

Instructor: Chika Shibahara
Office: 4410 Dwinelle Hall
E-mail: shibahar@berkeley.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays (2:00-3:00) and by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed for students who have studied Japanese for three years or more (450 hours or more) at the college level. It aims to improve their Japanese proficiency (reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills) as well as intercultural competence through activities such as:

- Reading various culture related materials such as newspaper articles, short stories, poems and essays;
- Watching films which depict different aspects of Japanese culture;
- Participating in group/class discussions on the reading materials and films;
- Writing short essays on topics related to the class materials;
- Learning and reviewing advanced grammar and expressions by reading and writing;
- Presenting an original research or creative project in both oral and written form.

In this course, students are expected to develop the ability to understand the main ideas of longer reading materials on their own, making full use of the knowledge that they acquired in previous Japanese courses as well as their individual experiences. Furthermore, they are expected to learn more about Japanese language, culture, society and people through the course activities.

Course Objective:

This is a four-credit course even though the class meets only three hours a week. Students are expected to spend at least three hours per each class hour preparing and reviewing the material as well as completing their individual projects; in other words, students will have an average of at least nine hours worth of work to do at home each week. (The workload will vary from week to week.) Students need to find the necessary time to get their work done. The course is intended to develop skills such as:

- 1) Becoming comfortable with reading and writing abstract texts in Japanese;
- 2) Reading faster by grasping the main ideas and having the courage to guess the meaning;
- 3) Developing an ability to read between the lines;
- 4) Becoming familiar with a variety of Japanese text types;
- 5) Learning kanji, vocabulary and grammar at an advanced level;
- 6) Preparing students for more effective communication;
- 7) Expressing ideas and opinions coherently and grammatically in writing and speaking;
- 8) Developing research skills;
- 9) Increasing tolerance of ambiguity and a capacity for accepting new ideas.

Assignments:

All the handouts for this course (vocabulary lists, homework, etc.), except the textbook listed below, will be provided through bCourses. Please check “announcements” and “modules” on bCourses regularly for updates.

Textbook:

— 『神のこどもたちはみな踊る』 村上春樹、新潮文庫 ISBN:9784101001500
(Available at the ASUC Bookstore.)

Requirements and Evaluation:

The requirements in this class and their breakdown in the final grade are as follows (tentative):

Attendance	5%
Participation in class discussions (発表を含む)	5%
コースプロジェクト発表	5%
試験 (漢字テスト、語彙テスト、試験)	60%
コースプロジェクト	10%
宿題 (読解、文法、ハンドアウト、その他)	15%

Policies on attendance, late work, and make-up:

Students are expected to come to class fully prepared and to participate actively in all classroom tasks. Each absence over the second one will significantly affect your final grade. Students who arrive late or leave class early (by 10 minutes or more) will be marked as “L” (Late) or “LE” (Left Early); any combination of three Ls and LEs will be counted as one absence. Students who arrive late or leave class more than 20 minutes early will be marked as absent.

No make-up quizzes or exams will be given. However, depending on the situation, students **may** be allowed to take them **early**. Assignments should be turned in by the due date. Assignments turned in late but **within one week from the original due date will receive one-half credit**. Assignments turned in after that will receive **no credit** unless there is a valid reason for late submission (such as being hospitalized). **Incomplete or “redo” assignments should be turned in by the date which the instructor wrote on the student’s paper** (usually one week from the returned date); otherwise, they will not receive full credit.

If you know that you will miss a quiz or exam or will be unable to turn in homework on the due date for **foreseeable** reasons such as religious holidays or job interviews, you should explain the situation **in writing** and make arrangements with the instructor **in advance**.

Academic Integrity:

There is a zero-tolerance policy toward cheating, plagiarism, and any other form of academic dishonesty in this course. This means that anyone found taking credit for work that is not his or her own, or cheating in any other way, will receive a failing grade for the entire course. Note that ignorance of the policy is not considered a mitigating circumstance, so if you have any questions about what counts as cheating or plagiarism, speak with the instructor.

One more very important thing:

Come to class with an open mind and a willingness to learn with a sense of adventure. We will think and talk a lot in this class. Express and share your thoughts with us and don’t be afraid of creating less-than-perfect Japanese sentences. If you come up with questions about the class materials and ideas about your project, come to see me during office hours or make an appointment to see me.