

0502J101

Elementary Japanese I

Instructor: TBA

Time: December 15, 2025 - January 16, 2026

Office Hours: By Appointment

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

E-mail: TBA

Course Description

This is a 4-credit course in elementary Japanese. In this course, you will build a strong foundation in Japanese language acquisition by watching a series of tutorial videos; you will learn the basics of orthography, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural information necessary to use Japanese appropriately. Students will also have a chance to research and present topics about Japanese culture at the end of the semester. Successful students in this course can take Elementary Japanese II to further improve their Japanese proficiency.

Course Goals

At the end of the course the students will be able to:

- Listen and comprehend basic spoken Japanese.
- Understand basic grammar concepts.
- Write basic sentences in Japanese.
- Engage in basic daily conversation in Japanese.

- Show appreciation for and awareness of Japanese culture.
- Develop an understanding of Japanese cultural activities and celebrations.
- Write short sentences and paragraphs on studied topics.

Out of course work expectations (Workload)

You are expected to spend about at least 1 hour doing homework for each video. In addition, your preparation for quizzes or exams should take 3 to 5 hours each week.

Required Textbook

GENKI: An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese Vol. 1, 3rd Edition, Eri Banno, Yoko Ikeda, Yutaka Ohno, Chikako Shinagawa, Kyoko Tokashiki, The Japan Times, ISBN13: 978-4-7890-1730-5

GENKI - Workbook Vol. 1, 3rd Edition, Eri Banno, Yoko Ikeda, Yutaka Ohno, Chikako Shinagawa, Kyoko Tokashiki, The Japan Times, ISBN-13: 978-4-7890-1731-2

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE

- Introduction
- Hiragana
- Lesson 1 あたらしいともだち (New Friends)
- Quiz 1

WEEK TWO

- Katakana
- Lesson 2 かいもの (Shopping)
- Quiz 2

WEEK THREE

- Lesson 3 デートの約束 (Making a Date)
- Quiz 3

WEEK FOUR

- Lesson 4 初めてのデート (The First Date)
- Quiz 4

WEEK FIVE

- Lesson 5 沖縄旅行 (A Trip to Okinawa)
- Final Test

Please check the Excel file: 'Daily schedule' provided on Moodle.

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Interactive session participation and preparation

The participation involves volunteering answers and contributing to the class discussions. Inhibition is the enemy of learning. Being prepared means that you should demonstrate your knowledge and abilities acquired by watching all the related tutorial videos, practicing with your instructor during the video and completing the assignments.

Assignments

Homework exercises:

Students will be required to finish **WB** writing and listening practice. **WB** indicates *GENKI - Workbook Vol. 1*, 3rd Edition. We will provide you with answer sheets. Please submit designated pages on time. Each day, you will need watch 2 videos (about 30 minutes in total) and finish the required homework within the same day.

Writing Practice:

At the end of each chapter, you will be required to write a composition in Japanese.

Topics are below:

Chapter1: Self-introduction

Chapter2: Introduce a photo

Chapter3: Your daily routine

Chapter4: Your weekend

Chapter5: Post card (your travel)

Recording Assignments:

Students will be asked to record themselves speaking Japanese by following specific guidelines. In each chapter, students will be required to record 2 audios.

1. The dialogue text of each chapter.
2. The ‘answer orally’ part of WB.

For the first chapter, except these two, you will also need to record basic Japanese greetings (Video No.5).

Please make sure you submit every assignment on time. Late submission will not be accepted for grade.

Live sessions Participation

This course includes two live sessions. In each session, students will be required to do a presentation in Japanese.

Students are required to turn on their cameras all the time, while you only need to turn on your microphone when you are giving your presentation. **Attendance** is strictly required and absence for each session will get 5%-point deduction.

Session1 topic: ‘self-introduction + introduce your family members/friends’

Session2 topic: ‘your daily routine and your weekend’

Grading Policy

Quizzes and Final test	50%
Recording Assignments.	20%
WB Homework and compositions	20%
Live Sessions Participation	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.