

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ST. AUGUSTINE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION
CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING**

COURSE DOCUMENTATION

COURSE TITLE: LEVEL 1A JAPANESE

SEMESTER: I

LEVEL: 1

PREREQUISITES: NONE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This beginners' Japanese course introduces students to Japanese and some aspects of Japanese culture and daily life. Sessions are conducted as far as possible in the target language to give students maximum exposure to the new language and culture. During the course, students develop the ability to communicate in Japanese in basic situations relating to their personal lives.

The course assumes no prior knowledge of Japanese. It is intended for the beginner who has never studied Japanese formally but would like to gain some competence in the language for social or professional purposes. Upon completion of this course, students should have some knowledge and skills and to some extent demonstrate the attitudes expected at Level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) <https://bit.ly/1SrYDpO> and the JF Standard http://jfstandard.jp/pdf/jfs2010_all_en.pdf in listening and speaking.

The course consists of four contact hours per week. In addition to attending the scheduled classes, students are expected to spend time on self-study to prepare for sessions and to review and consolidate work, after the session. Also, it is especially important that students develop a repertoire of strategies to promote their autonomy as active language learners.

COURSE RATIONALE:

Although some students may already be familiar with Japanese pop culture, this course is intended to present the basic elements of the language and culture to persons who are new to learning Japanese. The aim of this course, as every other language course offered by the CLL, is to enable students to participate in the target language at the level. While this is a four-skill course (speaking, listening, reading and writing), the initial focus is on listening and speaking. Writing will be introduced, but there will be less emphasis placed on it compared to the other skills. An explicit expectation of language students is a measure of learner autonomy and responsibility for the development of their language competence. The course is also designed to guide and develop students' autonomy alongside their classroom or online learning. Doing this course helps students to establish a foundation that will allow them to continue their studies in Japanese. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be eligible to begin Level 1B Japanese.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of instructor: Shiho Arakawa

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Office hours: By appointment

Tutor information

Name: Christenne Lyons

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LETTER TO THE STUDENT

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Level 1A Japanese course. Learning a new language can be fun but challenging. We hope that whether you already know a little bit about Japan, or you are being introduced to the language and culture for the first time, you will enjoy your sessions and participate fully to get the most benefit from them. Language learning at all levels and in all languages is normally intensive, requiring regular and frequent contact with the language both during and outside the sessions. This is even more so for Japanese, which is classified as a Category IV language. A student of Japanese will require a longer instructional period to reach the higher proficiency levels, in comparison to the time required by of a learner of a Category I language such as French or Spanish. You should plan to spend twice as much time in self-study, working on the language, as you spend during the synchronous sessions.

Your tutors are here to support you in your learning, so do not hesitate to seek their advice. There are many online resources suitable even for beginning learners like you. Remember to use those resources, as well.

Enjoy your Japanese language adventure!

Warm regards,

Your tutor

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS

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CONTENT:

The course focuses on situations and activities that students would most likely encounter early in the language learning process. Below is an indicative list of communicative skills and grammar the course will cover.

The course calendar presents information on all aspects of the course content in greater detail.

Communicative skills

- Topics such as greetings, self-introduction, talking about yourself and your family, talking about your favourite food, your daily routine and your hobbies, asking someone out to an event.

Grammar

- Typically, use of particles; use of the copula; expressions related to the existence of animate/inanimate things/events; use of WH questions (who, what, when, where); verb conjugations (present tense/affirmative and negative)

GOALS/AIMS:

This course aims to help students:

- Develop basic competence in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing);
- Acquire basic grammatical concepts;
- Build a foundation in such areas as phonetics, orthography grammar and vocabulary;
- Build an initial ability to communicate in Japanese;
- Gain an insight into some aspects of Japanese life and culture, and by doing so understand your own culture and deepen your intercultural understanding.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

This course intends to help students perform at the Level of JF Standard Basic User A1.

The A1 user can:

- Understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type;
- Introduce him/herself and others and ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has;
- Interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize familiar words and phrases concerning themselves and their immediate concrete surroundings in spoken language if people speak slowly and clearly;
- Interact orally in a simple way to address their immediate needs or exchange information on familiar topics if people speak slowly and clearly and are prepared to repeat;
- Read and understand very short, simple sentences written in Hiragana/Katakana.
- Write a limited number of words in *hiragana/katakana* including their name and country;
- Transcribe a limited number of everyday words such as names of stores or things and simple instructions.
- Recognize some basic kanji characters;
- Describe some characteristics of Japanese life and culture.

COURSE ASSESSMENT:

Assessment for this course consists of 100% Course Work (CW), which is divided into 50% continuous assessment (CA) based on students' performance throughout the course and a final test (FT- 50%) focusing on the four skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

ALL STUDENTS (100% course work)	
Continuous Assessment (3 assignments)	50% of the overall mark
Final Test* (Speaking 30%, Listening 40%, Reading 20%, Writing 10%)	50% of the overall mark

*Marks will be converted to 50%

Assignments for all students

Students pursuing a Japanese course are required to complete three assignments, which contribute toward 50% of their total mark. The assignments include the following items:

1. Journals (Total 5 marks/entry, total 30 marks)

A journal entry is to be submitted per topic. It should include your objectives, Can-do Check (a self-assessment), comments in English on your study, and answers to exercises/tasks given in class. The journal can be in the form of a Word or PDF document and to be submitted via the platform of your tutor's choice. There should be a total of 6 entries.

2. A presentation (10 marks)

The presentation should be in Japanese and based on one or more of the topics listed below. The presentation should be between 60 seconds and two minutes in length and can be in the form of a Power Point, PDF, Canva, or Google slides and must be accompanied by some verbal explanation using grammar, phrases and vocabulary learnt during the semester. There is an option of submitting the draft for feedback. Students are required to make the presentation to their classmates during Week 10-12. In the final journal assignment, you will be asked to give feedback on three people of your choice.

- Self-introduction
- My family
- Food I like and my eating habits
- My house and my neighbourhood
- My daily routine and/or weekly schedule

3. A presentation about your experiences with Japanese language and/or culture (10 marks)

The assignment should be in English and contain cultural or language experiences. It can be in the form of Canva, Power Point document or Google Slides. It should be 2-3 minutes in length, and the slides should not exceed 7 pages, including the cover. Your presentation must be accompanied by photos or videos as visual aids. You are required to make a presentation in class during Weeks 6-9. This assignment should also be submitted by Week 9 via the platform of your tutor's choice.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The best way to develop and improve your language skills is to always use your own words and draw on your knowledge to complete the tasks assigned. It is unacceptable to copy responses from another classmate for any assignment or copy a body or part of text from translation programs. Should copying occur, the student(s) involved will either lose a significant number of points on their assignment or receive a grade of zero for the task.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Summative evaluation will be conducted using The UWI's SECL System. The CLL will disseminate a mid- and/or end-of-semester student feedback questionnaire.

TEACHING/LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Interactive sessions: While some of the sessions will involve direct teaching, language classes are not lecture-type classes, but require the active participation of all learners. Sessions will therefore be highly interactive with teachers using and encouraging the use of the target language.

Use of target language: A defining characteristic of a modern communicative language programme is the use of the target language as a gateway to the study of the societies and cultures in which it is used. Students will be expected to recognise and use Japanese in a way that is consistent with the competence of an A1 learner.

Development of learner autonomy: An explicit expectation of language students is a measure of learner autonomy and responsibility for the development of their language competence. This autonomy will be guided and developed alongside their synchronous sessions. At this level, for example, students are encouraged to develop and apply appropriate language-learning strategies to support communication in Japanese. Students' learning experience will usually involve exposure to various forms of language learning technology, both in and out of class.

Collaborative work: Finally, students will be expected to work in cooperative and collaborative ways with an attitude of mutual consideration and respect towards their peers.

RESOURCES:

Texts: Required (Available at The UWI Bookshop)

MARUGOTO Japanese Language and Culture Starter A1: Course book for Communicative Language Activities. Tomoyo Shibahara, Hiromi Kijima, Naomi Hatta, Japan Foundation (2013). Sanshusha Publishing Co., Ltd. ISBN-13: 978-4384057522

Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/r26ddand>

Second Handbooks Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/326420914800392>

Supplementary materials:

- *Multimedia materials provided by the CLL as appropriate
- *Additional Internet references will be supplied in class.
- *Useful online resources:

- MARUGOTO Website: [Marugoto](http://www.marugoto.jp/)
[MARUGOTO Plus Global Home \(marugotoweb.jp\)](http://www.marugoto.jp/)
<http://words.marugotoweb.jp/>
[MARUGOTO Plus \(Starter A1\) \(marugotoweb.jp\)](http://www.marugoto.jp/)
- [JF Japanese e-Learning Minato |The Japan Foundation \(minato-jf.jp\)](http://www.minato-jf.jp/)
- ["Erin's Challenge! I Can Speak Japanese." Contents Library | The Japan Foundation \(jpf.go.jp\)](http://www.jpfa.jp/)

COURSE CALENDAR

Wks	Topic		Lesson	Japanese script & Vocabulary	Can-dos
				Kanji	
1 ~ 11	1. Japanese	1	Hello	Hiragana	1. Exchange greetings 2. Read Japanese scripts
		2	Would you say that again?	Katakana	3. Use basic classroom expressions 4. Write your name and country in Japanese
	2. Myself	3	Nice to meet you	• Countries • Languages • Occupations/ professions	5. Make a simple self-introduction 6. Read a business card
		4	There are three people in myfamily	• Family • People • Numbers	7. Talk briefly about your family 8. Speak about your family using a family photo
	3. Food	5	What kind of food do you like?	• Food • Drinks	9. Talk about your favourite food 10. Help someone get a drink 11. Talk about your breakfast
				魚、肉、卵、水	
		6	Where are you going to have lunch?	• Food for lunch • Eating places	12. Say what your favourite dish is 13. Talk with a friend about where to go for lunch 14. Read a menu 15. Order food and drinks at a hamburger shop
				食、飲	
	4. Home	7	There are three rooms in my home	• Home • Furniture • Places to visit nearby	16. Say what kind of home you live in 17. Say what you have in your home 18. Write an email inviting someone to your home

		8	It's a nice room	• Rooms • Things in the room 大、小、新、古	19. Ask/Say where to put things in the room 20. Visit/Welcome a friend 21. Show someone around your home 22. Read the name and address on a signboard
		9	What time do you get up?	• Daily routines • Time 時、分、半	23. Tell the time you do something 24. Talk about your daily routine
	5. Daily Life	10	When is convenient for you?	• Free-time activities • Places • Calendar 月、火、水、木、金、土、日	25. Talk about your schedule for this week 26. Talk about when to have a party 27. Write a birthday card
		11	What's your hobby?	• Hobbies • Places 言、話、読、見、聞、書	28. Talk about your hobbies 29. Talk about what you do on your days off
	6. Holidays and Days off 1	12	Shall we go together?	• Events • Calendar 一、二、三、四、五、六、七、八、九、十、年、(月、日)	30. Read posters and calendars for events 31. Say whether or not you will attend an event 32. Talk about whether or not you can go out with your friend
	Final Test				
	13				

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Students must attend 75% of classes in order to be eligible for the Final Test.

HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS COURSE:

Attendance is compulsory, not only because students may be debarred from the final test if they are present for fewer than 75% of the classes, but also because language learning is incremental. Students need to work at their language learning regularly, both during the synchronous sessions and outside to consolidate what they have learnt. Japanese with its different writing systems represents a challenge for the beginning learner.

Here are a few tips for studying for this course:

- Use all the resources at your disposal—your peers, your teachers and online materials to help you improve and build your confidence.
- Set small achievable goals for each week of the course.

- Review your work and assess yourself on a weekly basis, so that you do not become overwhelmed by having to revise too much material at any one time.
- Remember to spend some time on all the skills, giving preference to listening and speaking.
- Listen to Japanese television stations and podcasts in English to immerse yourself in the culture and to prepare for the day when you will have enough understanding of the language to begin listening in the target language.

GRADING SYSTEM:

The following is The UWI's mark scheme:

Grade	GPA	Mark%	Grade	GPA	Mark%
A+	4.3	90-100	C+	2.3	55-59
A	4.0	80-89	C	2.0	50-54
A-	3.7	75-79	F1	1.7	40-49
B+	3.3	70-74	F2	1.3	30-39
B	3.0	65-69	F3	0.0	0-29
B-	2.7	60-64			