

Tobira
Japanese 4040: Advanced Topic:
Dawn of Modern Japan
University of North Texas --- Fall 2020

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Office hour: 11am-noon on Thursdays or by appointment

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Course Description: This course takes place 100% online. This course is designed to survey the transition period from the Edo era into the modern era by studying the life of a Japanese samurai named Ryoma Sakamoto (坂本竜馬). Ryoma was a key figure in Japan's modernization. Despite living under the Shogunate and demonstrating exceptional talent as a swordsman, he already foresaw the prospect of creating a national assembly under an impartial power. He played an important role in uniting what was Japan's two most powerful local governments, and he also contributed in overthrowing the Tokugawa Shogunate that lasted more than 260 years. We will read about Ryoma's life, discuss and write about the changes that happened in his era. You will complete a project on based on the reading. Other than that, your interaction with me and with your fellow students will take place in Canvas. There are 14 weeks to cover 4 modules that you will move through.

Course Prerequisites:

JAPN 3030 or equivalent must be completed or taken concurrently.

Learning Outcomes:

- Gain in-depth understanding of the social changes at the end of the Edo period in Japan
- Enhance reading skills
- Develop a broader range of vocabulary and kanji reading skills
- Learn how to use a Japanese –English dictionary and use of Japanese words efficiently

Required Materials:

Sakamoto Ryōma: Meiji Ishin no gendōryoku by Sunada, Hiroshi. Kōdansha, 1985

Recommended Material:

- *Tobira: Grammar Power: Exercises for Mastery*, Kuroshio, 2012
- *A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar*, by Seiichi Makino and Michio Tsutui. Tokyo: The Japan Times, 1989. ISBN 4-7890-0454-6.
- *The New Nelson Japanese-English Character Dictionary: Based on the Classic Edition by Andrew N. Nelson*, by John H. Haig. Rutland. Vt./ Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1997. ISBN 0-8048-2036-8.
- J<>E Dictionary (recommended: Kodansha's Furigana Japanese Dictionary ISBN4-7700-2480-0)
- Kodansha's Essential Kanji Dictionary (ISBN4-7700-2891-1)
- Kodansha's Kanji Learner's Dictionary (ISBN4-7700-2855-5)
- Kodansha's Compact Kanji Guide (ISBN4-7700-1553-4)

Free Online Dictionaries:

- <http://tangorin.com/> (recommended)
- <http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/cgi-bin/wwwjdic.cgi?1C>
- <http://jisho.org/>

Course Technology and Skills: Provide a list of the minimum technology requirements for students, such as:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements) (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy: Provide a list of course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course, such as:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Grading Scales:

Assignments	20%
Quizzes (4 times)	10%
Tests (4 times)	20%
Discussion board	30%
Presentation + Essay	20 (5%+15%)

November 2nd is the last day to drop the course. If you submit your drop paperwork by this date, you will receive a W or WF on your transcript, which will not be calculated into your GPA.

90 – 100% = A 80 – 89% = B 70 – 79% = C 60 – 69% = D 59% or below = F

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

Please do not use any kind of translators in this class.

Assignments: Assignments will consist of three tasks:

- (a) Reading the text repeatedly with a dictionary
- (b) Completing the comprehension worksheets.
- (c) Completing the vocabulary worksheets.

Quizzes: four quizzes are given online. On the quiz, you will be expected to identify new vocabulary and kanji, and to make use of words in sentences.

Tests: At the end of each module, a comprehension test will be given in class. The total number of the test is four times.

Discussion: You are expected to write your thoughts about the questions based on the reading materials and your comments to two peers.

Essay: You are expected to write an essay based on the reading materials in Japanese. Your topic needs the instructor's approval. Detailed information will be given on Canvas.

Late Work: Late submission will not be accepted. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#), contact the instructor within 24 hours and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Rules of Engagement: Rules of engagement refer to the way you are expected to interact with each other and with the instructor. The following are major guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.

- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Evaluation: The Student Evaluation, SPOT, will be available at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on this class. The SETE is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT, and responses are used by the department in evaluating the faculty. We work to continually improve our courses, so we appreciate your feedback!

ADA Policy: UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/) (https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004): The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records: Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior : 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 student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect: Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates: 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 survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] 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 "System 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](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention: 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.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation: To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads: (G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing.

If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance: To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification: UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

Use of Student Work: A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Weekly Schedule

Week I	Introduction, pp1-4
Week II	pp-5-8
Week III	pp 9-10, Quiz
Week IV	Test, pp11-12
Week V	pp13-16
Week VI	pp17-20
Week VII	Quiz, Test
Week VIII	pp21-24
Week IX	pp25-28

Week X	Quiz, Test
Week XI	pp29-32
Week XII	pp33-36,
Week XIII	Quiz, Test
Week XIV	Movie, Thanksgiving break
Week XV	Presentation
Final Exam	

Please note a more detailed weekly schedule with assignments and activities is posted on Canvas

Mission of the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures: Representing many world languages, literatures and cultures, our dedicated faculty promote excellence in research, teaching and professional service. Committed to cultural diversity and inclusivity, we teach our undergraduate and graduate students communication, critical thinking and research skills for competitive employment around the world.

Vision: We strive to establish a reputation both nationally and internationally in research, teaching and professional service. Seeking harmony in diversity, we foster global literacy, responsible citizenship and interdisciplinarity