

2026 秋学期・日本語 3062:速読の日本語

Fall 2026 JAPN 3062: Rapid Reading Skills for Japanese

Instructor Contact

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:30-3:30; Thursday 9:00-11:00

Also by appointment

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop your confidence and skill in reading Japanese as you make the transition from intermediate to advanced language study. In this class, we will practice a variety of rapid reading techniques that allow you to pick up information from a text quickly and accurately, without being overwhelmed by unfamiliar words, kanji, or structures. We will particularly be focusing on reading authentic texts, that is, texts written in Japanese not for language learners, but for native Japanese speakers.

This is a three-credit course that meets twice per week, Monday and Wednesday, from 12:45-2:05, in LANG 205.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Utilize scanning and skimming skills to find relevant information quickly and accurately in a large variety of authentic texts, including maps, schedules, websites, newspaper articles, advice columns, informative essays, personal essays, and short stories
- Apply knowledge of kanji radicals, prefixes, and suffixes to help you get through readings with unfamiliar kanji, and quickly look up kanji that you cannot figure out from context
- Apply knowledge of transition words and Japanese sentence structures to predict where sentences and texts are going, increasing your speed and confidence when reading
- Effectively recall and understand familiar kanji, grammar, and structures in an unfamiliar authentic text

Course Eligibility

This course is designed for students who have completed at least 4 semesters of Japanese (JAPN 1010, 1020, 2040, and JAPN 2050), or the equivalent at another university. Students who have studied Japanese informally or in high school may test into this level and receive credit for courses skipped by taking the placement test. Contact the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures department office for more information.

Required Materials

- ^{ちゅう じょうきゅうしゃ} 中・上級者 ^{そくどく にほんご} のための速読の日本語 (*Rapid Reading Japanese: Improving Reading Skills of Intermediate and Advanced Students*) (Second Edition) by Mayumi Oka, The Japan Times, Tokyo, 2013

Grading Scale

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 0-59% = F

Grading

- Class Participation = 20%
- Homework = 20%
- Vocab/Kanji Quiz = 5%
- Speed Reading Quiz = 10%
- Reading Comprehension Quiz = 10%
- Project = 15%
- Final Exam = 20%

Note: The last day to drop the course is Friday, November 6, 2026. If you submit your drop paperwork by this date, you will receive a W on your transcript, which will not be calculated into your GPA.

Grading Category Details

Class Participation

A significant amount of the practice we do during the course will take place in the class, and interpersonal interaction with other learners and with your instructor is absolutely essential to your development as a language learner. For this reason, participation in this class will be required for a grade. Full participation credit (10 points per class) will be given to those who are present for the entire class period, prepared for class, and fully participating in all activities. Partial attendance or lack of participation will result in deduction of points.

You will get 2 free class absences (essentially, one week of free non-attendance). After that, absences will only be excused in the case of university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, military service, or extended illness with documentation (by permission of the program coordinator after the free absences have been used).

If you miss a class, follow the schedule and use the materials on Canvas to keep up.

Homework:

Homework for this class will consist of:

1) Short activities intended to help you review kanji and get familiar with concepts that will help you to read unfamiliar texts. These activities will be available on Canvas and are due in online by 11:59 PM.

2) Kanji/vocab worksheets to help you develop your familiarity with the new kanji and vocab in the chapter. Part of the goal of these assignments is for you to learn how to find information and look up unfamiliar words on your own when you are outside of class, so that you can apply these skills when you are reading Japanese on your own time.

3) Reading comprehension worksheets for each of the major texts we will read in the class. The text and worksheet will be provided early, and you are expected to try your best to read the text and complete the relevant portion of the worksheet at home before coming to class. The worksheet, up to the point we have reached, will be checked for completion as part of the class participation grade for each class. The whole worksheet will be checked for content on the day it is due.

Late homework will be accepted for 50% credit.

Quizzes

In this course, there will be three types of quizzes: Vocab/kanji quizzes to encourage you to study and review the new vocabulary we are introducing in each unit, a speed-reading quiz to help you evaluate how you are picking up the speed-reading skills we are practicing in the textbook, and reading comprehension quizzes to encourage you to familiarize yourself with the authentic text from each lesson and any new grammar expressions we learned from it. There are five of each type of quiz in total, and your lowest grade from each type of quiz will be dropped.

In the event that you are absent on the day of the quiz, makeup quizzes may be taken, with a deduction of 10% of your grade. It is not necessary to provide any documentation for absences. You are responsible for contacting your instructor to set up a makeup exam.

Project

In the second half of the semester, you will complete a project where you will be asked to read a short story and develop a short vocab list and some simple comprehension questions. I will also ask you to give a very brief summary of what happens in the story beforehand so that I know you understood it correctly. When you have developed your questions, you will share them and the story with 2 other students in your group (decided by me), and your group members will read the story and answer your questions. Any part of the project submitted late will receive a deduction of 20% for each day it is not turned in past the due date.

Exams

There will be a final exam in this course. The exam will be a similar format to the quizzes and require you to demonstrate your familiarity with the most important new vocabulary, kanji, and grammar in the

course, as well as your development of speed reading and reading comprehension skills. It will take place during the time scheduled by the registrar. Please mark your calendar and plan ahead for these exam times.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students>.

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>.

Resources, Extra Help & Disability Accommodation

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to <https://www.unt.edu/success>.

Program Information

Major in Japanese: The major consists of the six (6) foundational courses (JAPN 1010, 1020, 2040, 2050, 3020, and 3030) and seven (7) advanced courses, at least 3 of which must be at the 4000 level. All courses require a grade of C or higher.

Minor in Japanese: The minor consists of seven (7) courses (JAPN 1010, 1020, 2040, 2050, 3020, 3030 and one more course at the 3000 or 4000 level). All courses require a grade of C or higher.

Certificate in Japanese: The Certificate of Achievement in Japanese consists of eight (8) courses (JAPN 1010, 1020, 2040, 2050, 3020, 3030, 4020 and 4030). All courses require a grade of C or higher.

For more information about the Japanese program, including the major, minor, and certificate of achievement, contact the Japanese program coordinator:

Name: Yayoi Takeuchi

Office Location: 405B

Phone Number: 940-565-2404

Email: yayoi.takeuchi@unt.edu

Honor Society: UNT has a chapter of the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS). The mission of the society is to recognize our outstanding students and encourage their scholastic achievement and excellence in the study of Japanese language. In addition, we aim to promote ways for students to use Japanese on campus and in the community.

Certificates of Excellence and red-and-white cords to wear at graduation will be given to students who are granted membership in the society. The following is the criteria for the membership of JNHS in addition to the active participation in Japanese Honor Society, a student organization by invitation for activities and individual projects. For information, email: yayoi.takeuchi@unt.edu

Study Abroad

UNT Japanese program strongly encourages students to have an opportunity to study abroad in Japan. We have currently direct exchanges set up in Japan: Kansai Gaidai University (Osaka), Meiji University (Tokyo), Nagasaki University of Foreign Study (Nagasaki), Nanzan University (Nagoya), and Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto).

The Study Abroad Office helps students find placements in Japan for one semester or an academic year. The beauty of these programs is that you can study in Japan at close to the same cost as studying at UNT.

For more information, visit the Study Abroad office in Marquis Hall (Room 145), check out their website and attend one of their “Study Abroad 101” sessions.

There are also several opportunities for summer study in Japan at various levels. This website maintains a good list.

Office Hours

Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. I encourage you to contact your instructor for support. Your success is our goal. Visit your instructor during office hours for individual help or study suggestions. If the scheduled times don't work for you, email for an appointment.

Canvas Site

You can download the PowerPoint from each lesson from our class site on Canvas. You will also find helpful links, activities, etc. Log in at: <https://unt.instructure.com>.

Tutors

The Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures provides free tutoring. See Canvas for times and starting date. Tutoring goes through pre-finals week.

Also, the Learning Center has volunteer tutors that will work with you individually at no charge.

Request a tutor at: <http://learningcenter.unt.edu/volunteertutoring>.

Language Lab

The Language Lab (LANG 105) has movies, magazines, and computer programs that you will find helpful for individual study. The language lab is equipped for typing in Japanese.

Willis Library

The Willis Library has quite a few resources for additional study. The “Japanese Graded Readers” are particularly recommended. Browse through the area on the third floor around PL539!

Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the student will request their letter of accommodation. ODA will provide faculty with a reasonable accommodation letter via email to begin a private discussion regarding a student’s specific needs in a course. Students may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding their accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Support

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to <https://unt.edu/success> and explore <https://unt.edu/wellness>. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to <https://scrappysays.unt.edu>.

Academic Honesty

Students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of guidelines for your academic success (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email your instructor or come discuss.

Homework assignments and tests should be true representations of your effort and learning. Plagiarism (i.e., copying another person's work and presenting it as your own work) or cheating (i.e., providing answers for someone else or getting answers from someone else) are prohibited. In addition, we ask that no online translation tools are used when completing writing assignments. Consequences of any breach of academic integrity may include lowering of grade and/or failure of the assignment and/or the course.

Statement on the Use of Generative AI

The emerging field of generative AI is of interest to many students, and I seek to help prepare students for the job market they are going into. At the same time, learning a language is like developing a muscle—your Japanese skills won't grow if you aren't making original sentences with your own voice. Your Japanese is valuable to your instructor not because it's perfect but because it's *yours*—what I want to see is evidence of what you have learned to do with the language, not evidence of what the LLM does.

For this reason, I ask that all Japanese you turn in for an assignment in this class be your original Japanese, composed without the use of any translation software, including generative AI. Keep in mind that you will also not have access to a phone during exams and quizzes, so the best way to prepare yourself for reading the information there is to read Japanese on assignments, not with translation software but with your own Japanese ability. Every encounter with the language you have is an opportunity to sharpen your skills, and whenever you avoid actually reading, listening to, writing, or speaking Japanese, you are missing an opportunity to develop the skills you paid to learn.

If you use generative AI in your research for an assignment, please keep in mind that you are responsible for the attribution of your source and for evaluating the accuracy of the information, just as with any other source.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available November 17 – December 3 to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the Fall 2024 semester, you will receive an email on November 17 (12:01 a.m.) from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey, you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has

been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at <https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot> or email spot@unt.edu. We work to continually improve our courses, so we appreciate your feedback!

Emergency Class Cancellation

In the event of a class cancellation due to the weather, illness, or other emergency, you should follow the instructions announced on Canvas by your instructor and/or the coordinator. Since our course schedule is so packed, we will deviate as little as possible from the schedule. You should look through the PowerPoint online and complete your homework following the schedule in the syllabus. Any quiz or test would be postponed until the next class meeting unless otherwise announced. We will communicate any schedule changes on Canvas, so check for announcements there.

Course Schedule

*Subject to change

日付	授業内容	試験・クイズ	宿題
8/17 月	Course Introduction 速読: Quickly Running One's Eyes Over a Text		
8/19 水	速読: Identifying the Topic, Contextual Guessing 読み物: 本川達雄「生き物は円柱形」 Preparation		-- 単語・漢字ワークシート1
8/24 月	速読: Scanning (Extracting Specific Information) 読み物: 「生き物は円柱形」		-- Review Kanji 1 (by 11:59 PM)
8/26 水	速読: Scanning (Extracting Specific Information) 読み物: 「生き物は円柱形」	単語・漢字クイズ 1	-- Review Kanji 2 (by 11:59 PM)
8/31 月	速読: Scanning (Extracting Specific Information) 読み物: 「生き物は円柱形」		-- Review Kanji 3 (by 11:59 PM)
9/2 水	速読: Scanning (Extracting Specific Information) 読み物: 「生き物は円柱形」		-- 単語・漢字ワークシート2
9/7 月	レイバーデー (クラスがありません)		

9/9 水	Radicals and Phonetic Elements in Kanji 読み物:「生き物は円柱形」 かわかみひろゆき 川 上 裕 之「話し方はどうかな」Preparation	速読クイズ 1	-- Review Kanji 4 (by 11:59 PM)
9/14 月	速読: Basic Japanese Sentence Types 読み物:「話し方はどうかな」	単語・漢字クイズ 2	-- Using Radicals Activity (by 11:59 PM)
9/16 水	速読: Basic Japanese Sentence Types 読み物:「話し方はどうかな」	読み物クイズ 1	-- 「生き物は円柱形」 ワークシート
9/21 月	速読: Noun Modification in Japanese 読み物:「話し方はどうかな」		
9/23 水	速読: Noun Modification in Japanese		-- Noun Modification Practice Worksheet
9/28 月	速読: Noun Modification in Japanese 読み物:「話し方はどうかな」		
9/30 水	速読: Identifying Keywords 読み物:「話し方はどうかな」	速読クイズ 2	-- 単語・漢字 ワークシート3
10/5 月	速読: Identifying Keywords Introduce Hoshi Shinichi Project たつのうかずお 辰 濃 和 男「落—いのちの 源 になる落ち葉」 みなもと お ば Preparation	読み物クイズ 2	-- 「話し方はどうかな」 ワークシート
10/7 水	速読: Identifying Keywords 読み物:「落—いのちの源になる落ち葉」	単語・漢字クイズ 3	-- Transition Words Activity (by 11:59 PM)
10/12 月	速読: Putting Sentences/Paragraphs in Order 読み物:「落—いのちの源になる落ち葉」		-- Kanji Prefixes Activity (by 11:59 PM)
10/14 水	速読: Putting Sentences/Paragraphs in Order 読み物:「落—いのちの源になる落ち葉」	速読クイズ 3	-- Project: Summary (by 11:59 PM)
10/19 月	速読: Answering True/False Questions 「愛用の時計」		-- 単語・漢字ワークシート4 -- Kanji Suffixes Activity (by 11:59 PM)
10/21 水	速読: Answering Multiple Choice Questions 「愛用の時計」	読み物クイズ 3	-- 「落—いのちの源になる落ち 葉」ワークシート
10/26 月	速読: Anticipating Forthcoming Context 「愛用の時計」	単語・漢字クイズ 4	--Answering True/False Questions Activity (by 11:59 PM)
10/28 水	速読: Anticipating Forthcoming Context Learning to Scan and Skim Simultaneously		-- Project: Questions and Vocab List (by 11:59 PM)

11/2 月	速読: Getting the Gist Learning to Scan and Skim Simultaneously Reading Headlines	速読クイズ 4	--単語・漢字ワークシート5
11/4 水	速読: Reading the Personal Advice Column 読み物: 新聞記事		--「愛用の時計」 ワークシート
11/9 月	ゲストスピーカー: アダムマンフレディ先生		-- Project: Revised Questions and Vocab List (by 11:59 PM)
11/11 水	速読: Reading the Personal Advice Column 読み物: 新聞記事	単語・漢字クイズ 5	-- Predicting Follow-Up Content Activity (by 11:59 PM)
11/16 月	読み物: 新聞記事 読み物: ことわざ		
11/18 水	読み物: 新聞記事 読み物: ことわざ		
11/23 月 ～ 11/25 水	サンクスギビングの休み		
11/30 月	Review Work on project questions	読み物クイズ 4	
12/2 水	Pre Finals Day: Review		-- Turn in answers to project questions
12/7 月	期末試験 10:30-12:30		