

**Language I: Modern Japanese****2015/2016**Code: 101574  
ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500244 East Asian Studies	FB	1	1
2500244 East Asian Studies	OT	4	0

**Contact**Name: Jordi Mas Lopez  
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Principal working language: catalan (cat)

**Teachers**Maria Teresa Rodriguez Navarro  
Maria Elena Hernandez Garcia**Prerequisites**

The Japanese language learning starts from scratch in this course, so the student is not required to have any previous knowledge of the language. However, since a lot of written or online materials are written in English, it should be useful-but not essential-to know it.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The objective of this course is to initiate the student in the knowledge of the most basic and essential aspects of Japanese language phonetic, morphologic, lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic structure, and to work the fourth basic communicative strategies.

The student must assimilate contents learnt in class in order to continue learning Japanese language during the second semester of the same course-Japanese II-and during East Asian Studies degree's next years-not only in courses focused on the language knowledge, but also in courses using Japanese language as a working language, e. g., Text and Context I and II.

**Skills****East Asian Studies**

- Applying linguistic, cultural and topic-based knowledge in order to understand the languages of East Asia and in order to communicate orally and in writing in these languages.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
- Knowing and comprehending the phonetic, morphological, lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic structures of the languages of East Asia.
- Students must be able to express themselves orally and in writing in a working language of East Asia.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Applying linguistic, cultural and topic-based knowledge in order to understand the languages of East Asia and in order to communicate orally and in writing in these languages.
2. Developing self-learning strategies.
3. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
4. Knowing and comprehending the phonetic, morphological, lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic structures of the languages of East Asia.
5. Students must be able to express themselves orally and in writing in a working language of East Asia.
6. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.

## Content

- Introduction to some of the Japanese language most basic and essential syntactic structure, as well as essential vocabulary regarding some areas of the everyday life. Familiarization with Japanese phonetic structure.
- Oral interaction in some very limited, everyday situations (greetings, introduce oneself, ask something in a shop or in a restaurant...)
- Orally give some information about oneself (birthplace, date of birth, family...)
- Knowledge and have a good command of hiragana and katana syllabaries, as well as about 30 Chinese ideograms.
- Read didactic, very short and simple texts regarding the semantic fields and everyday circles worked in class or some more difficult texts in order to extract specific information.
- Write very brief texts about specific information.

## Methodology

Work done in class will be focused on two main textbooks, *Minna no Nihongo* and *Basic Kanji Book I* (see Bibliography below). Contents will be, with little variation, as follows: introduction-assimilation (more mechanical grammar and structure exercises)-communicative use.

The most important activities during the class will be, on one hand, content presentation and explication and, on the other hand, communicative skills practice. Those tasks that can be done individually and which have to be done in more time-such as text-reading or composition-writing,-will usually be done at home as homework, so they will be collected and evaluated, or corrected in class.

The students are expected not only to achieve mechanical or memory knowledge of the linguistic contents, but also to be able to use them in order to effectively communicate. It will also be evaluated the development of a positive attitude regarding communication in order to take advantage of these knowledge to effectively express themselves or try to understand Japanese oral and written text (for example, by means of film extracts, shown during the class.)

Supervised tasks- homework and evaluation-should be ended during the final part of the week, since there are not classes. However, the student must take into account that contents explained during each class must be minimally assimilated for the next class, in order to let the students go on. The student must take into account, too, that he has to dedicate an important number of hours to work autonomously in order to assimilate explained contents.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
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Type: Directed

Communicative exercises (oral/written)	15	0.6	1
Grammar exercises (oral/written)	22	0.88	4
Oral comprehension	10	0.4	1
Oral expression	7	0.28	5
Presentation of new contents	94	3.76	4
Reading comprehension (kanji)	11	0.44	1
Use of audiovisual material	7	0.28	1
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Reading comprehension	7	0.28	1
Written exercises	15	0.6	4
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Autonomous work	90	3.6	2

## Evaluation

There will be two evaluation options, A and B. Option B is only for students who have previously already been enrolled in this course but who have not passed it yet. Assessment criteria will be as follows:

A) Continuous evaluation. The final note will be composed of the following percentages:

- 50%: textbook-related tests (20% will be for the final exam)
- 25%: syllabaries and kanji tests
- 25%: written exercises dossier

The student shall be considered as "not attended" unless he does, at least, the 70% of assessment activities.

B) Final exam. The final note will be the one obtained in this final exam. The final exam will be the same for all the groups and all the students will have to take it. However, for the ones who follow the continuous evaluation, this final exam will only account for a 20% of the final note.

According to the rules of the UAB, plagiarism or copying an evaluation test will be sanctioned with a score of 0. The persistence of this irregularity will mean that the final evaluation of the course is 0.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exams in the classroom (syllabaries, kanji, vocabulary)	75%	7	0.28	1, 4, 5, 6
Written exercises	25%	15	0.6	1, 4, 2, 5, 6, 3

## Bibliography

### 1. Textbooks

The textbooks used during the class (the students are supposed to have them) are the following:

Minna no Nihongo I. Tòquio: 3A Network, 2012, 2n edition.

Basic Kanji Book vol.1. Tòquio: Bonjinsha, 1990.

In addition, from time to time, the following books will be employed as a complement of Minna no Nihongo I:

Minna no Nihongo. Kanji I (English Edition). Tòquio: 3A Network, 2000.

Minna no Nihongo. Llibre d'exercicis bàsics. Tòquio: 3a network, 1999.

Minna no Nihongo. Traducción y Notas Gramaticales. Tòquio: 3a network, 1999.

Minna no Nihongo. .Tòquio: 3a network, 2000.

Minna no Nihongo..Tòquio: 3a network, 2000.

## 2. Reference books

2.1. For this course, the students do not have to have their own dictionary. However, if they want to use them, they have the following options:

### a) Spanish-Japanese:

(Seiwa jiten, Editorial Enderle Book Co.,Ltd.). Dictionary amb rōmaji, for beginner or intermediate students. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

Diccionario Básico japonés-español. Fundación Japón. Dictionary for beginners with hiragana and rōmaji. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

### b) Japanese-Spanish:

(Diccionario japonés-español, Hakusuisha, 2a edició). Dictionary for intermediate or advanced students, whose entries are written in hiragana. The examples written in Japanese are not written in furigana. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

(Crown Diccionario japonés-español, Sanseidō). Dictionary for intermediate or advanced students, whose entries are written in hiragana. The examples written in Japanese are not written in furigana. It has a lot of visual information.

### c) Catalan-Japanese/ Japanese-Catalan:

Diccionari basic Català-japonès japonès-català. Diccionaris de l'Enciclopèdia Catalana. Nivell intermedi. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

### d) English- Japanese:

English-Japanese dictionary in Rōma-ji. (Sōtakusha). For beginner or intermediate students, written in rōmaji. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

Kenkyuusha's Furigana English-Japanese

Dictionary (Kenkyūsha). For beginner and intermediate students, written in furigana. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

### e) Japanese-English:

Basic Japanese-English Dictionary (Japan Foundation). For beginner or intermediate students. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

2.2. The following books are very useful for solving particular questions:

Effective Japanese Usage Guide. A Concise Explanation of Frequently Confused Words and Phrases. Kodansha. For intermediate students. It has explanations in English and a lot of examples in Japanese with translations about differences between Japanese words which are easy to confuse. Parts written in Japanese have furigana and example sentences are also written in rōma-ji. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

Dictionary of basic Japanese Usage for Foreigners [Gaikokujin no tame no kihongo yōrei jiten], Agència d'Afers Culturals. With related words examples. It has not got furigana, but most of it is written in hiragana. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

Makino, S.; Tsutsui, M. A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar. The Japan Times. Beginner-level grammar with English explanations and a lot of examples, which are written in rōma-ji and translated. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

Matsuura, Junichi; Porta Fuentes, Lourdes. Nihongo. Japonés para hispanohablantes. Bunpoo. Gramática. Barcelona: Herder, 2002.

Taishūkan: Diccionari d'ús dels verbs bàsics de la llengua japonesa. For intermediate or intermediate-advanced students. It explains the different uses of basic Japanese verbs and most of it is written in Japanese. It is at Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

2.3. In order to study hiragana and katanaka syllabaries, and Chinese ideograms (kanji) the following books could be of the students' interest:

Heisig, James W.; Bernabé, Marc; Calafell, Verònica. Kana para recordar. Barcelona: Herder, 2002.

Heisig, James W.; Bernabé, Marc; Calafell, Verònica. Kanji para recordar. Barcelona: Herder, 2003 i 2004 (2 volumes).