

JAPN 1001 - Elementary Japanese I Syllabus

Section C (CRN85342) / Section D (CRN92469)

Fall Semester, 2026

Instructor:

Aki Matsushima

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Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00 (Please make an appointment.)

Course Description:

JAPN 1001 – Elementary Japanese I offers an introduction to listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Japanese and to the culture of Japanese-speaking regions. JAPN 1001 aims to build oral and written communication skills in Japanese at the elementary level and promote cultural awareness and literacy of the Japanese-speaking world.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Use Japanese to communicate with peers and instructor both orally and in writing to create a shared community experience.
2. Employ strategies to comprehend texts (in written, aural, and video form) written by and for Japanese speakers.
3. Employ strategies to express ideas orally and in writing related to familiar topics in presentational contexts.
4. Employ strategies to express ideas in interpersonal contexts in culturally appropriate ways, including identifying and signaling comprehension breakdown, asking and answering questions, and requesting information.
5. Understand and communicate the basics of Japanese-speaking cultures, modes of life, and customs.
6. Develop intercultural awareness through the study of the similarities and differences among and the relationships between language and culture systems.
7. Be prepared to continue developing Japanese language skills and cultural understanding in JAPN 1002.

Evaluation Criteria

Participation	10%
Grammar Homework	20%
Kana & Kanji Homework	15%
Lesson quizzes	10%
Vocabulary Tests	10%
Skit	15%
Self-introduction Videos	2%
Video Dialogue	13%
Final Exam	5%

Description of Graded Components

Participation: (10%)

In JAPN1001 you are expected to

- **prepare** the class contents **before** you come to **class**
- **attend every class** meeting and **actively participate** in all class activities
- **review** the materials you learned in each class meeting and engage in **additional practices to internalize** them
- **complete** all **homework assignments** and **submit** them in class **on time**

Your class participation and performance will be graded daily based on the following scale:

10	=	high degree of both active participation and preparedness
9	=	moderate degree of active participation and high degree of preparedness
8	=	moderate degree of both active participation and preparedness
7	=	low degree of active participation and preparation
0	=	no participation in class activities

In order to be considered as an active participant in JAPN1001, it is **not enough** to simply follow the instructor's direction and do classroom activities. If you want to be considered to have actively participated in our class, you must **volunteer to share your responses** when the instructor asks for volunteers. You will be judged to be highly prepared if your classroom performance indicates that you have read the textbook and memorized vocabulary, practiced new grammatical patterns/conjugation, practiced reading and writing hiragana/katakana, etc. well.

If you engage in activities which indicate your **inattention or non-participation** in our classroom activities (e.g. unresponsive or taking too much time to answer when your name is called, giving unrelated answers, etc.), you will receive **a score of 6 or below**. What score you receive depends on the severity of the problematic behavior.

You are allowed to take 2 absences without questions. The reasons for using these are: when you cannot come to class because you are sick, have to go to a job interview or academic conference, or have a family emergency. You will get zero (0) points for any class session you miss after your 3rd absence. You are also expected to come to class on time. If you come to class late by more than 5 minutes, you will receive a penalty on your participation/performance score. The severity of the penalty depends on how late you come in.

In JAPN1001 a good attendance record will be honored with extra credit:

0 absences throughout the semester → 1 extra points

1 absence in the semester → 0.5 extra points

2 absences in the semester → 0 extra point

If you will be absent because you are going to participate in approved Institute activities such as class field trips and athletic events, you must submit a written proof of your participation before the day of your absence. If you will be absent because of jury duty (not traffic court appearance), submit a document which can verify the circumstances (e.g. jury duty summons) as soon as possible.

If you must miss several classes in a row due to medical emergency (e.g. having the flu or a hospitalized situation) or family emergency (e.g. traveling to other country for it), please contact the instructor and consult what you can do to make up for the absences.) You will be also responsible for contacting the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible to report the medical issue or emergency, providing dated documentation from a medical professional and requesting assistance in notifying us.

In any event, if you have to miss a class unexpectedly and if you have a legitimate reason, you should contact the instructor as soon as possible (within the same day).

Grammar Homework: (20%)

There will be a variety of homework assignments in JAPN1001. The due dates are indicated on the course schedule. You need to upload your homework on Canvas by noon on the due date. You need to download or print out the homework from the "Files" section on Canvas, hand-write your answers (You need to work on your handwriting. Therefore, do NOT type.), and upload it on Canvas. Only the homework which is turned in on time will receive a full credit.

Please note that all homework assignments in JAPN1001 have to be INDIVIDUAL and INDEPENDENT products. You are NOT permitted to work with your classmate(s) or others to come up with your answers unless you are instructed to work with your classmate(s) by your instructor.

Kana & Kanji Homework: (15%)

You will have four hiragana homework assignments, two katakana homework assignments, and three kanji homework assignments.

Lesson Quizzes: (10%)

You will have two quizzes, one for L1-4 and one for L5-6A. You are expected to be able to utilize all the vocabulary and grammar covered in the lessons.

Vocabulary Tests: (10%)

You will be tested on the vocabulary once they are introduced in the class in each lesson. There will be five tests (L3/4/5/6A/6B).

Skit: (15%)

You will be asked to create a skit with one of your classmates and perform it in front of the class during the semester. The requirements for this skit will be explained in class. After your script receives an OK from your instructor, you will need to practice your skit with your partner repeatedly so that you can perform your skit correctly and fluently without even glancing at the script.

Self-Introduction Videos: (2%)

You record introducing yourself, one in English and one in Japanese. It must be in mp4 (video), not mp3 (audio).

Video Dialogue: (13%)

You will be assigned a partner with whom you practice and record a dialogue. The scripts will be provided on Canvas. There will be five assignments.

Final Exam: (5%)

You will be tested on your listening / reading / writing skills. All the vocabulary and grammar will be covered in this class.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

*After all extra credits are added.

Course Materials

Course Text: *Elementary Japanese 1*

<https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/112226>

Information on how to access the textbook is available on our Canvas site.

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools

All course materials (discussions, assignments, grades etc.) will be hosted in Canvas.

Week-by-Week Schedule.

Week 1 – Course introduction, syllabus review, and Lesson 1-2 (Greetings and Useful Expressions / Hiragana)
Grammar lessons on greetings and styles and on referring to people.
Vocabulary building related to classroom instructions, Japanese greetings, and useful expressions.
Hiragana reading and writing.
Cultural lessons on how to greet people in formal settings (e.g. bowing instead of shaking hands and hugging).

Week 2-3 – Lesson 2-3 (Talking about oneself / Katakana)
Grammar lessons on describing oneself (name/major/year/hometown), connecting two sentences.
Vocabulary building related to nationality / year in school / major.
Katakana reading and writing.
Cultural lessons on academic systems in Japan.

Week 4-5 – Lesson 4 (Talking about object in classroom)
Grammar lessons on using demonstrative words (this/that/which one), asking for a translation / sentence ending particles.
Vocabulary building related to classroom objects / adjectives.
Cultural lessons on ways to communicate in a collective society.

Week 6-8 – Lesson 5 (Identifying Objects and People)
Grammar lessons on prenominal demonstrative / pronoun / locational nouns / expression of existence.
Vocabulary building related to colors / building on campus and in town / locational nouns.
Cultural lessons on vagueness in Japanese culture deriving from sentence structures.

Week 9-11 – Lesson 6A (Discussing Daily Activities 1)
Grammar lessons on telling time.
Vocabulary building related to numbers 0-99 / time / months and dates / activities.
Cultural lessons on Japanese sense of time.

Weeks 12-14 – Lesson 6B (Discussing Daily Activities 2)
Grammar lessons on describing daily activities using verbs and particles.
Vocabulary building related to verbs / particles / activities / days of the week / frequency.
Cultural lessons on typical days of Japanese people.

Week 15 – Course Review and Final Exam

Course Expectations & Guidelines

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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment, project or exam 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 at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, 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.

Attendance and/or Participation

Although an online course offers greater flexibility, please remember that your timely participation and online engagement is key to your success in this course, as well as that of your classmates.

Collaboration and Group Work

Language learning occurs in a community of people. This semester, you will participate in multiple small group activities both oral and written.

However, the following forms of assistance are not allowed for doing any of the work in this course: copying (from someone else's assignments or from another source [a reading in a textbook, the Internet, etc.]) without clear attribution of the source; having another student, a tutor, or a friend suggest changes or correct the work you are to turn in; completing assignments in consultation with other students ("working together") unless specified by your instructor; translating directly from another source; and especially **using electronic translation programs**. These restrictions apply to any work turned in for this course, even daily homework assignments. The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. GT subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called Turnitin, which may be used to check assignments submitted in this course.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

No late assignments or extensions will be granted. Please plan accordingly. Contact your instructor in the case of extenuating circumstances.

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. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation 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.

Campus Resources for Students

The Center for Academic Success (success.gatech.edu/) offers a variety of academic support services to help students succeed academically at Georgia Tech (e.g. tutoring, peer-led study groups, study skills, etc.).

The Office of Disability Services (disabilityservices.gatech.edu/) ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to all programs and activities offered at Georgia Tech. They provide documentation and officially sanctioned requests for accommodation for students, and serve as a resource for instructors as they build learning environments to meet the needs of all students.

OMED: Educational Services (omed.gatech.edu/) is the unit charged by Georgia Tech with the retention, development, and performance of the complete student learner who is traditionally underrepresented: African American, Hispanic, and Native American. OMED's programming and academic support services are aimed at equipping all students with strategies to navigate the Georgia Tech environment.

Support for Students in Distress

Counseling Center counseling.gatech.edu/ 404-894-2575

Dean of Students (Student Life) studentlife.gatech.edu/ 404-385-8772

GT Police police.gatech.edu/ 404-894-2500

