Course Description:
Japanese 401 (4 credits) is the first half of a fourth-year course designed for those who have successfully completed Japanese language study up through the 302 level and are motivated to further their language skills. Active development of all four skills still remains important in the course. Students are expected to express and share their thoughts in depth in Japanese during class discussion and in writing assignments on topics covered in the reading materials. Students are also expected to conduct independent research on assigned topics and make presentations to the class. The class meets four times a week and will be conducted in Japanese. Regular attendance and full preparation for class are expected.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Japanese 302 with a “C” or better or “CR”, or qualification by a placement test. Students who are new to the Japanese program at UH Manoa are required to take a placement test, with the exception noted in the next paragraph. To arrange for a placement test, please contact Mr. Todd Ashida, the undergraduate academic advisor in Moore Hall 378 at <tashida@hawaii.edu>. Students who are already in the UHM program progress by passing the prerequisite course with a “C” or better or “CR”.

Effective from Fall 2014: Taking the placement exam is optional for students who have already earned prerequisite college credits for Japanese language at one of the University of Hawai‘i campuses, including community colleges, with a grade of “C” or better. However, the placement exam is strongly recommended if you are interested in taking advanced courses (300-400 level), if there has been a gap since your last language class, or if you would like a firmer sense of your proper placement.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Be able to read and discuss the content of reading materials more extensively on a variety of topics, such as history, literature, language, social science, society, and other related topics.
2. Be able to recognize about 1,000 commonly-occurring kanji compounds and be able to write a large number of these.
3. Be able to demonstrate the ability to recognize complex sentences and grammatical structures of Japanese texts that include commonly-used idiomatic expressions.
4. Be able to comprehend the spoken Japanese used in class activities as well as the main idea of contemporary media.
5. Be able to utilize the vocabulary, idioms and other commonly-used expressions related to the topics covered in both speaking and writing activities.
6. Be able to write a summary of reading materials and write a simple essay/composition in Japanese about the topics introduced.
7. Be able to conduct basic independent research on assigned topics and do presentations in Japanese.
8. Be able to effectively use various resources, including dictionaries and online resources.
9. Gain greater knowledge of Japanese culture and a deeper awareness of the role of culture and social behavior in communication.
Required Textbook:

Japanese 401 Kanji/Grammar/Video Packet (available Professional Image, 2633 S. King St. Tel: 973-6599).

Some of the supplementary materials will be provided by the instructor. (Some of them will be available through Laulima or sent by e-mail. Please check your e-mail on a regular basis. Students are required to print and bring them to class.)

Recommended Reference Materials: (optional)


Grading: Course grades will be based on the results of:

Three end-of-lesson written tests..........................25%
Comprehensive written final exam ................................25%
Aural/oral assessments (including final oral presentation) ..................20%
Writing Assignments (that require rewriting) .......................10%
Other criteria (as defined by instructor):.................................20%

A student who is taking Japanese 401 as prerequisite for a higher-level course must earn at least a C. Students taking this course on the Cr/NC option must achieve at least a 73% (“C”) overall average to receive credit.

A+ =97~100%         B+=87~89% C+=77~79%         D+=67~69%        F= 59% and below
A  =93~96%          B  =83~86%  C =73~76%          D  =63~66%  CR=at least 73%
A-  =90~92%        B- =80~82%  C- =70~72%         D- =60~62%  NC=below 73%
Regular attendance is required. Because class discussions comprise an important portion of the course, students with more than four unexcused absences in the semester should expect to have their course grade lowered by one letter grade. In the case of absences, as general policy, absolutely NO make-up work will be given without a valid documented excuse.

Other Information:
Students will be held to the highest standards of conduct. See: http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/downloads/Conduct_Code/UHM_Student_Conduct_Code.pdf for details.

If you have certain needs related to your full participation in class, you are encouraged to contact the KOKUA Program, Student Services Center, Room 013; ph: 956-7511. KOKUA is our campus Program offering disability access services.

Please visit the homepage of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures for more information on course offerings and degrees and the certificate in Japanese: http://www.hawaii.edu/eall

On-line resources Tobira Website: http://tobira.9640.jp/tobiralogin