1. Instructor

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Office Hours 10:00-11:00 M, Tu & Th or by appointment

2. Course Description

This course is conducted in Japanese, and the main focus is on the development of reading and writing skills. The course is designed to increase the students’ ability to understand writings in different genres and styles and to utilize such knowledge in your own writing. Speaking and listening will be assigned and encouraged because they help the acquisition of vocabulary, expressions and grammar, and consequently the development of reading and writing skills. Activities include reading various essays, newspaper articles, short stories, and comic strips. Writing and listening exercises and discussions are also conducted. It is important to consistently keep up with the course assignments.

3. Goals

1) Comprehension of various written materials
2) Expansion of vocabulary and expressions
3) Development of writing skills
4) Further development of cultural understanding

4. Evaluation

Homework 15%
Composition(3) 30%
Reading Tasks 10%
Writing Tasks(普話) 10%
Midterm 15%
Final Exam 20%
(Comprehensive)

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Total 100%

5. Other

(1) No early exams: If you cannot attend classes because of unavoidable circumstances, contact the instructor.

(2) No late homework: Homework assignments must be submitted on the due date in order to obtain credit. Incomplete or poorly done homework will be
returned marked “redo.” To receive credit, you must redo the homework and hand it in the following class day.

(3) Composition: Each composition will have 15~30 points depending on length and content. Late composition/rewrite will lose 5 points / day.

(4) No incomplete will be given for this course.

(5) A student who is majoring in Japanese must obtain at least a C- to receive credit.

6. Advice:
   Reading

(1) When you read assignments, try not to rely on the use of the dictionary in the first time. When you come across words you do not know, read on and try to figure out its meaning by the context and try to comprehend the passage as a whole; what it is about, what the main idea of the reading is, what the key words are and so on. After initial reading, use a dictionary or a vocabulary list provided and carefully review the reading to obtain a more complete comprehension.

(2) Prepare for class by writing down your questions, thoughts, and opinions. You might want to write these in Japanese to facilitate your discussion in class. Please feel free to clarify anything about which you are not certain. Perfect comprehension of a given assignment will not be expected. The purpose of class discussion is to help with the comprehension of each assignment.

(3) Exercise patience as we will use a rather extensive vocabularies in the readings. Do not give up! Readings will become easier as the general terms and vocabulary are developed in class and readings. Thus, generous patience and your work now will pay generous dividends in the future.

Writing

(1) Please write neatly as possible. Use a sharp pencil and write and erase carefully. The same goes for all quizzes and exams.

(2) When preparing writing assignments, try to write about something related to you, and your personal experience using the form and expressions of the genre for that assignment. Sharing personal experiences and writing about yourself will be valuable and entertaining for the entire class.