

Japanese 217 Fall 2008

Course Description

Japanese 217 Introduction to Japanese Reading and Writing with Basic Kanji (three credits) is a bridge course intended to bring students with a knowledge of spoken Japanese equivalent to that of JPN212 up to the reading/writing proficiency necessary to continue in four-skills courses beginning with JPN301. The course is designed for students who have come through the JPN111–212 series of oral communication courses, and may also be appropriate for semi-bilingual students who lack literacy skills. Students who enroll in the course must already be familiar with *hiragana* and *katakana*.

Classes meet three days a week (MWF) for one hour, and regular attendance and participation are expected.

PREREQUISITE Satisfactory completion of Japanese 212 with a C or CR or better, or instructor/departmental approval.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Stewart Curry — office hours Tuesday 10:30–11:15 or by appointment — Moore 368 — 956 2080 — scurry@hawaii.edu

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Electronic devices, including (but not limited to) cell phones, PDAs, pagers, iPods, and the like, except for electronic dictionaries, must be turned off during class time. If you must use such devices, you will be asked to leave the classroom to do so.

In case of emergency or other event preventing access to Moore Hall, we will meet on the lanai of Jefferson Hall.

If you are a student with a disability and have disability-related needs or concerns, please contact the KOKUA Program at 956 7511 or visit the program office in Room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Japanese 217 seeks to bring students to a proficiency level in reading and writing Japanese equal to that attained by students completing the JPN101–202 sequence. Approximately 370 basic *kanji* will be covered. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) read with full understanding connected texts dealing with personal and social needs, such as personal letters, messages, journal entries, and narrative accounts of events of interest;
- 2) get main ideas and information from longer descriptive and narrative texts including some (semi-) authentic materials;
- 3) meet many practical writing needs and social writing demands, such as simple personal letters, messages, journal entries, paragraphs expressing opinions, and, with the aid of dictionaries and other resources, to describe accounts of personal experiences and interests;
- 4) use *kanji* dictionaries;
- 5) compose documents in Japanese using a word processor.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The following materials from JPN102–202, as well as various class handouts provided by the instructor, are required:

JPN102: *Basic Kanji 2: A Reading and Writing Workbook for Beginners* (ISBN 0-07-294358-0)

JPN201: *Basic Kanji 3: A Reading and Writing Japanese Workbook* (ISBN 0-07-295482-5)

JPN202: *Basic Kanji 4: A Reading and Writing Japanese Workbook* (ISBN 0-07-295483-3)

The textbooks are all published by McGraw-Hill Primis Custom Publishing.

The *Basic Kanji* texts are available at the UH Bookstore; if bookstore supplies for JPN217 are diminished, the texts can be found in the sections for JPN102, 201, and 202.

The following materials are optional, but may be of great use, especially for students planning to continue to third-year Japanese (and beyond):

Haig, et al., *The New Nelson Japanese-English Character Dictionary* (or the original *Nelson* or other *kanji* reference)

Makino and Tsutsui, *A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar*, The Japan Times, Tokyo 1992
Japanese-English and English-Japanese dictionaries

GRADING

Final course grades will be based on the results of:

- A comprehensive final exam 25%
- Two midterm exams 2 @ 15% each = 30%
- Homework short assignments 20%
+ compositions 15% = 35%
- Weekly Quizzes 10%

The following scale will be used for the A–F grading option:

- 90–100% = A
- 80–89% = B
- 70–79% = C
- 60–69% = D
- Below 60% = F

Students taking the course on the CR/NC option must achieve at least a 70% overall average to receive credit. A minimum grade of C or CR is required to continue to Japanese 301.

Students are reminded that cheating, plagiarism, and other breaches of academic honesty will negatively affect grades. Please refer to the University of Hawaii at Manoa Catalogue for specific information on this topic.

DAILY PREPARATION

As noted on the Detail Schedule, assignments for each day refer to materials that will be covered in class on that day. These must be prepared in advance of that day's class — that is, *there is homework even if nothing is to be turned in*. Ill-preparedness for class time work will render class sessions boring at best, and completely irrelevant at worst, and will do no small disservice to your fellow class people who have done the requisite preparations. The instructor reserves the right to limit class sessions to those students who can demonstrate preparedness.

QUIZZES AND GRADED HOMEWORK

There will be a brief quiz once per week, the average score of which will comprise 10% of your final grade. This quiz will cover, as a general rule, any materials treated that week in class (i.e., it is keyed to the **calendar**, not to any particular lesson or lessons in the text).

There will also be short homework assignments, consisting of phrase- and sentence-level *kanji* write-ups, due twice per lesson. The average score of these will make up 20% of the final grade. Short assignments are of two types: the first, *Kanji Practice* (KP), consists of simple *kanji* fill-ins and tasks, and is due when noted on the assignment schedule; the second, *Writing Practice* (WP), is made up of English-to-Japanese translation exercises, and will be gone over in class, but must be completed *before* class to receive credit.

Integrated writing tasks (“compositions”), three in all, making up a total of 15% of the final grade, are paragraph-length or multi-paragraph (150 to 250 characters) exercises that provide the opportunity to put together vocabulary, grammar, and real-world knowledge and experience to produce narratives and other writings of more weight and significance than can be afforded through short practices and translations. Compositions will be submitted in two steps: the first step, a draft worth 20% of the overall composition grade, will be returned with comments and suggestions; the final version is due on the specified date on the daily assignment schedule. All compositions, including draft versions, must adhere to the formatting standards described in the “Composition Guidelines” document.

KANJI AND GRAMMAR COVERAGE

We are covering 370 *kanji* and scads of derived vocabulary in this course. Over the regular 102–202 sequence, that works out to a fairly reasonable eight characters a week, but for 217 it's more like 20 to 25 new characters every week, or eight per class day—not to mention at least one, and usually two or more, associated vocabulary items for each character. Constant review, beginning early in each chapter sequence, will be the key to success here. The use of flashcards and lots (LOTS) of rote practice (above and beyond assignments to be turned in) are not just heartily encouraged: they are indispensable to the task at hand.

Students enrolling in 217 are assumed to have grammatical competency (as distinct from literacy) equivalent to students who have finished second-year Japanese (i.e., JPN 202/212 at the University of Hawaii). For the most part, therefore, grammar is not systematically presented in 217, at least not in the sense of doing pattern practices, drills, and the like. As needed and/or requested, certain topics may be covered in class.