

Syllabus for JAPN 3694: Conversation Practicum

3 credits

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
Aki Matsushima (in charge of 1st half)	akimatsushima@modlangs.gatech.edu	TBA
Yumi Parks (in charge of 2nd half)	yparks@gatech.edu	TBA

Course Description

This course aims to help students improve their conversational skills in Japanese through various aural-oral drills, dictation, and transcribing exercises. Students will improve their ability to process spoken Japanese more efficiently by internalizing the vocabulary and grammar patterns they have learned. In addition, they will expand the repertoire of active vocabulary and grammar patterns and acquire skills to carry out conversations more smoothly. In addition to the in-class practices, students are required to spend considerable amount of time practicing conversations with native speakers of Japanese (Buddy-san) outside the class periods, recording part of their conversation, and writing reflections every week. Furthermore, they will be practicing aural-oral drills and dictation with pre-recorded materials on VoiceThread.

Course Objectives:

1.
 1. To expand the repertoire of active vocabulary and grammar patterns so that they can converse on a greater number of topics with more complex grammar patterns
 2. To improve their accuracy and fluency by internalizing the vocabulary and grammar patterns they have learned
 3. To develop back-channel communication skills in Japanese so that they can manage conversations more effectively
 4. To become more aware of their personal habits in conversation as well as their weaknesses so they can address those problem areas

Course Materials and Submission of Recorded Materials

The handouts and materials for conversation practices are distributed through Canvas, including the

recorded materials for the aural-oral drills and dictation practices. Students will be using Canvas to upload recorded conversations and transcripts.

Evaluation:

Pre & Post Program Assessments	5%
Attendance and participation in in-class activities	20%
After Class Reflection Notes Assignments	20%
Conversation Reflection & Video Recording	20%
Conversation Transcription (5 min)	20%
Group Presentation (Song Performance)	15%

In-Class Activities

In class, students will practice conversation with native speakers of Japanese on a variety of topics and receive feedback from not only their conversation partners but also from the instructor after each practice. Students are required to utilize various new words and grammar patterns during these conversations. These in-class conversations are designed to introduce students to the words and grammar patterns related to the given topic and prepare them for the conversation practices outside the classroom.

Every week, students are required to have their TAs (Tutors) fill out the **TA Check list** and upload it on Canvas.

Outside-Classroom Conversation Practices and Homework

Students are required to practice and record conversations on a variety of topics with native speakers of Japanese outside the class time on a regular basis and to submit audio recordings of parts of these conversations and their reflections on their own performance. Also, students will need to obtain a comment from the native speakers they have spoken to, for their opinions on what they can do to improve their language skills.

Course Policies

- **Participation:**

Participation is graded on the scale of 0 to 3. If students come to class late and/or engage in activities which indicate their inattention or non-participation in the classroom activities (e.g., falling asleep, chatting with your classmate(s), text-messaging with your friend(s), doing homework, reading something unrelated to the class activities, etc.), the student participation grade will be lowered. Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. Course instructors are responsible for establishing

reasonable deadlines and/or make-up materials for the missed work, and for clearly communicating this information to the relevant students, when absences for Institute activities are approved.

You are expected to attend every class meeting and actively participate in all activities during class. You are NOT allowed to cut any classes. Unless it is judged as an excused absence by the instructor due to a medical reason, a score of zero (0) will be entered for attendance/participation every time you miss a class.

Participation Grading Scale (0-3 points):

3- Full attendance & Active participation

2- Little Participation / Tardy and/or Early exit (Less than 15 min total)

1- Non/Poor Participation / Tardy and/or Early exit (More than 15 min total)

0- No Show / Unexcused Absence

- **Assignments:**

You are expected to complete and submit all homework assignments on time. If you submit your homework after its deadline, you will not receive any credit for it unless you contact your instructor beforehand and receive permission for a late submission. Generally speaking, you will not receive permission for late submission unless there is a medical emergency.

- **Cheating, Copying Homework, & Plagiarism**

You are under the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. Cheating on any tests and exams will not be tolerated and the Dean's Office will be notified of such incidents. Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to work created by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations constitutes an act of plagiarism and will not be tolerated. In addition, copying any part of your classmate's homework assignment or letting others copy yours will be also regarded as a violation of the honor code. If you are not familiar with the [Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code](#).