UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Japanese Language III

2526-3-E2001R060

Course title

Japanese Language III

Topics and course structure

The course in Japanese Language 3 is aimed at students on the Intercultural Communication degree course who have passed the Japanese Language 2 examination.
The course includes an in-depth study of intermediate-level vocabulary, kanji, and grammatical structures of the Japanese language through the completion of the textbook adopted in the second year (Genki 2, see bibliography).
The course is supported by exercises held by a native speaker. Lessons with the regular teacher are conducted in Italian; those with the native speaker, in Japanese.
Attendance and active participation in the lessons by the Italian teacher and the native speaker are highly recommended.

Objectives

Knowledge and understanding
Students will acquire solid and systematic knowledge of the fundamentals of the Japanese language at an intermediate level.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding
Students will learn to independently revise grammatical structures and vocabulary learned in the course of the syllabus lessons as well as recognise and read a sufficient number of kanji for understanding texts written in Japanese at an intermediate level.

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

Methodologies

The course consists of 28 two-hour lessons, which will generally be held in person in a lecture-based format. However, this format will often allow for interaction with students, who will be actively involved in oral production in Japanese as well as in the reading and translation of various types of texts written in Japanese.

Online and offline teaching materials

The textbooks indicated in the bibliography and the materials uploaded on the e-learning page of the course.

Programme and references

The Japanese Language 3 course is designed to deepen grammatical structures and vocabulary at an intermediate level through a theoretical teaching part supported by in-class readings and exercises. The programme includes the completion of the second volume of the textbook (Genki 2, units 19-23). The 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, in addition to all the grammar rules in the textbook and any supplementary ones indicated on e-learning, all the vocabulary and all the kanji (in reading) included in the textbook. Learning to write all the kanji present in the dedicated sections of units 19-23 of the textbook is also expected.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese. Genki, vol. 2, (3rd ed., lessons 19-23), edited by Eri Banno et al., The Japan Times, Tokyo [if you already have the second edition it's OK as well: changes in content are minimal].
Handouts to be uploaded to the e-learning page later in the year in a special folder
A kanji dictionary and a Japanese-English non-compact or pocket dictionary.
(Supplementary but recommended)

Makino S., Tsutsui M., A dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar, The Japan Times, 1986 e successive
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Assessment methods

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

The written exam, which is a prerequisite for the oral exam and is graded on a 30-point scale, consists of:

a) exercises on reading, recognition, and writing of kanji (dictionaries not allowed)

b) grammar and vocabulary exercises (dictionaries not allowed)
c) translation from Japanese into Italian of a complex text (dictionaries allowed)

The total duration of the written exam is two hours, to be managed at the students' discretion.
Students who obtain a score of at least 18/30 in the written exam are admitted to the oral exam.
The written exam grade remains valid until the February 2027 exam session.

The oral exam consists of:

a) a conversation in Japanese based on the grammatical structures and vocabulary included in the syllabus units (with the native-speaker teacher)
b) reading and translation of one or more passages (without furigana) taken from the textbook or from handouts translated in class and uploaded to the dedicated e-learning folder (with the Italian teacher)
c) sight oral translation of selected sentences from Italian into Japanese taken from the textbook or slides (with the Italian teacher)
d) possible grammar questions (with the Italian teacher)

The final exam grade will be calculated as the average of: 1) the written exam grade, 2) the grade for the oral component taken with the native-speaker teacher, and 3) the grade for the oral component taken with the Italian teacher.

Assessment Criteria: Evaluation is based on the level of understanding of grammatical content, lexical accuracy and richness, knowledge of characters, ability to apply acquired knowledge, and correct use of terminology.

Assessment will follow the Dublin Descriptors. The following are the grading bands:

Low Level (0–17/30): Not Sufficient
Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates limited and fragmented knowledge of the texts and topics covered, with misunderstandings of the provided materials.
Applying Knowledge: Unable to recognize grammatical structures from the syllabus and unable to read or write the texts studied in the course.
Judgment Autonomy: Lacks critical thinking and independent judgment.
Communication Skills: Oral expression in both Japanese and Italian is hesitant and inaccurate; shows poor command of subject-specific language.
Learning Ability: Demonstrates limited ability to process and connect acquired knowledge.

Intermediate Level (18–24/30): Sufficient – Good
Knowledge and Understanding: The student shows a general understanding of the texts and topics covered, with some gaps, inaccuracies on non-essential aspects, or occasional misinterpretations.
Applying Knowledge: Can recognize grammatical structures and read/write course texts, though with some difficulty.
Judgment Autonomy: Shows partial autonomy in forming critical evaluations.
Communication Skills: Communicates clearly and with acceptable precision; has a reasonable command of subject-specific language. Aware of the need to adjust language register according to communicative situations.
Learning Ability: Shows a fair ability to process and interconnect knowledge.

High Level (25–30/30): Very Good – Excellent
Knowledge and Understanding: The student demonstrates in-depth and solid knowledge of the texts and topics; clearly understands and analyzes the texts provided.
Applying Knowledge: Fully capable of recognizing grammatical structures and reading/writing the course texts.
Judgment Autonomy: Shows excellent critical thinking, independence, and originality in analyzing and interpreting texts.
Communication Skills: Communicates clearly, fluently, rigorously, and appropriately. Fully aware of the need to use different linguistic registers based on the situation.
Learning Ability: Demonstrates excellent independent learning skills, able to effectively process and connect

knowledge.

Note: The written and oral components may be taken in separate sessions; however, both must be completed and passed by the February 2027 exam session, otherwise the score of the written test will be voided. The written exam score remains valid even if the student chooses to reject the final exam grade. Students who wish to reject their written exam score must notify the professor promptly via email.
Note: The professor is available for any clarifications regarding the course content through in-person or remote meetings by appointment. Students holding a PUOI certification must email the document to the professor before the exam.
Note: Oral exams will follow the registration order. On average, about 30 oral exams will be held per day, unless the professor has other institutional commitments. If the number of candidates exceeds this, a detailed schedule will be communicated the day after registration closes, with a distribution of examinees across subsequent mornings and afternoons. Students who decide not to attend the oral exam after registering must remove themselves from the list in good time. If they are unable to do so after registration has closed, they must still inform the professor by email.

Office hours

Meetings are by appointment only, arranged by sending an email to giacomo.calorio@unimib.it. In-person meetings take place in the professor’s office, room 4110, 4th floor, Agorà Building (formerly U6). Remote meetings are also possible via the professor’s virtual room (https://unimib.webex.com/meet/giacomo.calorio).

Programme validity

The programmes are valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION