

日本語 4040

JAPN Advanced Topics in Japanese culture:
The Japanese news and current events
University of North Texas --- Spring 2020

Instructor and Office:

Instructor: Kaori Furuya
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Office: LANG 405 G

Office Hour: 10:00-11:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays or by
appointment

Class Hour: Tu & Th 2:00 – 3:20

& Location: GAB 210

Main office phone: (940) 565-2404

Course Description:

This course will cover learn four topics: i. weather and Japanese geography, ii. Tokyo Olympics 2020 and sports in Japan, iii. Current news in Japan and iv. Entertainment in Japan. After overviewing the weather and maps of Japan, we will learn the locations of the torch relay and the games, the purpose of the Olympics and news. We will also read current news on the society and films and explore Japanese TV programs and news websites. The class consists of reading and listening audio materials.

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn about the geography, weather and climate in Japan
- Gain in-depth understanding of popular sports, and entertainment in Japan
- Raise kanji and grammar skills to enable you to write, read, and converse in a higher register
- Solidify elementary and intermediate grammar
- Increase overall communicative ability and confidence in Japanese

Class Materials:

Reading and audio materials are uploaded on Canvas.

Recommended Material:

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/>

Grading Scales:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Mini-Presentations	10%
Tests	40%
Final Essay and Presentation	20%

April 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

Attendance & Participation: Foreign language learning is a cumulative process, and it is very important that you come to class. Attendance and active participation in class are mandatory and absolutely essential to your success in learning Japanese. Partial attendance, frequent tardiness, or lack of participation will result in deduction of points. Absences will **only** be excused in the case of university-sponsored activities, religious holidays, military service, or extended illness with documentation. See the UNT attendance policy for details at <https://policy.unt.edu/policydesc/attendance-policy-15-2-5>. You will be allowed **two** unexcused absences during the course, after which, absences will begin to impact your grade.

Daily Homework: Practicing Japanese every day and studying for the class are also very important for successful Japanese learning. Daily homework consists of (a) worksheets available on Blackboard to allow you to preview the material (b) assignments for review from the workbook, (c) listening practice (audio file is on Blackboard), and (c) writing and reading assignments. Assignments are listed in the schedule and are due in class. You must turn in the homework in class to receive full credit.

Discussion Board: At the end of each chapter, you will be asked to write a short response (300 characters or more) to a question posted on the discussion board about the content of the chapter, and to reply to at least two other students' discussion board posts.

Quizzes: Five quizzes are given in class. On the quiz, you will be asked to form sentences using new grammar points from the chapter, and to recall vocabulary and kanji found in the readings.

Mini-Presentation: At the end of each chapter, you will be asked to make a short presentation in Japanese (about 3 PowerPoint slides, 3-5 minutes) on an assigned topic related to the material covered in the chapter.

Final Essay and Presentation: At the end of the semester, you will be asked to write a 2000-character essay on a topic related to one of the concepts we covered in class. The essay will need to answer a research question and incorporate sources, some of which should be in Japanese. You will present your findings to the class during the time scheduled for finals.

Academic Honesty:

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.

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 succeed.unt.edu. Here's how to succeed at UNT and specifically in this class:

- *Show up* ⇒ Come to class every day!
- *Find support* ⇒ Consult your instructor, visit the tutor, seek out other help as needed
- *Take control* ⇒ Keep your materials organized and keep up with the schedule
- *Be prepared* ⇒ Complete your homework and be ready for every quiz & exam
- *Get involved* ⇒ Check out the campus organizations related to Japan and Japanese
- *Be persistent* ⇒ Remember that language learning takes sustained effort; **がんばって!**

Office Hours

Visit your instructor during office hours for individual help or study suggestions. If the scheduled times don't work for you, call or email for an appointment.

Blackboard Learn Site

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

Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You 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 deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty 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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Willis Library

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

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 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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

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 SPOT 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!