

**CBS3537 Introductory Reading Japanese
Semester 3, 2022-23**

**Japanese Programme
Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

LTL	TUE 14:30-16:20	R1109
LTL	THU 14:30-16:20	QR402

Teaching Staff: Ms. Crystal LAM

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(Best method of contact is via email. For consultation, please make an appointment)

Note:

When you email to the teacher, please do make it sure to write "CBS3537" in the subject headings of ALL your emails. If you do not hear from us, don't get discouraged but re-send it with the correct subject heading. Remember: we always want to and will reply to you!

OFFICE: AG521

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

Objectives

This subject aims to help students retrieve relevant information from a range of authentic Japanese language texts not only by enabling them to develop an introductory reading skill that is required of them to attain the relevant information but also by empowering them to identify ways in which more complex authentic texts than those accessible at the introductory level become to a certain extent intelligible. The subject also aims to help students engage in writing simple Japanese texts which are useful in real-life everyday situations.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the subject, students should be able to:

Category A Professional / academic knowledge and skills

- (a) read and write fluently the Japanese writing system kana and accustom themselves to readings of Japanese words of Chinese origin as well as English loanwords in a range of simple authentic and constructed text examples;
- (b) write simple Japanese language texts that satisfy some everyday communicative purposes;
- (c) identify generic structure of a range of different text types for global comprehension to develop interest in reading Japanese language texts.

Category B Attributes for all-roundness

- (d) the skills involved in accessing authentic written texts;
- (e) the skills required for collaborative and multidisciplinary work;
- (f) the ability to engage in independent and reflective learning and problem solving

Teaching / Learning Methodology

The subject is composed of two parts: lectures offer learning content that is expanded through various activities and tasks in the subsequent seminars. Mode of teaching and learning is highly interactive, involving students in pair/ group work and discussion in which learning tasks are collectively completed. Where appropriate, students are expected to present their understanding of the content of relevant texts individually and/or in pair/group.

Different modes of learning not only enhance your language skills specified in the Intended Learning Outcomes but also enable you to deal with problem solving individually and collaboratively.

Assessment

Specific assessment/tasks	% weighting
1. Quizzes	20%
2. Homework	15%
3. Writing task	20%
4. Final examination	20%
5. Active class participation	10%
6. Extensive Reading Report	10%
7. L2L Exercise	5%
Total	100%

L2L exercise

Tasks will be given out throughout the semester, please follow the instructions from the L2L email and make sure you check the deadline of each tasks.

Quiz (20%)

There are 3 quizzes throughout the semester. Students will be tested on the course's learning content including reading and writing Hiragana and Katakana, writing short sentences, verb conjugations and reading aloud a short narrative text. The quizzes will be progressive to accompany students learning of the Japanese kana system from simple words to short phrases and sentences. All quizzes will be conducted during normal class hours. There will be NO supplementary quiz under any circumstances.

Homework (15%)

To prepare students for the quizzes, there are 3 sets of homework throughout the semester. The homework is designed to help students familiarized with the Japanese kana system through reading and writing short sentences. Students are expected to use the tools introduced in class such as online dictionaries to complete their homework. Homework is due one week after it is distributed to students. Submission must be made during normal "seminar" hours. No late submission will be accepted under

any circumstances.

Writing task (20%)

You are required to complete 2 writing tasks that enable you to practice composition. Both compositions must be submitted via email that allows you to engage in “doing” something. In Writing 1, you are to report on your learning Japanese experiences, and in Writing 2, you share your dream. Both writing tasks require you to apply your reading and writing skills. **Both writing tasks must be hand-written. Typed composition will not be accepted.**

Examination (20%)

A 50-minute final examination will be conducted to test your working knowledge on Japanese. The exam consists of two parts. In the first part, students are examined on their reading skills through a combination of multiple choices and short text reading of authentic texts that belong to the different text types covered in class. In the second part, students are required to write a short text within the context of everyday life communication. The examination will be held in Week 13 during normal seminars. See below for missing examination due to sickness and/or misadventure.

Active class participation (5%)

Students are required to attend all lectures and seminars. If you are unable to attend a class due to misadventure, a written explanation supported by relevant proof (e.g. a doctor’s certificate for sick leave) must be submitted. **Absence from class without such proof will result in mark deduction.** Each absence from seminars will result in deduction of 5 marks from subject’s overall mark. Maximum penalty of deduction of mark is 30 marks.

In order for students to make significant contribution to their collective learning in the classroom context, they need to actively engage in various learning tasks and, where appropriate, voice their views by initiating and responding. This assessment component will assess student’s active participation in this regard. Active class participation will be assessed based on the following criteria:

Mark	Criteria
A (13-15%)	Always well prepared: Student is attentive and participates actively in class; tries to use Japanese with classmates and teacher; makes the most of each activity or exercise; demonstrates real resourcefulness and imagination when using Japanese; communicate with classmates in a thoughtful and positive manner; remains receptive and open-minded toward fellow students and demonstrates cultural sensitivity and knowledge
B (10-12%)	Usually well prepared: Student is attentive and occasionally volunteers in class; tries to use Japanese with classmates and teacher; makes the most of each activity or exercise for completion; shows resourcefulness and imagination when using Japanese; makes some effort to engage with fellow students; shows some development of cultural sensitivity and knowledge
C (7-9%)	Adequately prepared: student is attentive; occasionally needs to be reminded to use Japanese with teacher and classmates; responds and carries out exercises minimally ; hardly engage with other classmates
D (4-6%)	Usually unprepared. Student makes little effort to participate or complete exercises; rarely attempts to use Japanese with teacher or classmates
F (Below	Often unprepared. Makes hardly any meaningful contribution to class

3%)	
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NOTE: Attendance might bring you extra points:

On-time attendance maybe checked randomly throughout the semester and those who are present will be awarded with extra points.

As this is a **three**-credit course, daily attendance is **MANDATORY**.

All tests and examination should be taken at the scheduled date and time. **No supplementary quiz will be given under any circumstances.** For those who have missed the examination due to sickness and/or misadventure, written request for supplementary examination must be emailed to your teacher within one week from the date of the examination. For more detail, see the Student Handbook

In addition to mandatory attendance to all lectures and seminars, students are encouraged to actively participate in class activities such as group discussion, sharing of opinions / views and collaborating with fellow classmates in completing assigned tasks.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what material was covered during your absences and to approach your instructor.

Extensive Reading Report (10%)

Students will submit 5 extensive reading report throughout the semester. Details will be informed in seminars.

Subject Outline & Schedule* (with the revised timetable for assessment tasks)

Wk	Date	Content	Remark
1	23 MAY	Introduction to the course Writing one's own name in Hiragana/Katakana Pronunciation	Add & Drop period Course starts from Lecture on 13 January
2	25 MAY	"Self-Introduction" - Reading & writing Hiragana - Hiragana practice	Add & Drop period Homework 1 - Hiragana reading and writing practice (word level)
3	30 MAY	[Reporting + Sharing:] "Hotel Hanare" "Diary" - Reading & writing Hiragana - Hiragana review	[Quiz 3 texts]
4	1 JUN	"Tokyo Disney Menu" - Reading & Writing Katakana - Katakana in everyday life	Homework 2: Katakana reading and writing exercise
5	6 JUN	Cont'd "Tokyo Disney Menu"	
6	8 JUN	"Japanese university student's day, Akahashi- kun" - Report one's daily life	Quiz 1: Kana (Hiragana & Katakana)
7	13 JUN	Cont'd "Japanese university student's day, Akahashi- kun"	Homework 3: Verb conjugation and short Q & A (to be submitted in Week 8)
8	15 JUN	Email message" and "Learning Japanese" Sharing Experiences	Writing task 1: writing a personal email about learning Japanese (to be submitted in Week 9)
9	20 JUN	"Yume" - Sharing values	Quiz 2: Verbs and question words
22 JUN TUEN NG Festival Public Holiday			
10	27 JUN	"Short story"	Quiz 3: Read-out-loud text in seminars
11	29 JUN	"Short story"	Writing task 2: Sharing my dream (to be submitted in Week 11)
12	4 JUL	Review and preparation for final examination	
13	6 JUL	Final examination	Final examination Extensive reading report (to be submitted in Week 13)

* Note: The content and schedule of the subject may change without a prior notice.

Course materials:

There is a set textbook for this subject. It will be handed out to students unit by unit. Various additional texts and notes will also be used and provided throughout the semester.

Useful Resources:

For learning Kana, many free online learning resources including games are available for anyone who wishes to learn both Hiragana and Katakana effectively. Below list some examples of websites and mobile apps that you may find useful in facilitating your self-study in recognizing and writing Japanese script. Following are some examples only.

Websites for learning and practicing *kana*

- <http://www.learn-hiragana-katakana.com/>
- <https://muc-portal.muc.meiji.jp/portal/contents/japaneseeedu/system/>
- <http://www.coelang.tufs.ac.jp/modules/ja/basic/index.html>
- <http://www.yynihongo.jp/>
- <http://www.unckel.de/kanacards/index-en.html>
- <http://www.csus.edu/indiv/s/sheaa/projects/hiragana.html>
- <http://genki.japantimes.co.jp/self>

Website for introductory Japanese (with various functions) One needs to be able to read *Kana*.

- <http://www.yynihongo.jp>

Online Dictionaries

- <http://www.weblio.jp/>
- <http://ja.bab.la/>
- <http://dictionary.j-cat.org/>
- <http://kantango.com/>

Mobile Apps

For iPhone

- imiwa? - Japanese dictionary by Pierre-Phi di Costanzo
- Japanese English Dictionary Free 英和辞典 by Bravolol Limited
- StickyStudy: Japanese Lite (JLPT N5 Vocabulary & Kanji Flashcards) by Stickystudy

For Android

- JED - Japanese Dictionary by Attila Korompai
- IMI - Japanese Dictionary by Naruhodo software
- Aedict Japanese Dictionary by Martin Vysny
- Kana (Hiragana & Katakana) by TenguLogi

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