



Course JAPN 1311 (BEGINNING Japanese I)  
Professor Katsumi Spangler  
Term Spring, 2026 (Jan.20-May.15)  
Class 1:00PM -2:15PM

**{This syllabus is subject to change when needs arise}**

---

### Professor's Contact Information

Office Location: JO4.502

Email Address: Katsumi.Spangler@UTDallas.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday between 4:00PM-5:00 PM by appointment (contact me by email.)

---

### General Course Information

**You must have a score within the range of the Japanese 1311 placement exam.**

#### Course Description

- 1) JAPN 1311 helps beginning language learners to build beginning proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in addition to a beginning understanding of Japanese culture.
- 2) The textbooks: *Genki 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. The textbook introduces students to authentic language situations. All four skills involved in learning a foreign language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) will be integrated into the coursework and evaluations.
- 3) During class, we will spend most of the time using the language, and you will be required to work in pairs and small groups. Your active participation in individual and group work is required for the success of the class.

#### Learning Outcomes

- To build basic competency in speaking, reading, listening, and writing.
- To build hiragana and katakana writing and reading skills
- To build basic kanji proficiency
- To prepare you to continue to JAPN 1312.
- To develop a basic knowledge of Japanese culture.

#### Required Texts & Materials

- Genki 1, An integrated course in Elementary Japanese 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (ISBN7978-4-7890)
- 3 ring binder to organize (optional)

Guidelines, rubrics, assignments, power points, study guides, and other class materials will be available on eLearning. **The materials for this course are not to be used outside of the context of this class and may not be distributed.**

## Tentative Class Schedule

Tentative Class Schedule: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Professor

Dates	Schedule	Hiragana Katakana Kanji	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>			
Lesson 1 1/20 Tue	Syllabus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Writing system: Hiragana and Katakana</li> <li>● Sound System</li> <li>● Greeting</li> </ul> Resources: Hiragana: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4qh8BVrb3w&amp;t=1sGreetings">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4qh8BVrb3w&amp;t=1sGreetings</a>  Katakana <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXmhAR1rIJk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXmhAR1rIJk</a>	あいうえお かきくけこ がぎぐげご さしすせそ ざじずぜぞ たちつてと だぢづでど	Note: Hiragana and Katakana worksheets are posted in eLearning.
Lesson 2 Ch1-1 1/22 Thurs	Writing system: Hiragana and Katakana (with dots, circles, double consonants, long vowels, contracted sounds)  Greeting Numbers 1-100	なにぬねの はひふへほ ぱびぶべぽ まみむめも や ゆ よ	
<b>Week 2</b>			
Lesson 3 Ch1-2 1/27 Tue	Chapter 1 <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points, Practice ① “X is Y” sentence pattern	らりるれろ わ を ん  Hiragana additional sounds	
Lesson 4 Ch1-3 1/29 Thurs	Chapter 1 <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points, Practice ② Questions: Telling/asking phone number, year in school  <b>Ch.1 Vocabulary Quiz (15 min.)</b>	アイウエオ カキクケコ ガギグゲゴ サシスセソ ザジズゼゾ	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hiragana Worksheet ①</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>End of Ch. 1 Vocabulary Exercise at 11:00AM (online)</b>
<b>Week 3</b>			
Lesson 5 Ch1-4 2/3 Tuesday	Ch. 1 Dialogue and Synthesis ③ Particle の ② Telling/asking age	タチツテト ダヂヅデド ナニヌネノ ハヒフヘホ バビブベボ パピプペポ マミムメモ	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No late submission End of Ch.1 Dialogue Reading at 11:59PM (online)</b>
Lesson 6 2/5 Thursday	Ch. 2 <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points, Practice, Conversation <b>Hiragana Quiz (15 min.)</b>	ヤ ユ ヨ ラリルレロ	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hiragana Worksheet ②</b>

		ワ ラ ン Katakana additional sounds	
<b>Week 4</b>			
Lesson 7 2/10 Tuesday	Ch. 2: <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points, Practice ①これ・それ・あれ・どれ ②この・その・あの・どの+Noun ③ここ・そこ・あそこ・どこ		□ <b>Katakana Worksheet①</b> □ <b>Ch.1 Workkbook</b>
Lesson 8 2/12 Thursday	Ch. 2: Grammar Points, Practice Numbers ④だれの Noun ⑤Noun も <b>Ch 2. Vocabulary Quiz (15min.)</b>	一 二 三 四 五	□ <b>End of Ch.2 Vocabulary Exercise at 11:00 AM (online)</b>
<b>Week 5</b>			
Lesson 9 2/17 Tuesday	Ch. 2: Grammar Points, Practice ⑥Nounじゃないです ⑦～ね・～よ Classroom vocabulary	六 七 八 九 十	
Lesson 10 2/19 Thursday	Ch.2: Dialogue and Synthesis, Grammar Points, Practice, Conversation <b>Katakana Quiz (15 min.)</b>	百 千 万 円 日	□ <b>No late submission</b> <b>Ch.2 Dialogue Reading by 11:59PM (online)</b> □ <b>Katakana Worksheet ②</b>
<b>Week 6</b>			
Lesson 11 2/24 Tuesday	Ch.3: Vocabulary, Grammar Points ①Verb Conjugation ②Verb Types and the “Present Tense”	時	□ <b>Ch.2 Workbook</b>
Lesson 12 2/26 Thursday	Ch. 3: Vocabulary, Grammar Points, Practice ③Particles: を、で、に、へ ④Time References		□ <b>Study Guide Ch.1, Ch.2, Ch.3</b>
<b>Week 7</b>			
Lesson 13 3/3 Tuesday	Ch. 3: Grammar Points, Practice ⑤～ませんか ⑥Frequency Adverbs ⑦Word Order <b>Ch.3 Vocabulary Quiz (15 min)</b>		□ <b>End of Ch.3 Vocabulary Exercise at 11:00 AM (online)</b>
Lesson 14 3/5 Thursday	Ch.3: Dialogue and Synthesis, Grammar Points, Practice, Conversation ⑧Particle は		□ <b>Ch. 3 Workbook</b> □ <b>No late submission</b> <b>Ch. 3 Dialogue Reading by 11:59PM (online)</b>
<b>Week 8</b>			
Lesson 15 3/10 Tuesday	<b>Exam 1: Ch.1, Ch.2, and Ch.3 (grammar 1-4 )</b>		
Lesson 16 3/12 Thursday	Ch4: Vocabulary, Dialogue, Practice, ①Xがあります・います ②Describing Where Things Are	日 本 人 月 火	

3/16-22	Spring Break		
<b>Week 9</b>			
Lesson 17 3/24 Tuesday	Ch. 4 : <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points ③Past Tense です ④Past Tense of Verbs ⑤も	水木金土曜	
Lesson 18 3/26 Thursday	Ch. 4: Grammar Points, Practice ⑥一時間 ⑦たくさん ⑧と <b>Ch. 4 Vocabulary Quiz (15 min.)</b>	上下中半	□ End of Ch.4 Vocabulary Exercise at 11:00 AM (online)
<b>Week 10</b>			
Lesson 19 3/31 Tuesday	Ch 4: Dialogue and Synthesis, Practice, Conversation <b>Ch.4 Kanji Quiz (15 min.)</b>		□ Ch.4 Kanji Review Sheet (Students who want to earn extra point) □ No late submission Ch. 4 Dialogue Reading by 11:59PM (online)
Lesson 20 4/2 Thursday	Ch 5: <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points, Conversation ①Adjectives (Present Tense) ②Adjective (Past Tense)	山川元気天	□ Ch.4 Workbook
<b>Week 11</b>			
Lesson 21 4/7 Tuesday	Ch.5 <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points ③Adjective (Noun Modification) ④好き(な)/きれい(な)	私今田女男	□ Oral Exam Script Draft
Lesson 22 4/9 Thursday	Ch. 5: Vocabulary, Grammar Points, Practice ⑤～ましょう～ましょうか ⑥Counting <b>Ch. 5 Vocabulary Quiz (15 min.)</b>	見行食飲	□ Ch.5 Vocabulary Exercise at 11:00 AM (online)
<b>Week 12</b>			
Lesson 23 4/14 Tuesday	Ch. 5: Dialogue and Synthesis, Grammar Points, Practice  □ Ch.5 Kanji Quiz (15 min.)		□ Ch.5 Kanji Review Sheet (Students who want to earn extra point)  □ No late submission Ch. 5 Dialogue Reading by 11:59PM (online)
Lesson 24 4/16 Thursday	Ch.6: <b>Vocabulary</b> , Grammar Points, Practice ①Te-Form ② ～てください ③Describing Two Activities	東西南北	□ Ch.5 Workbook
<b>Week 13</b>			
Lesson 25 4/21 Tuesday	Ch 6: Vocabulary, Grammar Points, Conversation ④～てもいいです⑤～てはいけません <b>Ch.6 Vocabulary Quiz (15min.)</b>	口出右左分	□Ch. 6 Vocabulary Exercise at 11:00 AM (online)
Lesson 26 4/23 Thursday	<b>Oral Exam</b>		□ No late submission Oral Exam Final Paper
<b>Week 14</b>			

Lesson 27 4/28 Tuesday	Ch.6: Vocabulary, Grammar Points, Practices ⑤～から ⑥～ましょうか (Offering Assistance)	先生大学 外国	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Study Guide 2: Ch.4, Ch. 5 Ch.6</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No late submission</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ch. 6 Dialogue Reading by 11:59PM (online)</b>
Lesson 28 4/30 Thursday	Ch6: Dialogue and Synthesis, Practices, <b>Ch. 6 Kanji Quiz</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ch.6 Kanji Review Sheet(Students who want to earn extra point)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ch.6 Workbook</b>
<b>Week 15</b>			
5/5 Tuesday			
5/7 Thursday			
Lesson 29 5/11-15 TBA	<b>Exam 2. Ch.3 (grammar 5-8), Ch.4, Ch.5, and Ch.6</b>		

**Keys to maintaining a good grade: Submitting assignments by the deadline (early submissions are welcome) and attending class.**

Grading Criteria		Extra Credits
Attendance & Participation	90 (3 ts X 30 meetings)	Kanji Review Sheet (KRS) Chapter 4 -6pt Chapter 5 - 7pt Chapter 6 - 7pt
Hiragana/ Katakana Sheet	40 (10pts X 4 assignments)	
Hiragana/Katakana quizzes	30 (15 pts X 2 quizzes)	
Kanji Quizzes	30 (10 pts X Ch. 4, 5 and 6)	
Workbook	120 (20 pts X 6 chapters)	
Vocabulary Quizzes	90 (15 pts X 6 chapters)	
Online Vocabulary Exercises	30 (5 pts X 6 chapters)	
Chapter Dialogue Reading	60 (10 pts X 6 chapters)	
Chapter Exams	320 (160 pts X 2 exams)	
Study Guides	40 (20 pts X 2 projects)	
Oral Exam Script	80 (60 pts X 1 script) Draft: 30 points Final product: 50 points	
Oral Exam	70 (70 pts X 1 exam)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 pts</b>	

### Grading Scale

97 – 100 = A+	87 – 89.99 = B+	77 – 79.99 = C+	67 – 69.99 = D+
94 – 96.99 = A	84 – 86.99 = B	74 – 76.99 = C	64 – 66.99 = D
90 – 93.99 = A-	80 – 83.99 = B-	70 – 73.99 = C-	60 – 63.99 = D-

## Student Accessibility

- If you have a disability that requires accommodations, you need to contact the Office of Student Accessibility immediately to obtain the appropriate documentation and provide me with the information they provided.
- Please feel free to discuss with me how to implement the necessary accommodations best.

### 1. Class attendance, participation, and tardiness

- You may fail this class if you don't attend the class regularly.
- Daily active participation means responding when called on, volunteering, doing group work, participating in exercises, and doing any other activity the instructor assigns.
- Your participation and level of engagement in this class will affect your and your peers' mastery of Japanese. I am interested in both **the quantity and quality of your participation**.
- **Tardiness:** Tardiness interrupts my instruction and the learning of your peers. **I will count you absent that day if I don't see you 10 minutes after class starts.**
- Please **do not leave class early or ask to leave during class** (except in cases of emergency and prearrangement).
- **If students are caught using any of these devices, it will be counted as absent for the day**

### 2. General Information: Hiragana and Katakana Worksheets, Workbook, Kanji Review Sheets, Study Guides

- If you submit the above assignments one class meeting later than the due date, there will be **a 20% deduction from the total points**. For example, if the due date is Monday, you can turn it in on Wednesday with a 20% deduction.
- **Submitting** an assignment after the one-meeting grace date **will not be accepted** for any work.
- **There is no overdue submission for the chapter reading, and the oral exam final draft.**

### 3. Quizzes and Other Assignments:

- You will have hiragana, katakana, and vocabulary quizzes from each chapter.
- There are **No Makeups for Quizzes** except if you present a doctor's note for your absence or other proof of documentation.
- **If you come to class after the quiz ends, you can't take the quiz.**

## A: Vocabulary Quizzes and Online vocabulary practices

- You will have an **online vocabulary practice** before each chapter vocabulary quiz. The deadline for the online vocabulary exercise is the date you will have a vocabulary quiz. **There will be no extension for this assignment.**
- The actual quizzes are identical to the practice quizzes, but the questions are randomized.
- **You must try the online practice twice to earn 5 points from each chapter vocabulary exercise, not from each attempt.**
- An actual in-class quiz counts for 15 points. The possible full points from each quiz and each online exercise are 15 points + 5 points. Thus, it would be best if you never skipped online practice quizzes. If you skip them, your vocabulary quiz grade will be significantly lower than you want.

## B: Kanji Quizzes

- You will have a kanji quiz for chapter 4, 5, and 6. There is **no makeup** for quizzes except when you present a doctor's note or other proof of documentation.
- **\*\*\*If you took the first quiz of the kanji quizzes and failed, you can try again, but the highest grade you will earn from the second try is 75% of the full points.**

## C: Chapter Dialogue Reading:

- After practicing the dialogue, record your dialogue reading and submit it through the link I created. You will find each chapter's dialogue and submission link on eLearning.
- **There is no late submission for the dialogue reading assignments.**

## D: Chapter exams:

- There will be two in-class exams for the material covered. You will be given more instructions related to chapter exams later in class. **There is no makeup for exams except when you present a doctor's note or other proof of documentation.**

## E: Study Guide:

- You will find each chapter's study guide template in the eLearning site.
- You will create two study guides, consisting of three chapters for each assignment (Assignment 1-Ch.1 & Ch.2, Ch.3 & Assignment 2-Ch.4, and Ch.5 & Ch.6) to prepare for the exams.
- You must submit them by the due dates. If you submit them one class meeting later than the due date, a **20% deduction** from the total points will apply.

## F: Oral exam product

- You will write a conversational script that you will use for the oral exam. The guideline and rubric will be posted on Blackboard.
- A draft due date is listed in the syllabus above.

- If you submit the draft one class meeting later than the due date, a **20% deduction** from the total points will apply. After one grace day, I will not accept any work without a doctor's note or other proof of documentation.
- **There is no late submission for the final paper.**

#### G: Oral exam:

- You will have a guided basic conversation with me at the end of the semester.
- The conversation will last at least 5-8 minutes. It will be graded based on the rubric I provide to you.

#### 4. Academic Integrity:

##### Hiragana and Katakana Worksheets, Workbook, Kanji Review Sheets, Study Guides, and Oral Exam Script

- If you don't show evidence of trying any assignment alone, I will deny credit for the entire assignment, and you will get **zero grade. Any kind of AI is not allowed in my class.**
- Copying the answers from other classmates or the answer book will result in a **zero grade.**
- Copying someone else's work as your own, including the study guides and oral exam script.
- Failing to comply with this policy will result in an automatic "F." If you have any questions or concerns regarding these regulations, please consult me.
- **If you submit them one class meeting later than the due date, there will be a 20% deduction from the total points.**

#### 5. Excused absences

As a rule, no absence will be excused without proper documentation. Excused absences are limited to the following:

- School-sponsored activities, including field trips and athletic events
- Religious observance
- Doctor's appointments and/or hospital stays
- Military duty/jury duty
- A death in the family

In each case, the student must notify the instructor in writing in advance with **proof of documentation.** This documentation must be original and not photocopied. In the event of a family emergency, such as the hospitalization or death of an immediate family member, you must contact your instructor via email as soon as possible. Documentation (such as an obituary or service bulletin) may be requested. The professor reserves the right to determine the validity of these absences on a case-by-case basis.

#### 6. Written Work and AI Support

- **You can use an online dictionary for vocabulary, but you are not allowed to use Google Translate, Chat GPT, etc. to finish your assignment**
- Please do not ask others to proofread your assignments. I will read your work first and help you correct any mistakes you made in your draft. As a rule, I must always be the first person to read your written work after I receive it on the due date.

## 7. Oral Work

- A student enrolling in this course should be able to spontaneously (without notes) answer familiar and basic questions during the oral exam. Therefore, using notes will result in an automatic “F” (59).

## 8. Personal Communication Devices

- Unauthorized texting and use of laptops, MP3s, and other personal communication devices are prohibited in the classroom.
- **If students are caught using any of these devices, it will be counted as absent for the day.**
- I take this matter very seriously, and I suggest you do too.

## 9. Email and Course Communication

- Students must use their UTD email account for all correspondence. Please be aware of the following:
- **No homework should be sent via email without prior approval.**
- Emails sent at night may not be answered until the next class day.
- Failure to receive a reply does not constitute permission.

## Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: *“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do”.*

## Academic Support Resources

The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students. Please go to the [Academic Support Resources](#) webpage for these policies.

## UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to [UT Dallas Syllabus Policies](#) webpage for these policies.

