. Tardiness of 1, 2, 3, or 4 minutes will be treated as 5 full minutes.
3. Any absence from class over 20 minutes will be treated as one class absence.
4. At the end of the semester, your lowest **six** performance scores, regardless of reason (e.g., illness, poor performance) will be dropped from your record when your grade is calculated. You should save them for illness and emergencies that prevent you from attending class.
5. From the **seventh** class absence, you will receive a zero for each class missed, including the first and second sessions. [Note that this refers to class absences, not days absent. If you are absent for a whole day, it will be counted as two zero grades.]
6. For absences arising due to extenuating circumstances beyond the seven class absences (e.g., return to your country for the funeral of a relative), please write an explanation of the situation within five business days upon your return and submit that to the Director with a copy to your language instructor for consideration with respect to your final grade. If you fail to submit a written explanation within five business days upon your return, then your score for that day will NOT be dropped at the end of the semester and it will remain as zero.
7. Do not come to class if you have 37.5 Celsius (99.5 Fahrenheit) or higher regardless of infectious disease test results.

Quizzes & Review Tests

1. If you are not present when the quiz is distributed, you will not be allowed to take the quiz.
2. The lowest **one** quiz grade will be dropped from the final score at the end of the semester.
3. All quizzes that must be submitted online must be uploaded by 9AM on the assigned day.
4. You will not be allowed to make up or reschedule quizzes **under any circumstances.**
5. You may be permitted to make up review tests at the discretion of the instructor, except for personal reasons.
6. The Participation Agreement you signed stipulates the following:
"I understand that attendance in class and any required activities are mandatory and I will not plan any personal travel that might interfere with the academic program."
Therefore, makeup tests will not be scheduled especially for you before or after your travel, nor can you ask for the schedule to be changed for the test.
You are expected to take full responsibility for the consequences of your absence for personal travel.

Homework

1. All assignments must be submitted on time, i.e. by 9am on due date or otherwise instructed. Read the instructions carefully and follow them.
2. It will be considered one-day late if it is turned in after the class on the assigned day.
3. If an assignment is submitted in one-day late, 10% will be deducted from the grade for every day it is late.
4. No homework submitted beyond two days after the due date will receive a grade.
5. Outstanding homework assigned during your absence must be submitted no later than the second day of your return to class. A 10% grade penalty will be applied to the outstanding assignment after the third day of your return to class. Completed homework assigned during your absence will not be accepted beyond the fourth day of your return to class.
6. All homework must be done INDIVIDUALLY. If it is discovered that the students have done any action against the Columbia University's Honor Code, you will be penalized accordingly.
7. You will be required to re-submit homework assignments that require self-corrections for 'redoing (やり直し)'. You must correct and resubmit the homework within three days or the original grade you received for that work will stand.
8. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to submit redo homework after the last day of class.

Grading Scale for Preparation, Participation, Attendance

Preparation, Participation, Attendance	20%
Homework	13%
Posting Discussion Topics	2%
Quizzes	15%
Review Tests	20%
Final Exam	15%
Individual Project	10%
CIP	5%

10	Preparation for assigned materials is thoroughly done. The student is able to actively participate in class activities, and their performance is smooth. In student's preparation, unclear areas are identified clearly. The content of the material is understood accurately. Performance clearly reflects the feedback instructors have given previously.
8	Participation is active, but preparation has not been thoroughly performed. In the student's preparation, unclear areas are not identified clearly. The content of the assigned material is not understood thoroughly or accurately. Performance is not smooth in order to communicate without difficulty. Mistakes are repeatedly made in the same areas where instructors have given feedback previously.
6	Lack of thorough preparation hinders active participation in class activities. In the student's preparation, unclear areas are not identified clearly. The content of the assigned material is only partial or greatly misunderstood.
5	Preparation has not been performed, and nor is there participation in class activities. In the student's preparation, unclear areas are not identified clearly. The content of the assigned material is not understood.
0	Absent

Grading Scale for Individual Projects

10	You submitted a final individual project that demonstrates a high level of preparation and achievement. You engaged fully in independent consultations, making strong use of new vocabulary and phrases with accurate articulation. Your grammar was strong and you contributed culturally appropriate explanations, assessments, and arguments. You handled questions from the instructors well, providing responses that encourage smooth communication.
8	A reasonably high level of accomplishment was demonstrated in your final submission. However, there were some insufficiencies in your accuracy, cultural appropriateness, and/or your ability to make full use of new vocabulary and phrases. The work was such that the instructor needed to think quite hard to comprehend your main ideas. You might have repeated mistakes that were addressed in the pasts. You attended independent consultations enthusiastically, however, there remained weaknesses in vocabulary, grammar, and cultural appropriateness. As a result, the instructor may have experienced difficulty ascertaining your opinion accurately, therefore placing a burden on the former to ensure conversations progress.
6	Thorough preparation on your individual project was not apparent. Participation in individual consultations was passive. There was either a lack of sufficient understanding or there were misunderstandings about the topic. As a result, you were not able to understand the questions or ideas put forth by the instructor. Conversation did not progress smoothly and there was a great burden on the instructor to ensure conversations continued.
5	There was clearly a lack of preparation on your individual project. You attended independent consultations, however, you did not develop a project sufficiently.
0	Absent

Academic Integrity

As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars' work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited. In practical terms, this means that, as students, all work submitted in this course, whether in draft or final form, must be your own. You must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent. Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated.

Use of Generative AI

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor granting permission, the use of Generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is prohibited. The unauthorized use of AI shall be treated similarly to unauthorized assistance and/or plagiarism (page 11 of Standards and Discipline at <https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/standards-and-discipline>).

Policy

KCJS expects all KCJS community members to follow these guidelines when using Generative AI tools for teaching and learning, research, and work-related functions.

- Do not input Confidential Information;
- Do not input Personal Information;
- Do not input information that violates IP or general contract terms and conditions;
- Confirm the accuracy of the output provided by Generative AI tools;

- Check the output of Generative AI tools for bias;
- Disclose the use of Generative AI tools;
- Comply with third-party intellectual property rights.

For more detailed information, please refer to the following page.

<https://provost.columbia.edu/content/office-senior-vice-provost/ai-policy>

<Plagiarism>

The use of words, phrases, or ideas that do not belong to the student, without properly citing or acknowledging the source, is prohibited whether in draft or final form. This may include, but is not limited to, copying computer code for the purposes of completing assignments for submission.

To avoid committing plagiarism, cite **all sources** properly.

When submitting writing assignments via Google Docs, **type in all text manually and directly** into the document. **Do not cut and paste any text.** Cutting and pasting any text will result in an automatic zero (0) grade for the assignment.

Example:

[Text on the Web]

いま、私たちが「女言葉」と認識している「だわ」「のよ」といった言葉づかいの起源は、明治時代の女学生の話し言葉です。ただ、当時は正しい日本語とは扱われず「良妻賢母には似合わない」「下品で乱れた言葉」だと、さんざん非難されていたのです。

女言葉が正統な日本語に位置づけられたのは、朝鮮半島や台湾などの植民地でとられた同化政策の中でのことです。「女と男で異なる言葉遣いをする」のが日本語のすばらしさであるとされ、多様な言葉づかいの一部だけを「女言葉として語る」ことで、概念が生み出されました。

朝日デジタル Think Gender 「下品から上品に変わった女言葉 「女は女らしいはずだ」の幻想は続く」言語学者・中村桃子さん「女言葉」の位置づけ、変わる日もある? 聞き手・田中聡子 聞き手・藤えりか 聞き手・刀祿館正明 2021 年 11 月 13 日 16 時 00 分

[Plagiarism Case]

現在、「だわ」「のよ」といった「女言葉」と認識されている言葉づかいの起源は、明治時代の女学生の話し言葉だった。しかし、当時は正しい日本語とは考えられていず「良妻賢母には似合わない」「下品で乱れた言葉」だと、強く非難されていた。

女言葉がきちんとした日本語と考えられるようになったのは、朝鮮半島や台湾などの植民地でとられた同化政策の中でのことだった。「女と男で違う言葉を使う」のが日本語のすばらしさであるとされ、多様な言葉づかいの一部だけを「女言葉として語る」ことで、女言葉という概念が生み出されたのだ。

[Source Properly Cited]

朝日デジタルの「Think Gender」シリーズの2021年11月13日の「下品から上品に変わった女言葉 『女は女らしいはずだ』の幻想は続く」という記事に言語学者、中村桃子氏のインタビューが掲載されていた。

中村氏によると、「だわ」「のよ」といった現在「女言葉」と認識されている言葉づかいは、もともと明治時代の女学生の話し言葉だったそうだ。しかし、当時は正しい日本語とは考えられていず「良妻賢母には似合わない」「下品で乱れた言葉」だと、強く非難されていたということだ。

それが、女言葉がきちんとした日本語と考えられるようになったのは、朝鮮半島や台湾などの植民地でとられた同化政策の中でだったそうだ。中村氏は、「女と男で違う言葉を使う」のが日本語のすばらしさであるとされ、多様な言葉づかいの一

部だけを「女言葉として語る」ことで、女言葉という概念が生み出されたと、女言葉の起源について説明している。

Grade

Based on the relative weights indicated on the previous section, a composite numerical grade will be computed, to which a letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A	100 - 94	B	86.9 - 83	C	76.9 - 73	D	66.9 - 63
A-	93.9 - 90	B-	82.9 - 80	C-	72.9 - 70	D-	62.9 - 60
B+	89.9 - 87	C+	79.9 - 77	D+	69.9 - 67	F	59.9 -

Please note that we do not round number when we determine your final grade. To earn the below letter grades your final numerical grade must fall within the given ranges.

If you are an Academic Year student, you must earn a B or above in the fall semester to continue to study at KCJS in the spring semester.

Grade Report

Your grade is updated in the online grade book. You should access the grade book regularly to gauge your progress. If you find an error, it is your responsibility to let the instructor know immediately so that necessary adjustments are made in a timely manner.

To Ensure a Successful Working Relationship:

In our course, there will be many opportunities to discuss ideas in small groups. To support a productive, respectful, and learning-focused discussion, I ask that you participate with the following classroom norms, which we will review and add to together as a class:

- Listen respectfully. Comments that you make (whether asking for clarification, sharing critiques, or expanding on a point) should reflect that you have paid attention to the previous speakers' comments.
- Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others.
- Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space, as anyone does when approaching complex tasks or learning new skills. Strive to see your mistakes and others' as valuable elements of the learning process.
- Understand that your words have effects on others. Speak with care.
- Understand that others will come to these discussions with different experiences from yours. Be careful about assumptions and generalizations you make based only on your own experience.
- Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems. If you are uncertain about someone else's approach, ask a question to explore areas of uncertainty.
- Differentiate between opinion--which everyone has--and informed knowledge, which comes from sustained experience, study, and practice. Hold your opinions lightly and with humility.

Language learning is a cumulative process that requires discipline and daily efforts. Missing even one class can create a gap affecting your entire subsequent study. **COME TO EVERY CLASS!** You are urged to bring ANY problem you have to the coordinating instructor's attention, no matter how minor you may think it is.

がんばりましょう！