

**Course Title:** Project-based Japanese (Advanced-level) : Interview Project

**Instructor:** Itsuko Nakamura

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**Course Time:** Wednesdays 1:10 - 4:25 (with small breaks)

**Location:** TBA

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Prerequisites:** Advanced level learners

\*NOTE\* Students must obtain instructor's permission to take this course

This is a non-credit course.

### **Course Description & Objectives:**

This course is an opportunity to fully engage in the life of Kyoto and explore your interests in any art form, business or subject by interviewing Japanese experts. Your research and interviews will result in oral presentations and a magazine article published in paper and web format.

Your interview can be for personal and/or academic purposes. For example, you can combine this project with your senior thesis or final paper for a KCJS course.

Past interviewees have included: artisans of various fields, a *wagashi* chef (Japanese sweets), college professors, a novelist, a DJ, a museum curator, a *shamisen* musician (Japanese banjo), a Doshisha University officer, and a KCJS alumnus currently studying Classical Japanese Literature at Kyoto University.

Your Japanese proficiency will improve through hands-on research, analysis and communication *in* Japanese. In this process, you will learn: How to write business emails and make appointments. How to conduct a successful interview. How to communicate your research and interview findings through oral presentations and by writing an engaging, organized and descriptive article.

My goal for this class is to prepare you to be a life-long Japanese learner to find your own 'voice' in Japanese.

**Course Materials:** Handouts will be provided

### **Course Requirements:**

This course is both discussion and activity based. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared with completed assignments and to actively participate in class.

### **Grade Breakdown:**

1) **Research and contact people (30%)**

- Choose an interviewee, contact them and make an appointment
- Conduct preliminary research, clarify interview objectives and prepare a list of interview questions

2) **Conduct interview (30%)**

- Conduct interview (tape-recorded)
- Contact the interviewee for additional information if necessary

3) **Write a magazine article/Peer-edit (30%)**

- Write outline for article
- Write article (approximately 2000 to 3000 words)
- Read and comment on peer's work

4) **Final presentation (10%)**

**Grading Scale:**

100 – 94.0 A	86.9 – 83.0 B	76.9 – 73.0 C	66.9 – 63.0 D
93.9 – 90.0A-	82.9 – 80.0 B-	72.9 – 70.0 C-	62.9 – 60.0 D-
89.9 – 87.0B+	79.7 – 77.0 C+	69.9 – 67.0 D+	59.9 – F

**Schedule (Tentative):**

week	Project phase	In-class activities	On your own	Assignments Due
1	Orientation	Orientation - Get to know each other - Understand the project objectives, schedule and tasks	- Decide on your interviewee(s)	- Proposal
2	Preparation	- Review keigo - Learn interview skills - Learn how to communicate via email - Analyze magazine articles	- Look up relevant information about the person & topic - List interview questions - Write an email to request for an interview - Set up an appointment	- Email draft - Interview questions
3	Preparation	- Review keigo - Learn interview skills - Give a presentation about your interviewee(s) and interview objectives - Narrow down interview questions	- Look up relevant information about the person & topic - Clarify interview objectives & narrow down interview questions - Acquire vocabulary necessary for interview	- Interview questions
4	Preparation	- Review keigo - Learn interview skills - Conduct a mock interview	- Look up relevant information about the person & topic - Prepare interview questions - Acquire vocabulary necessary for interview	- Interview questions
5	Preparation	- Review keigo - Learn interview skills - Conduct a mock interview		
6	Interview			- Thank-you note draft

7	Preparation to write	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share the 3 most interesting things you found out from interview</li> <li>- Organize your materials and make an outline</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outline of magazine article</li> </ul>
8		Fall break		
9	Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Write headline and sub-headings</li> <li>- Learn writing skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact interviewee for additional information if necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1st draft</li> </ul>
10	Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer-edit</li> <li>- Learn writing skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact interviewee for additional information if necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2nd draft</li> </ul>
11	Editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peer-edit</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- final draft</li> </ul>
12	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Give a final presentation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank-you note draft</li> </ul>
13	Wrap-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Share thoughts about what you learned and the strategies &amp; tools needed for autonomous learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send a magazine and thank-you note to your interviewee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self-assessment of what you learned</li> </ul>