

2026 春学期・日本語 3066

Fall 2026 JAPN 3066: Improving Japanese Fluency and Listening Skills

Instructor Contact

Name: Angela Harris

Office Location: LANG 405A

Phone Number: 940-565-2404

Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:30, Thursday 10:00-12:00

Email: angela.harris@unt.edu

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop your confidence and skill in speaking and listening to Japanese as you make the transition from intermediate to advanced, or continue into advanced, language study. We will engage in all of the three modes of communication—interpretive (understanding what you hear), interpersonal (carrying out a two-or-more-way conversation with other people), and presentational (delivering information from yourself to others) using speaking and listening. We will practice strategies for effective communication in Japanese in listening and speaking, improve pronunciation, and expand our vocabulary to talk about a variety of topics, including daily life in Japan, Japanese culture, and contemporary social issues.

This is a three-credit course that meets twice per week, Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-3:20, in LANG 304.

Course Objectives

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

- Apply your developing Japanese fluency skills to communicate about new and familiar subjects with increased confidence and clarity.
- Recognize and use new vocabulary in Japanese on a variety of topics, including both everyday life and contemporary social issues.
- Utilize communication strategies for smoother, more effective communication in Japanese.
- Understand Japanese daily life and culture and social issues in Japan, and connect them with the culture and social issues of your home country.
- Describe, discuss, and evaluate a Japanese drama television show.
- Design and conduct a survey in Japanese and then analyze and present your results.

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

- Materials for this course will be made available via Canvas.

Grading Scale

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

Grading

- Class Participation and Preparation = 30%
- Listening Practice= 10%
- Shadowing= 10%
- Vocabulary Check= 5%
- Pair Conversation Videos= 10%
- Presentations = 15%
- Final Project = 20%

Note: The last day to drop the course is Friday, April 10, 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

The majority 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—including speaking Japanese the entire time unless given permission to speak English. Partial attendance or lack of participation will result in deduction of points.

As part of our listening practice for the class, you will watch episodes of a Japanese television program at home and answer some basic comprehension questions about the story. We will briefly check these comprehension questions in class and discuss the program. Completing these assignments is part of preparing for class. The comprehension worksheets can be turned in late for partial credit.

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.

Listening Practice

Outside of class, you will conduct some listening exercises using a variety of different materials. The goal of these activities is to help develop your strategies for listening to Japanese, including authentic materials made for native speakers that may be faster than you are used to or contain unfamiliar expressions. Listening assignments will be made available via Canvas and are due online by 11:59 PM on the due date. They may be turned in late for partial credit.

Shadowing

Shadowing is a language learning technique where you listen to the language you are learning and repeat it as you are listening (like an echo or a shadow), without reading the script, and try to imitate it as closely as possible. It is useful because it forces you to really listen to all the words you are hearing, not overlooking anything, really hear how they are pronounced, and really pay attention to your own pronunciation. We will complete 4 shadowing assignments over the course of the semester, where you will upload a recording to Canvas. Shadowing assignments will be made available via Canvas and are due online by 11:59 PM on the due date. They may be turned in late for partial credit.

Vocabulary Check

Although we will not have traditional vocabulary quizzes in this class, I will introduce a variety of new vocabulary that may be helpful to you to express your thoughts on the topics we are discussing in more detailed ways. I don't expect you to memorize all of this vocabulary, but I do expect you to actively use new vocabulary and expressions in this class

and go beyond what is introduced in Genki. Therefore, we will have small in-class assessments to demonstrate that you have retained some new vocabulary words from each topic we introduce in the course. If you miss the day of a vocab check, it can be made up for partial credit, but it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make a plan.

Pair Conversation Videos

In this course, you and a partner will conduct and record three unscripted conversations via Zoom during the class time that will be evaluated based on your developing communication skills in Japanese. The topics for the conversation will be released shortly before the assignment begins, so you won't be able to write out a script; however, you can be assured that the topics for the conversation will be similar to what we are using in class. If you miss the day of a pair conversation, it can be made up for partial credit, but it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make a plan.

Presentations

We will conduct two short in-class presentations in this course, to help you practice Japanese pronunciation and expressions in the presentational mode of communication. You will present your topic and listen and provide feedback to your classmates on their topics. If you miss the day of a presentation, it can be made up for partial credit, but it is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make a plan.

Final Project

For your final project in this course, you will develop a survey in Japanese to ask your classmates and other Japanese speakers about their daily lives or opinions. After developing survey questions in Japanese, you will administer your survey, look at the data, and draw a conclusion. You will then use visuals and your Japanese communication skills to present the information you have learned to from your survey and talk about your conclusion in the presentational mode of communication.

Class Policies

Office Hours

Please come to my office during office hours for individual help or study suggestions. I am also happy to discuss other academic or Japanese-related subjects. If the scheduled times do not work for you, email me for an online or in-person appointment.

Canvas Site

You can download PowerPoint from each lesson, homework worksheets, and kanji/vocabulary lists from our class site on Canvas. You will also find helpful links,

activities, etc. If you miss class, download the relevant material from Canvas. You will also find helpful links, activities, etc.

Academic Honesty

Homework assignments and tests should be true representations of your effort and learning. Plagiarism (copying another person's work and presenting it as your own work) or cheating (providing answers for someone else or getting answers from someone else) is prohibited. In addition, I ask that no online translation tools be used when completing writing assignments unless I explicitly allow their use as part of the assignment.

Consequences of any breach of academic integrity may include lowering your 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 Behavior in the Classroom

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom, and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the actions violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

Students' Concerns and Complaints

Open communication is key to resolving concerns. Most issues or misunderstandings can be addressed effectively when those directly involved engage in honest discussion.

If you have a concern related to your course, whether about materials, instruction, assessments, or the classroom environment, please begin by speaking with your instructor. If the matter remains unresolved, or if you are uncomfortable approaching your instructor, you may contact the WLLC department.

To learn more about the complaint procedure or to file a formal complaint, you can access the document WLLC COURSE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS on the departmental website: <https://class.unt.edu/world-languages-literatures-cultures/resources/studentcomplaint.pdf>

When emailing the department, be sure to include:

- Your first and last name
- Your instructor's name
- Your course title and section number

Thank you for helping us to maintain a supportive learning environment.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

This is my first time teaching this course, and I am excited to receive your feedback so I can grow as an instructor. Student feedback is an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14, and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will

receive an email from “UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification” (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

University Policies

Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodation 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.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence 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 where appropriate, and connecting students to other

resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

日付	クラスで	クイズ・発表・会話	宿題
1月12日 月	じこしょうかい 自己紹介		
1月14日 水	じこしょうかい 自己紹介 日本の大学生生活		
1月19日 月	ぼくしきねんび キング牧師記念日 (クラスがありません)		
1月21日 水	日本の大学生生活 オレンジデイズ第1話		聞く練習1
1月26日 月	日本語の勉強 ドラマの感想①	単語チャック1	オレンジデイズWS①
1月28日 水	ジェスチャー		シャドウイング1
2月2日 月	ジェスチャー ドラマの感想②		オレンジデイズWS②
2月4日 水	買い物	ペア会話1	聞く練習2
2月9日 月	買い物 ドラマの感想③	単語チャック2	オレンジデイズWS③
2月11日 水	食べ物		
2月16日 月	ペットと動物 ドラマの感想④		オレンジデイズWS④
2月18日 水	ペットと動物		シャドウイング2

2月23日 月	発表：詩の朗読 し ろうどく		聞く練習3
2月25日 水	発表：詩の朗読 し ろうどく		アンケートのトピック
3月2日 月	けんこう 健康とスポーツ ドラマの感想⑤	単語チャック3	オレンジデイズ WS⑤
3月4日 水	旅行	ペア会話2	聞く練習4
3月16日 月	旅行・お祭り ドラマの感想⑥		オレンジデイズ WS⑥
3月18日 水	お祭り・季節	単語チャック4	アンケートのドラフト
3月23日 月	発表：私のおすすめ		聞く練習5
3月25日 水	発表：私のおすすめ		
3月30日 月	季節 ドラマの感想⑦		オレンジデイズ WS⑦
4月1日 水	スマホとテクノロジー	単語チャック5	シャドウイング3
4月6日 月	大変なこと ドラマの感想⑧		オレンジデイズ WS⑧
4月8日 水	恋愛と結婚		聞く練習6
4月13日 月	仕事 ドラマの感想⑨	単語チャック6	オレンジデイズ WS⑨
4月15日 水	仕事	ペア会話3	アンケートの結果
4月20日 月	男女と仕事 ドラマの感想⑩		オレンジデイズ WS⑩
4月22日 水	オレンジデイズ 最終回		シャドウイング4
4月27日 月	ゴミを減らそう	単語チャック7	オレンジデイズ WS⑪
4月29日 水	ドラマの感想 復習		
5月4日	期末発表		