

**Seigakuin University Descriptions for
Japan Studies Program (JSP)-specific Courses: Spring Semester 2009**

I. Courses taught in English: Non-native speakers of English can enroll only with the permission of the teacher.

1. **Language in Society (4 credits)**

This course covers basic concepts and issues in the study of language use in social contexts (sociolinguistics), with a special emphasis on comparing and contrasting language in Japanese and American societies. Three broad areas will be examined: ways in which personal and social identity are reflected through language, such as dialect, accent, bilingualism, etc.; ways in which human relations are expressed through language, in particular through polite and honorific language; and the relationship between social change and language change as evidenced by various forms of discriminatory language.

2. **Intercultural Communication between Japan and the U.S.A. – A (4 credits)**

This course introduces the fundamental principles of intercultural communication through the integration of concepts from the fields of social psychology, cultural anthropology, and communication theory. Particular emphasis is placed upon comparative culture, with the focus being upon Japan and America and the role that culture plays in the communication process between individuals from these two dynamic, yet very different, countries. While theory will be discussed in some detail, the primary focus of the course is upon personal application.

II. Courses open only to students whose native language is not Japanese; taught in simplified Japanese.

Note: Levels of language ability noted below are based upon the system and nomenclature developed by ACTFL (the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), the four broad levels of language proficiency being Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Superior.

1. a. **日本語研修(留学生用)A [Japanese Language Study – A] (2 credits)**

A Japanese language course exclusively for foreign exchange students, with two primary emphases: (1) developing competency in the four skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with particular focus on comprehension and grammar; and (2) learning the survival Japanese necessary for daily living and for university campus life.

Prerequisite: Intermediate Low level of Japanese language ability.

b. **日本語研修(留学生用)B [Japanese Language Study – B] (2 credits)**

A Japanese language course exclusively for foreign exchange students that emphasizes further advancement in all four language skills. The course stresses the vocabulary and the communicative competency needed for living in Japan.

Prerequisite: Intermediate Low level of Japanese language ability.

2. **日本事情入門(留学生用)A [Introduction to Data (Information) on Japan – A]**
(2 credits)

A course designed for foreign students in order to provide them with valuable information on Japanese lifestyles, events, holidays, and traditional culture. Particular emphasis is placed on providing foreign students with practical knowledge and information useful for adapting to and living in Japan. This necessarily involves the study of comparative culture as well, with students learning the importance of mutual respect for different cultures.

Prerequisite: Intermediate Low level of Japanese language ability.

Note: "Japanese Language Study – A & B" complement one another are normally taught concurrently by different teachers in order to give intermediate users of Japanese as much formal instruction in the language as possible during the semester.

III. Regular courses taught in Japanese, but assignments may be done in either Japanese or English (with the exceptions of “Japanese Traditional Crafts” and “Calligraphy”). JSP students may enroll only with the permission of the teacher.

1. 伝統工芸 B [Japanese Traditional Crafts] (2 credits) [coordinated by Watanabe]
2. 日本文化特殊講義 [Special Lectures on Japanese Culture] (4 credits) [Shimizu]
3. 書道(初級)[Calligraphy (Beginning)] (2 credits) [Komuro]
4. 経済学 [Economics] (4 credits) [Ishibe]
5. 環境学 [Environmental Studies] (4 credits) [Murakami]
6. 日本文学概説 [Overview of Japanese Literature] (4 credits) [Kuroki]
7. キリスト教と美術 A [Christianity & Art] (2 credits) [Kida]

Note: All classes are 90 minutes each; 2-credit classes meet once per week, and 4-credit classes meet twice per week. The exception is the 2-credit Calligraphy class, which is taught in two 90-minute periods back-to-back on the same day.

(Courses subject to change.)

Japanese Language Study (日本語研修) A

Course Description

1. Content

At the beginning of the course, a review of the textbook *GENKI 1* will be conducted. Afterwards, students will learn basic Kanji from the *Basic Kanji, Vol. 1* textbook. They will learn to obtain essential information in Japan through the reading and writing of simple sentences that are also useful for daily life.

Preparatory classes and a practice examination for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test will also be held.

2. Role in the curriculum

“Japanese A” is designed for international students from Seigakuin’s partner universities who have already completed *The Japan Times’ GENKI I* or its equivalent.

3. Learning Objectives

The objective of this course is for students to acquire the fundamental Japanese language skills necessary for campus life and that serve as a prerequisite for the further expansion of communicative skills. The primary focuses are on learning Kanji, reading, and writing.

The course plan and textbooks may be adjusted according to the Japanese level of the participants.

Evaluation/Grading

Midterm examination - 20%

Final examination - 20%

Class performance - 30%

Quizzes and homework - 30%

Expectations

Students are expected to review every lesson and to practice on a daily basis using the expressions and vocabulary that they have learned.

Textbooks

- 1) Eri Banno et al., *GENKI: An Integrated course in Elementary Japanese II. The Japan Times.*
- 2) *Basic Kanji, Vol. 1*

Course Schedule

- Detailed explanation of the course
- Evaluation of the students’ current levels
- Kanji
- Reading and Writing
- Mid-term exam
- Field work
- Review and report on the field work
- Practice test for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test
- Method of self learning
- Final exam
- Comprehensive review

Japanese Language Study (日本語研修) B

Course Description

1. Content

This course focuses on grammar, and students will learn to write, listen to and speak Japanese using *The Japan Times' GENKI II* as a textbook.

2. Role in the curriculum

“Japanese B” is designed for international students from Seigakuin’s partner universities and is required of those students.

3. Learning objectives

The objective of this course is to gain the Japanese language skills necessary for a university student in Japan. Students will write speeches and should be ready to make presentations on various occasions both on and off the university campus.

Another objective of this course is to help students pass the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, for which there will be preparatory classes and a practice test.

Evaluation / Grading

Midterm examination - 20%

Final examination - 20%

Class performance - 30%

Quizzes and homework - 30%

Expectations

Students are expected to review every lesson and practice speaking Japanese as much as possible in their daily lives.

Textbooks

- 1) Eri Banno et al., *GENKI: An Integrated course in Elementary Japanese II. The Japan Times.*
- 2) Supplementary materials will also be utilized in the class.

Course Schedule

- Detailed explanation of the course
- Interview / Evaluation of the student’s current levels; diagnostic grammar test
- Review of *GENKI I*
- Field work
- Conversation
- Preparatory lessons for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test: reading and listening comprehension
- Mid-term exam
- Practice test for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test
- Final exam
- Comprehensive review of the course

Introduction to Data (Information) on Japan (日本事情入門) A

Course Description

1. Content

Topics concerning “intercultural communication” from *Nihongo Journal* will be discussed in the class. The content may be changed according to the Japanese level or interest of the participants.

2. Role in the Curriculum

This course is designed for first-year students in the European-American Culture Department and for international students from Seigakuin’s partner universities.

Classes are conducted at a level of Japanese that is understandable for international students. Supplementary explanations in English may also be given.

3. Learning Objectives

The primary objective of this course is for students to gain a better understanding of Japanese society and its people through the discussion and research of several themes. Students will also learn about the Japanese way of thinking and acting in society. Another objective is to acquire the vocabulary and expressions necessary to be able to present personal ideas and opinions in a public forum. Students from different nationalities are expected to express themselves and their thoughts/opinions openly.

Evaluation / Grading

Term paper - 40%

Homework and presentations - 30%

Class attendance - 30%

Expectations

Students are expected to have a strong interest in Japanese culture, society and the current problems Japan is now facing. A positive commitment to the class is required.

Textbooks / Teaching material

Handouts will be given in class.

Course Schedule

- Orientation / Self introductions
- “Modest Expressions of Affection”
- “Marriages to Foreigners Increase Tenfold in 30 Years”
- “The Eyes are as Eloquent as the Tongue”
- “Gift-giving Taboos”
- “How Kindness is Repaid”
- “Enryo no Katamari”
- “To Split or Not to Split the Bill!”
- “Different Perceptions of Unpleasant Sounds”
- “Different Cultures Have Different Smells”
- Presentation of reports by each student