



**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**JAPANESE PROGRAMME**

**JAPA 405 SPECIAL TOPIC "CULTURE AND THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE"**

**TRIMESTER 2 2009**

13 July to 15 November 2009

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October  
Study week: 19 to 23 October

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Andrew Barke                      Room VZ 706  
Tel 463-6467    Andrew.Barke@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Shirley Pack                              Room VZ 610  
Tel 463-5635    Shirley.Pack@vuw.ac.nz  
Hours:    9.45am – 4.30pm

**Contact Person for:**

**Students with Disabilities**

**Maori and Pacific Students**

Dr Richard Millington vZ 613 Tel 463 5976      Richard.Millington@vuw.ac.nz

**Class times and locations**

a) Lectures: (3 hours per week)

Wed 12-1	vZ710
Fri 9-11	vZ710

**Course delivery**

Students will be required to read and report on related academic literature, as well as carry out their own analyses on a particular aspect of the language. They will also be expected to give presentations and actively participate in class discussions.

## **Communication of additional information**

Students are encouraged to watch the Japanese Programme notice boards (7th floor, von Zedlitz Building) for information on courses, programme changes, as well as Japanese Culture Club activities and other related information.

## **Course content**

This course will study various aspects of the interaction of Japanese culture and social customs with the Japanese language. Topics covered will include the linguistic expression of gender and politeness, the distinction of in-group and out-group membership, speaker perspective, personal address, and the marking of relative social status between discourse participants.

## **Learning objectives**

The course aims at increasing students' awareness and understanding of the importance of pragmatic factors influencing both the use and the structure of the Japanese language, thus leading to an improvement in students' ability to communicate effectively in the language.

After students have successfully completed this course, they should:

- (a) Have achieved a greater understanding and command of various pragmatic skills related to communication in the Japanese language.
- (b) Be able to read and give reports on related Japanese academic literature with the aid of dictionaries.
- (c) Have the ability to discuss various topics related to the Japanese language both orally and in writing.
- (d) Have had some experience in analysing Japanese conversational data.

## **Expected workload**

- a) Students are required to attend 3 hours of lectures per week.
- b) The university guideline for average number of study hours per week including class contact hours for a 400 level half year paper is 24 hours per week.
- c) If your progress is not satisfactory despite spending a large amount of time on study, you should consult the coordinator. Students can knock on his door (vZ706) and make an appointment.
- d) Students are required to attend 3 hours of tuition per week.

## **Readings**

Materials will be provided throughout the course by the Programme.

Students must have at least three kinds of dictionaries: Kanji, Eiwa and Waei.

## Assessment requirements

This course is internally assessed. Assessment covers all four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Tests are given throughout the course to enable the lecturer and students to monitor progress in language acquisition.

This course is internally assessed and will be based on:

1.	Two oral presentations (10% + 10% = 20%)	20%
2.	Two written assignments (15% + 15% = 30%)	30%
3.	Dialogue transcription	10%
4.	Final presentation	10%
5.	Final written test	30%
		100%

1. Two oral presentations (12 August and 23 September)

Students will be required to make two oral presentations in Japanese introducing and summarising Japanese material related to the topics being discussed in class. The presentations are intended to help students increase their knowledge and comprehension of the Japanese literature, as well as give them practice in discussing academic topics in Japanese.

2. Two written assignments

(a) First assignment - summary of literature (due 21<sup>st</sup> August)

Students choose a particular topic of interest, and write a summary in Japanese of the literature on this topic of about 2000 letters. Either handwritten or typed essays will be accepted. Handwritten essays should be written on genkoyoshi while typed essays should be double-spaced. This assignment is intended to exercise students' research skills and improve their Japanese writing ability.

(b) Second assignment - analysis report (due 2<sup>nd</sup> October)

This will be an essay written in English on the student's particular topic of interest, with emphasis being placed on the analysis of discourse data. The assignment should be approximately 2500 words and is designed to exercise students' research skills and understanding of the Japanese language.

3. Dialogue transcription (due 11<sup>th</sup> September)

Students will be required to make a transcription of a taped portion of a Japanese conversation. This is intended to provide them with aural practice as well as practice in transcribing discourse data.

4. Final presentation (14<sup>th</sup> October)

Students will be required to give a final presentation in Japanese on their topic of interest. The presentation will be approximately 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers. This presentation is to give students practice in delivering publicly their work in Japanese.

5. Final written test (16<sup>th</sup> October)

In a two-hour test, students will be required to translate Japanese writings into English and answer questions on Culture and the Japanese Language.

Grading Procedures:

In determining the grades for each course, the Japanese Programme uses the University's standard marking scheme.

### Penalties

- a) The deadlines for assignments and the method of assessment will be notified with each assignment. If an assignment is submitted late, 5% of the total mark will be deducted for each day over the deadline.
- b) If students are unable to give presentations on the day or complete assignments by the due date due to unforeseen circumstances, they must inform the lecturer prior to the date or deadline. If you are ill, you must provide a medical certificate.
- c) Failure to submit coursework or to sit tests without prior warning may result in a nil mark.

### Mandatory course requirements

Students must attend at least 80% of all lectures, sit all tests and all assignments must be submitted by their due dates.

### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **General University Policies and Statutes**

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>