

**University of Pennsylvania**  
**Spring 2024 JPAN 1085 / 6085 Advanced Proficiency II**

**Course Description and Level / Objectives :**

This course is designed for college students with an advanced background in Japanese. The goal is to strengthen the four language skills: speaking, reading, writing, and listening, while deepening their understanding of Japanese culture. Solid grammar, an extensive vocabulary, and knowledge of at least 800-900 Chinese characters are required. This course is not continuous with any existing intermediate or advanced-level Japanese course. Therefore, previous grades in those courses do not qualify students to take this course. Eligibility will be determined through an interview and placement test. The course will utilize authentic Japanese materials from media sources such as newspapers, articles, and websites related to Japanese culture and society. Students will be expected to narrate, describe, and express their opinions with details, examples, and strong reasoning, using sophisticated terms and phrases, by making their own media in Japanese.

**Required books: None.** \*All necessary materials will be provided on the Canvas course website as well as suggested references.

**Instructor:**

- **Instructor:** Nana Takeda Kolb
- **Class hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-4:59 pm
- **Classroom:** HAYD 360
- **Office:** WILL 401
- **Office hours:** Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:20-11:50 am, 1:05-1:35 pm
- **Phone:** 215-898-7459
- **Email:** [nanatk@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:nanatk@sas.upenn.edu)

**Grading Criteria**

**Grading items and percentage :**

Daily performance (Attendance and Participation): 10%

Mini-presentation: 15%

In-person and Online Discussion: 25%

Individual Study: 30%

Reflection Report: 20%

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A: 94%~	B+: 87%~	C+: 77%~	D: 60%~
A-: 90%~	B : 83%~	C : 75%~	F: Below 60%
	B-: 80%~	C-: 70%~	

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## **Grading policies :**

### **Daily performance (Attendance and Participation): 10%**

It is essential that you attend all classes, actively participate in class activities, and keep up with the course work on a daily basis. The first two times you are absent (for any reasons), your grade will not be affected. For each additional absence, your final grade will be lowered one percent. Three late arrival (over 10-minute tardiness) equal one absence. You are responsible for all material and work covered on days that you are absent. For further information regarding attendance, consult the official College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/attendance>).

Please contact your instructor as soon as you can when you cannot participate in class for a prolonged period of time due to extenuating circumstances (such as sick family members, COVID-19, etc.). The purpose of the Course Action Notices (Path @Penn) is to facilitate communication between instructors and students when a student misses class. The system allows you to inform the instructor about absences of five days or less. If the absence is more than five days, you should contact your home school advising office for assistance and to discuss the academic implications of a longer absence. For further information regarding attendance, consult the official College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance. (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/attendance>).

Participation means not only being present but also actively participating in the classroom activities using Japanese. The participation grade is based on the student's active engagement in class activities and discussions. Come to classes well-prepared, and actively participate in the classroom activities using Japanese. Use of cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices in classes without your instructor's permission, is not allowed. Unsanctioned use of these devices will negatively affect your participation grade. If you must use or do it, please ask your instructor.

### **Mini-Presentation : 15%**

Students will deliver mini-presentations in Japanese throughout the semester. The instructor will assign topics on each occasion. The quality of your mini-presentation will also be assessed. Further details will be provided later.

### **In-person and Online Discussion: 25%**

Students will be given the opportunities for interactive communication with native Japanese speakers to develop and express your ideas and thoughts on an online

discussion board and in-person class after each presentation. Further details will be announced.

### **Individual Study: 30%**

Students will make their own Japanese media on a media platform for native Japanese as an individual study. Further details will be announced.

### **Reflection Report: 20%**

Upon finishing each Japanese media project, students will be assigned the task of composing a reflection report. This report is designed to strengthen their analytical skills and observational acumen, fostering both intercultural learning and proficiency in the Japanese language. Further details on the reports will be provided.

\* This syllabus is subject to revisions due to changing conditions. Necessary adjustments may be made according to any potential modifications to the Spring 2025 semester by the University.

\*Class information and the schedule are subject to change, and homework might be announced electrically. Please check the Canvas course website and your e-mail account regularly.

### **Expectations of students**

It is essential that you check the schedule and keep up with the course work on daily basis. Japanese is the official language in this course. Let us immerse ourselves into Japanese. Please do not speak in English at the class without permission of your instructor. If you would like to ask questions in English, please do so after class. Practice what is considered appropriate in Japan. Behave in a way that Japanese people would find comfortable (not in a way that is comfortable for you). No eating or chewing gum is allowed during the class. It interferes with a performance-based class, also this is a very common classroom policy in Japan. Do not take it personally when corrected. Being corrected is one of the best ways to learn to speak. In fact, you must get used to being corrected all the time.

### **Code of Academic Integrity**

Students must follow the principals of the University of Pennsylvania Code of Academic Integrity.

<https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>

Violation of University Code of Academic Integrity may result in failure of course.

## **Student Support Resources**

### **Weingarten Center**

The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Hamilton Village at 220 S. 40th Street, Suite 260.

### **Academic Support**

Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

Students can take advantage of free on-campus tutoring for many Penn courses in both drop-in and weekly contract format. Tutoring may be individual or in small groups. Tutors will assist with applying course information, understanding key concepts, and developing course-specific strategies. Tutoring support is available throughout the term but is best accessed early in the semester. First-time users must meet with a staff member; returning users may submit their requests online.

### **Disability Services**

The University of Pennsylvania provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and received approval from Disability Services. Students can contact Disability Services and make appointments to discuss and/or request accommodations by calling 215-573-9235.

### **Information related to Japanese Studies and East Asian Studies**

Penn Japanese Language Program (JLP): <http://web.sas.upenn.edu/japanese/>

JLP Facebook Page: [UPenn Japanese Language Program \(public group\)](#)

JLP Instagram: @UPENNJLP

Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS): <http://www.ceas.sas.upenn.edu/>

If you sign-up for the mailing list at the CEAS site, you will receive newsletter regularly. More useful resources are introduced on Canvas.

**\* Spring 2025 JPAN1085/6085 tentative schedule will be determined after interviews and discussions with each student during the first class.**