UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## Japanese Language I

**2526-1-E2002R007-E2002R00701**

### 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 teaching, 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 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

Textbook and material uploaded in the elearning page

## 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.

Bibliography:

– 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 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).

## 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 graded out of thirty, consists of: grammar and vocabulary exercises; writing exercises and recognition of kanji and phonetic syllabaries; translation of a passage from Japanese into Italian (with the use of paper dictionaries). The exam will last two hours. Students who obtain a score of at least 18/30 are admitted to the oral exam, which includes: a self-introduction and a conversation in

Japanese using the grammatical structures and vocabulary covered in the assigned units (with the native-speaking instructor); reading and translation of one or more passages (without furigana) included in the textbook and in the materials uploaded to the e-learning platform; grammar questions and oral translation of some sentences from Italian into Japanese (with the Italian instructor). The final exam grade will be the average of the written and oral exam scores.

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

The office hours are by appointment only, arranged by sending an email to andrea.maurizi@unimib.it. In-person meetings take place in the professor's office, room 4104, 4th floor, Agorà Building (formerly U6). Remote meetings are also possible via the professor's virtual room.

## Programme validity

Programs are valid 2 academic years

## Course tutors and assistants

## Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION