About the Course:

Japanese 493 aims at advancing your competence in formal, academic Japanese to a higher-level so that you will be able to carry out a final research-based project on a Japan-related topic of interest to you. This course is an essentially content-based course that integrates particular content with the teaching of language skills. That is, your focus will be on learning about and discussing about historical and contemporary issues related to Japanese language, culture and society well as preparing a research-based project paper in JAPANESE. The idea is, in this process, that you will acquire knowledge and skills in Japanese, especially academic Japanese. In order to facilitate the process, some instruction time may also be spent to draw your attention to specific language forms and expressions to enhance sophistication and accuracy. As a course designated to a Writing Intensive (WI) course, a focus will be placed on writing in Japanese.

In this course, you will be engaged in various in-class activities (e.g., lectures, discussions, talks, video reviews, etc.) as well as assignments (e.g., writing reports, reading assigned text, searching information via internet, online-video reviewing, etc.) within several themes. All in-class activities and assignments are designed to help enhance your competence in academic spoken and written Japanese. The topics will be chosen from controversial historical and contemporary issues. This course will provide you an opportunity to critically examine these issues from multiple perspectives and express and support your opinions and views orally and in writing.

The class will also provide you with instructor and peer interactions to support your successful completion of the assigned work. For example, in order to adequately monitor your work progress on writing, you will receive self and/or peer-assessment as well as receiving instructor feedback at different stages of your work.

Pre-requisite: Japanese 402/404 or instructor’s approval.

Instructor: Miki Ogasawara
Moore Hall 364
mogasawa@hawaii.edu, 956-7245
Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:00 or by appointment

Expected Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the semester, you will be able to:

1. Comprehend and use a wide range of vocabulary in discussing Japan-related topics of current or historical importance to Japanese people.

2. Critically analyze information about current or historical issues through media in Japanese, and analyze them critically.
3. Write narrative/biographical, summary, and opinion reports effectively (e.g., interesting thoughts/opinions that attract reader attention fluent expression logical and good organization, accurate and effective sentence construction, sufficient information, appropriate use of kanji).

4. Carry out a research project on a topic of your interest write an academic paper in Japanese, and present it using technology (e.g., power point, video clips, internet).

Textbooks:

All course materials will be given to you in class or be available through Laulima and email. You must print out all the materials and bring the hard copies to class.

(Special thanks to Dr. Kondo-Brown, Ms. Ritsuko Yoji and Dr. Waka Tominaga for allowing me to use material from their 「ステップアップ上級日本語」 project).

In addition to the lesson material, students must bring their personal computer to class so that they could engage in writing and revising assignments.

Grading:

Please note that JPN 493 is designated as a WI course. A total of 55% of the course grade will be based on your writing assignments (35%) and the final project (20%).

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following components:

- Final research-based project ......................................................20%
- Final project presentation .......................................................10%
- 3 Unit tests ..............................................................................20%
- Writing assignments .................................................................35%
- Other assignments and Mini quizzes .........................................10%
- Attendance and participation ....................................................5%

Your grades will be determined as followed:

- A+=100–99%                   A=98–93%                   A=92–90%
- B+=89–88%                     B=87–83%                   B=82–80%
- C+=79–78%                     C=77–73%                   C=72–70%
- D=69–60%                     F=below 59%

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory: I expect your regular attendance and full preparation for the class. You must come to class on time with all your assignments completed. When you need to be absent from class, you are responsible for informing the instructor in advance of the absence. If you are absent from more than four class meetings, your course grade will be lowered one letter grade (A→B+). Absences with a valid, documented excuse such as a note from a doctor will be excused. Being tardy four times will be treated as one absence.
Unit Tests:

Prior to each test, you will be given instructions on how to prepare for the test. No make-up will be given without a valid excuse. Dates for each unit test are TENTATIVE and may be changed due to the pace and level of comprehension of unit materials.

Writing Assignments and Other Homework:

You will be responsible for the completion of all homework exercises announced in class. Late homework assignments or assignments which are obviously completed with a great deal of help from native speakers will not be accepted. Please do all assignments BY YOURSELF. Your HONEST work is required and appreciated.

You will have the following writing assignments (WA) prior to the Final Research-based Project. Each writing assignment focuses on a particular theme as described below. You will be provided with feedback for each writing assignment and after the feedback, you will have a chance to revise the assignment to improve quality and receive a better grade.

(以下の書きタスクを予定していますが進度などにより多少の変更もあります)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Featured Skill</th>
<th>Feedback Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WA#1: 「マイストーリー」を書く</td>
<td>Feedback from peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA#2: 敬語を使ってメールを書く</td>
<td>Feedback from instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA#3/4: 創作（ポエコン用、スクリプトを書く）</td>
<td>Feedback from instructor &amp; Comments from peers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA#5: 要約文を書く</td>
<td>Feedback from instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA #6/7: 意見文を書く</td>
<td>Feedback from instructor &amp; Peer evaluation (discussion in small groups ➔ share comments)</td>
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Final Project and Presentation:

For your final project, you will be required to (1) gather information from various sources on a Japan-related topic of your interest, (2) write a research-based report of 5–7 pages (that includes research purpose, methods, findings and conclusion) and (3) present your project using visual aids such as power point slides, or video clips. Your project topic should be of current or historical importance to Japanese and Japanese society, or of importance to you and your career goals. For the final project, you will receive feedback from the instructor during individual meetings with her and via email.
Inquires about the Course Grade:

Students who have questions relating to the final course grade must contact the instructor via email within THREE weeks after grades are posted.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

It is important that you provide proper citation when presenting the work of someone else. Plagiarism is acts such as copying someone else’s sentences without quoting them or presenting someone else’s data or thoughts without properly citing them. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course.

In addition, please read “Student Conduct” at the site below: http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/downloads/conduct_code/UHM_Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

KOKUA program:

If you have certain needs related to your full participation in class, you may contact the KOKUA Program (KOKUA Program, Student Services Center, Room 013, (V/T) 956-7511, www.hawaii.edu/kokua/). KOKUA is our campus program offering disability access services.

このコースでさらなる日本語力アップを目指しましょう！