

JAPN 3691 Syllabus

Technical and Scientific Japanese, 3 credits

Fall 2026

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Instructor Information

Instructor: Masato Kikuchi

Email: mk43@gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

This course aims to help students improve their reading skills, especially in science and technology. Furthermore, it will enable students to acquire knowledge of kanji and vocabulary as well as grammar structures frequently used in technical and scientific writings in Japanese. This course will also provide students with practical information as well as cultural information in the contexts of Japanese science and technology. In addition, students will learn to write short passages using the expository writing style and make a short presentation on a chosen topic in the technical/scientific field in Japan.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

None.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an ability to read Japanese expository writing on topics related to science and technology
2. Acquire technical terms and concepts in a variety of fields.
3. Be able to state facts and issues of technology specifically in the context of Japanese society.
4. Acquire basic kanji and grammar structures used frequently in Technical Japanese
5. Learn how to write short passages, using the expository writing style
6. Make a short presentation in Japanese on a chosen topic of science and technology (This will be a group presentation---groups of 3 students each.)

Required Course Materials

All course materials including selected excerpts, grammar and vocabulary explanations, assignments, quizzes and exams will be provided through Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Grading is on a 100-point scale: A \geq 90%, B \geq 80%, C \geq 70%, D \geq 60%

Assignments

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|-------------------------------------|-----|
| • Attendance & Active Participation | 20% |
| • Assignments | 15% |
| • Vocabulary & Kanji Reading Tests | 15% |
| • Science & Technical Reading | 10% |

• Presentation	10%
• Midterm & Final Exams	30%
Total	100%

Extra credit up to 2% (If the CIOS result has a participation rate of 85% or higher)

Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend every class meeting and **actively** participate in all activities during class. Unless it is judged as an excused absence by the instructor due to a medical reason or other unforeseen circumstances, a score of zero (0) will be entered for attendance/participation every time you miss a class.

Homework

You are expected to complete and submit all homework assignments on time through Canvas Assignments tool and other collection methods. **If you submit your homework after its deadline, you may not receive full credit for it unless you contact your instructor beforehand and receive permission for a late submission.** All assignments in this course must be individual work (except for group presentations). **Absolutely no copying of any portion of others' work will be tolerated.** This includes any AI-generated texts, images and speeches.

The use of generative AI is not permitted unless explicitly authorized. When AI use is allowed, you must clearly indicate which parts of your work were supported by AI tools.

Note: If your topic is about AI-generated materials, you can use them as examples (not exceeding 25% of your presentation). Make sure to cite the sources properly when this happens.

Presentation (Groups of 3 students each)

Choose a new scientific and/or technological innovation related to Japan. You will give a presentation on the topic using PowerPoint. Each presentation should be 8-9 minutes long followed by a Q&A session of about 1-2 minutes.

Make-up Tests

No make-up tests will be given unless you contact the instructor, explain the reason for missing the test, AND receive permission. No make-up tests will be given under any circumstances once the graded exams are returned.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Missing Classes

1. If you will be absent, you need to contact your instructor via Canvas Inbox (or regular email) at mk43@gatech.edu as soon as possible, preferably before the class begins.
2. If you have missed or are going to miss 2+ consecutive classes in a course due to an unexpected emergency (death in the family, personal medical issues, etc.) please fill out the [Request Assistance Form](#). After completing the form, the Office of the Vice President of the Dean of Students will contact your professors providing the necessary documentation on your behalf. It is not necessary for you to email your professors directly regarding any emergencies you may have.

3. If you are missing class for institute excused reasons (e.g. athletics, professional conferences, academic competitions), please fill out the [Institute Approved Absence Form](#) found in the Registrar's Office site and submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office. Requests should be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
4. Additional information is available in the [Student Handbook](#).

Homework Submission Rules

If you cannot turn in your homework by the deadline, you should explain the reason in detail. Your instructor will make a final decision whether your late homework can receive credit or not. Please note that the following are examples which are NOT considered as legitimate excuses:

1. I did my homework but forgot to submit it.
2. I did my homework but uploaded a wrong file.
3. I uploaded my homework on time, but it was damaged during upload. (Always confirm your upload by downloading it and open it again in your computer. This way, you can check if your uploaded file is correct and undamaged.)
4. I didn't know the homework was due today/I forgot to check the course schedule.
5. I was too busy working on assignments/project for another class.