

**Language I: Modern Japanese**

Code: 101574  
ECTS Credits: 12

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

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: (jpn)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Other comments on languages**

Besides Japanese, Catalan and Spanish will be used in class.

**Teachers**

Sandra Ruiz Morilla  
Maria Elena Hernandez Garcia

**Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites to take this course. Nevertheless, some of the materials used in this course are only available in English, so a good knowledge of this language will be useful.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The function of this subject is to introduce the knowledge of the most basic and essential aspects of the phonetic, morphological, lexical, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic structure of the Japanese language and to develop the four basic communication skills. It is essential to assimilate the subject's content to be able to continue learning Japanese in the subsequent semester and academic years. Throughout the semester, special attention will be paid to uses of language that are linked to the gender of speakers.

**Competences**

East Asian Studies

- Apply knowledge of East Asian culture in order to be able to communicate.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.

- Produce oral texts in one of the languages of East Asia.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Solving problems of intercultural communication.
- Understand oral texts in one of the languages of East Asia.
- Understand texts written in one of the languages of East Asia.
- Write texts in one of the languages of East Asia.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Apply knowledge of lexis, morphosyntax, texts, rhetoric and linguistic variation.
2. Apply strategies to produce oral texts for different contexts and for specific communicative purposes.
3. Apply strategies to produce written texts for different contexts and for specific communicative purposes.
4. Apply strategies to understand oral texts from various different contexts.
5. Apply strategies to understand written texts from various different contexts.
6. Apply strategies towards acquiring knowledge of East Asian culture in order to be able to communicate.
7. Deal with interferences between the working languages.
8. Developing self-learning strategies.
9. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
10. Identify the need to activate knowledge of East Asian culture in order to be able to communicate.
11. Integrate cultural knowledge to solve problems in communication.
12. Possess knowledge of East Asian culture in order to be able to communicate.
13. Produce oral texts for different contexts and for specific communicative purposes.
14. Produce oral texts that are appropriate to the context and linguistically correct.
15. Produce written texts for different contexts and for specific communicative purposes.
16. Produce written texts that are appropriate to the context and linguistically correct.
17. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
18. Solving problems of intercultural communication.
19. Understand the communicative intent and the meaning of oral texts from various different contexts.
20. Understand the communicative intent and the meaning of written texts from various different contexts.

## Content

- Introduction to some of the most basic and essential syntactic structures of Japanese, and to some essential everyday vocabulary.
- Getting used to the phonological structure of Japanese.
- Interacting orally in certain everyday situations (greeting, introducing oneself, buying or ordering in a store or a restaurant, etc.).
- Giving information about oneself orally (place of origin, date of birth, family, etc.).
- Learning and mastering hiragana, katakana and about a hundred kanji.
- Reading short, simple didactic texts related to the semantic fields and everyday situations studied, and extracting specific information from some more complex texts.
- Writing very short texts giving specific pieces of information.

## Methodology

The student's work will revolve around the two textbooks *Minna no Nihongo I* and *Basic Kanji Book I* (see *Bibliography*), and the main emphasis will be on the introduction and explanation of content and the development of communication skills. Tasks that can be performed individually and require more time will be carried out as supervised activities.

Students are expected to not only acquire a mechanical command of Japanese but also to be able to use what they learn to communicate effectively. It is hoped that they will develop a positive attitude towards communication, taking full advantage of their knowledge to express themselves and to try to understand oral and written texts in Japanese.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Communication exercises (oral/written)	15	0.6	3, 2, 11, 16, 15, 14, 13, 18, 17, 12
Grammar exercises (oral/written)	22	0.88	1, 7
Introduction of new content	94	3.76	1
Listening comprehension	10	0.4	1, 4, 19
Oral expression	7	0.28	2, 14, 13
Reading comprehension (kanji)	12.5	0.5	1, 5, 20
Use of audiovisual materials	7	0.28	6, 10, 11, 18, 17, 12
Type: Supervised			
Reading comprehension	7	0.28	5, 20
Written exercises	15	0.6	1, 3, 16, 15, 7
Type: Autonomous			
Individual study	90	3.6	8, 9

## Assessment

Assessment is continuous. Students must provide evidence of their progress by completing tasks and tests. Task deadlines will be indicated in the course schedule on the first day of class.

### Related matters

All information on assessment, assessment activities and their weighting is merely a guide. The subject's lecturer will provide full information when teaching begins.

### Review

When publishing final marks prior to recording them on students' transcripts, the lecturer will provide written notification of a date and time for reviewing assessment activities. Students must arrange reviews in agreement with the lecturer.

### Missed/failed assessment activities

Students may retake assessment activities they have failed or compensate for any they have missed, provided that those they have actually performed account for a minimum of 66.6% (two thirds) of the subject's final mark and that they have a weighted average mark of at least 3.5. Under no circumstances may an assessment activity worth 100% of the final mark be retaken or compensated for.

The lecturer will inform students of the procedure involved, in writing, when publishing final marks prior to recording them on transcripts. The lecturer may set one assignment per failed or missed assessment activity or a single assignment to cover a number of such activities.

#### Classification as "not assessable"

In the event of the assessment activities a student has performed accounting for just 25% or less of the subject's final mark, their work will be classified as "not assessable" on their transcript.

#### Misconduct in assessment activities

Students who engage in misconduct (plagiarism, copying, personation, etc.) in an assessment activity will receive a mark of "0" for the activity in question. In the case of misconduct in more than one assessment activity, the students involved will be given a final mark of "0" for the subject.

Students may not retake assessment activities in which they are found to have engaged in misconduct. Plagiarism is considered to mean presenting all or part of an author's work, whether published in print or in digital format, as one's own, i.e. without citing it. Copying is considered to mean reproducing all or a substantial part of another student's work. In cases of copying in which it is impossible to determine which of two students has copied the work of the other, both will be penalised.

More information:

<http://www.uab.cat/web/study-abroad/undergraduate/academic-information/evaluation/what-is-it-about-13456700>

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Grammar and vocabulary exam 1	15%	1	0.04	1, 5, 4, 2, 6, 20, 19, 8, 10, 11, 14, 13, 7, 18, 17, 12
Grammar and vocabulary exam 2	15%	1	0.04	1, 5, 2, 6, 20, 8, 10, 11, 14, 12
Grammar and vocabulary exam 3	15%	1	0.04	1, 5, 4, 3, 2, 6, 20, 19, 8, 10, 11, 16, 15, 14, 13, 7, 18, 17, 12, 9
Oral exam	10%	0.5	0.02	20, 19, 11, 16, 15
Portfolio of exercises	10%	7.5	0.3	1, 3, 8, 16, 15, 18, 17, 9
Tests on hiragana, katakana and kanji	25%	2	0.08	5, 4, 8, 9
Written tasks	10%	7.5	0.3	1, 3, 16, 15

## Bibliography

### 1. Textbooks

The two textbooks that will be used in class on a daily basis, with the assumption that students own them, are:

- *Minna no Nihongo I*. Tokyo: 3A Network, 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. ISBN: 978-4883196036.
- *Basic Kanji Book vol.1*. Tokyo: Bonjinsha, 2015, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. ISBN: 978-4893588821.

The following books will be used occasionally:

- *Minna no Nihongo. Kanji I (English Edition)*. Tokyo: 3A Network, 2000.
- *Minna no Nihongo. Hyjun mondai sh*. Tokyo: 3a network, 1999.

- *Minna no Nihongo. Traducción y notas gramaticales.* Tokyo: 3a network, 1999.

## 2. Reference books

### 2.1. For specific matters, the following books may be of use:

- *Effective Japanese Usage Guide. A Concise Explanation of Frequently Confused Words and Phrases.* Kodansha. For students with an intermediate level. It has explanations in English and many examples in Japanese, with comments about the differences between easily confused Japanese words. The parts written in Japanese have furigana, and the sentences given as examples are transcribed in rōmaji. It can be found in the Biblioteca d'Humanitats.
- *Dictionary of Basic Japanese Usage for Foreigners [Gaikokujin no tame no kihongo yrei jiten]*, Cultural Affairs Agency. Examples of related words. It does not have furigana, but many of its texts are written in hiragana. It can be found in the Biblioteca d'Humanitats.
- Makino, S.; Tsutsui, M. *A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar. The Japan Times.* Basic grammar book with explanations in English and many examples that are transcribed in rōmaji and translated. It can be found in the Biblioteca d'Humanitats.
- Matsuura, Junichi; Porta Fuentes, Lourdes. *Nihongo. Japonés para hispanohablantes. Bunpoo. Gramática.* Barcelona: Herder, 2002.
- *Taishkan: Dictionary of Usage of Basic Japanese Verbs.* For students with an intermediate or advanced intermediate level. It explains the different uses of basic Japanese verbs, and much of it is written in Japanese. It can be found in the Biblioteca d'Humanitats.

### 2.2. Students may find the following works useful when studying hiragana, katakana and kanji:

- 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 and 2004 (2 volumes).

## 3. Virtual resources

### 3.1. Dictionaries:

- <https://japanknowledge-com.are.uab.cat/library/>
- <https://jisho.org/>
- <http://www.nichiza.com/rui/rui.php> (esp-jp)

### 3.2. Other useful resources:

- Maynard, Senko K. *Learning Japanese for Real: A Guide to Grammar, Use and Genres of the Nihongo World.* Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2011. (Digital book; it is available through the Biblioteca d'Humanitats)
- Minato (Japan Foundation): <http://minato-jf.jp>
- Resource page of Sakura Network: <https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/project/japanese/education/resource/index.html>
- Rikai: <http://www.rikai.com>
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.jfkc.HiraganaMemoryHintApp.En&hl=es> (hiragana and katakana)
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.jfkc.KanjiMemoryHintApp.En&hl=en> (kanji)
- <https://tadoku.org/japanese/free-books/> (readings)

## Software

No specific software will be used.