UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Japanese Language I

2425-1-E2001R058-E2001R066M

Course title

Japanese Language 1

Topics and course structure

The Japanese Language 1 course aims to provide the foundation for learning the Japanese language at the elementary level. At the end of the course, the student acquires basic skills in grammar, vocabulary, spoken language and writing through face-to-face lectures by the Italian teacher and the native speaker. He/she is able to conduct simple conversations and read and write basic texts. Attendance and active participation in class are highly recommended.

Objectives

Through this course, with constant and participatory attendance at lectures and the Laboratory connected with the course, it is intended to PROMOTE the following learning, in terms of:

Knowledge and understanding

Students will acquire solid and systematic knowledge of the fundamentals of the Japanese language at the elementary level.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

Students will learn to independently rework the grammatical structures and vocabulary learned in the lessons

covered in the syllabus, as well as to recognize and read a sufficient number of kanji for understanding texts written in Japanese at an elementary level.

With regard to independent judgment and the strengthening of communication skills, teaching urges students to independently formulate their own opinion and argue it effectively. Learning skills are stimulated through active participation in lectures and discussion of materials provided by the lecturer.

Methodologies

The most part of the lessons will be delivered in presence in interactive mode. Only some lessons will be delivered in the delivery mode.

Online and offline teaching materials

Textbook and materials uploaded to the e-learning platform

Programme and references

The course aims to provide the basics of elementary written and spoken Japanese. The program includes a theoretical teaching part aimed at analyzing grammatical aspects of the Japanese language (first 9 units of the textbook). Lectures by the Italian teacher are supplemented by exercises with a native speaker. At the end of the course, the student is expected to know all the vocabulary and all the kanji (in reading) that appear in the textbook units. Learning 101 kanji from the textbook in writing is also expected.

– An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese. Genki (Third Edition), vol. 1, a cura di Eri Banno et al., The Japan Times, Tokyo, 2022 (lezz. 1-9)
– Additional language materials and selection of excerpts from the book Itaria de manabu nihongo by Mariko Sait? uploaded to the teaching e-learning page
– M. Mastrangelo, N. Ozawa, M. Saito, Grammatica giapponese, Hoepli, Milano, 2016 (o edizioni successive) (facoltativo)
– Simone Guerra, Kanji. Grande dizionario giapponese-italiano dei caratteri, Zanichelli, Bologna, 2015 (o edizioni successive)
– Susanna Marino, Il dizionario di giapponese, Bologna, Zanichelli, 2019 (o edizioni successive); oppure AA.VV., Dizionario giapponese-italiano, Sh?gakukan, Tokyo, 2008 (o edizioni successive)

Assessment methods

The final exam consists of a written test and an oral exam.

The written test, which is a prerequisite for the oral exam, lasts 3 hours in total and is graded on a 30-point scale. It includes:

1. Exercises in reading, recognition, and writing of kanji and phonetic syllabaries (without dictionaries)

2. Grammar and vocabulary exercises (without dictionaries)
3. Translation from Japanese to Italian of a text and translation of some sentences from Italian to Japanese (only with paper dictionaries)

Students who score at least 18/30 on the written test are allowed to take the oral exam, which consists of:

1. Self-presentation and a conversation/questions in Japanese using words and grammatical structures included in the Units 1-9 of the textbook (with a native speaker) (graded on a 30-point scale)
2. Reading and translating one or more passages (without furigana) from volume 1 of Itaria de manabu nihongo (pp. 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 30, 37) by Mariko Sait?, and from the textbook (with the Italian instructor) (graded on a 30-point scale)

The final exam grade will be calculated according to the average grade of the written and oral grades.

The written and oral exams can be taken in different sessions; however, both exams must be completed and passed by the February 2026 exam session, or the grade from the written partial exam will be canceled. The grade from the written exam remains valid even if the student chooses to reject the oral exam grade. If a student wishes to reject the oral exam grade, they must inform the instructor promptly via email.

Assessment Criteria: Evaluation of the degree of assimilation of grammatical content, correctness and richness of vocabulary, knowledge of characters; ability to apply acquired knowledge, and correct use of terminology.

Office hours

to arrange by email

Programme validity

The programmes are valid two academic years

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION