

JPN 455 Fall 2010 Syllabus

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Office Hours: M, W, F: 10:30-11:30. Or by appointment. Sign up on the sheet on the office door, or leave message: (248) 370-2066.

I. Texts:

1) Japanese Sentence Patterns for Effective Communication. Kamiya, Kodansha; 2) Video-tapes; 3) Handouts.

Denshi-jisho is highly recommended.

Japanese newspapers online at the following sites: 1) Yahoo! Japan; 2) CNN.co.jp; 3) www.asahi.com;

4) www.mainichi.co.jp; 5) www.yomiuri.co.jp (Asahi, Mainichi and Yomiuri also provide with Japanese news in English).

II. Objectives and course descriptions:

1) The primary objective of this course is needless to say to translate English texts into Japanese. In so doing, you will be challenged to adopt diverse genre styles (bookish, literal, colloquial, formal, masculine, feminine, neutral, ornate, simple, journalistic, exaggerated, satiric, for instance) in Japanese. The original texts will be from the following: newspaper article and/or editorial, drama, film script, literature, technological manuals (above for 2009 Fall), diary, autobiography, song lyrics, and comics. In the process, you will question: how to handle the concepts or phenomena that have definitions in English dictionary but not their equivalents in Japanese (such as agribusiness, doggy bagging, 8 Mile)?; how to translate set-phrases that make no sense in Japanese (fat chance, cold turkey)?; what will you do when you come across objects, people, professions, animals that do not exist in Japan (brownies, fudges, road ragers, road kills, clunkers)?

You are expected to increase the vocabulary and the number of kanji as you work on translations: try to use as many new words and kanji as possible.

III. Requirements:

1) **Assignments** (3 x 5 = 15 %).

On-time submission of the homework and assignments decipherably hand-written or typed, both in hard copy--delays are not accepted whatever the reasons are.

1st assignment, September: 2 newspaper article (80-100 words in original/each)

2nd assignment, October: your favorite short story, or pages from a short story (2-3 pages)

3rd assignment, November: movie subtitles (4 pages in original)

2) **Attendance** (10 %).

Excellent attendance and participation. To be in the class at 3:30 pm. If you have a chronic conflict with this class's schedule, you should plan to take this course in the future when your schedule is compatible with the class schedule. (0 absence =10 pts; 1 absence =9; 2=8; 3=7; 4=6; 5=5; 6=4; 7 and more absences = expelled from the class without notice.)

3) **Exams and Quizzes** (60 %).

Take all the exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates no matter what happens to you. No makeup is given. Quizzes are given towards the end of the class. (Midterm=25 pts; Final=25; Quiz-cumulative=10.)

4) **Project submission and presentation** (final project 10%).

You pick up two texts (one for the Midterm, and the other for the Final). Each text in English should be one-full page (about 500 words). Please submit both the original English and its Japanese translation, typed, double spaced.

The presentation (only once toward the end of the semester; 5 %) should focus on the difficulties you come across and the differences between the original and the translation. You project the original onto the screen and give its Japanese version to the class.

VI. Grading Scale: total score

A+: 97+ (4.0, 3.9)	A: 93+ (3.8)	A-: 90+ (3.7, 3.6)
B+: 87+ (3.5, 3.4)	B: 83+ (3.3, 3.2)	B-: 80+ (3.1, 3.0)
C+: 77+ (2.9 - 2.7)	C: 73+ (2.6 - 2.3)	C-: 70+ (2.2 - 2.0)
D+: 67+ (1.9 - 1.7)	D: 63+ (1.6 - 1.3)	D-: 60+ (1.2 - 1.0)
F: 59.9- (0.0)		

Conversion of the grades into the numerals:

A+ =10, A=9, A-=8, B+=7, and so on (in the 10 % ratio).

A+ =20, A=18, A-=16, B+=14, and so on (in the 20 % ratio).

Translation quiz will take place every Wednesday

Revised schedule (tentative)

Date		Japanese sentence patterns (textbook)
	September topics: Journalism, economics, technology in news paper; gadget manuals	
1. 9/9	Cancelled	
2. 9/14	News paper, journals	Lesson 1. Bonus: Three piglets.
3. 9/16	News paper, journals	1
4. 9/21	News paper, journals	2
5. 9/23	News paper, journals	2
6. 9/28	News paper, journals	3
7. 9/30	News paper, journals	3. Submission of Sep. assignment
	October topics: Short stories	4.
8. 10/5	Short stories	4.
9. 10/7	Short stories	5
10. 10/12	Short stories	5
11. 10/14	Short stories	6
12. 10/19	Short stories	6
13. 10/21	Short stories	7. Preview of the Midterm.
14. 10/26	Midterm	
15. 10/28	Short stories	7
	November topics: Movie subtitles, or play translation	8
16. 11/2	Plays, or, movie subtitles	8. Submission of Oct. assignment
17. 11/4	Plays, or, movie subtitles	9
18. 11/9	Plays, or, movie subtitles	9
19. 11/11	Plays, or, movie subtitles	10
20. 11/16	Plays, or, movie subtitles	10
21. 11/18	Plays, or, movie subtitles	11
22. 11/23	Plays, or, movie subtitles	11
23. 11/25	Plays, or, movie subtitles	12
24. 11/30	Plays, or, movie subtitles	12. Submission of Nov. Assignment. Preview of the Final (tentative).
25. 12 (?)	(to be rescheduled)	
26. 12/2	Presentation Session	6 minutes/person
27. 12/9 (?)	Final	