Youkoso - Intro to Japanese (Middle School) Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Please go to your course to access detailed instructor information.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your assignments or course content. Course facilitators respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. If you don't receive a response at that time, please reach out again just in case I did not get your message.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
All learners must have computer and internet access. Participants in online classes must be comfortable with the basic functions of word-processing software, including Google Docs. Learners must be equipped with a means to capture images, and mobile phones are a suitable option.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This beginner's Japanese course introduces middle school learners to the Japanese language and culture through engaging lessons. Students will explore fundamental concepts such as Japanese alphabets, numbers, counters, greetings, and introductions. The course is designed to provide a solid foundation in Japanese, focusing on everyday vocabulary and basic grammar. By the end of the course, learners will have developed a strong base in Japanese, preparing them for further studies at the upper school level.

COURSE GOALS
1. Develop basic Japanese listening skills.
2. Improve reading and comprehension of simple Japanese sentences.
3. Demonstrate understanding of basic Japanese grammar.
4. Achieve correct and smooth pronunciation of simple Japanese words.
5. Engage in basic conversations, including introducing oneself.
6. Acquire and retain basic Japanese vocabulary.
7. Compare and contrast the culture of the U.S. with that of Japan.

STANDARDS MET
This course meets World Languages Standards for California Public Schools. Specific standards met for each assignment are listed with the assignment in the course itself.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All materials are available online in the course. Access to the internet is required. Also, please refer to the RESOURCES/MATERIALS USED IN THIS COURSE section below.

COURSE OUTLINE

- Block 1: All About Japan
  - Assignment: Acquire fundamental knowledge about Japan
- Block 2: Hiragana & Katakana
  - Assignment: Explore and understand the distinctive features of both hiragana and katakana through exercises
- Block 3: Numbers
  - Assignment: Develop familiarity with Japanese numbers through exercises
- Block 4: Counters
  - Assignment: Acquire a strong understanding of Japanese counters to become familiar with their usage
- Block 5: Greetings & Self-introduction
  - Assignment: Create a short video or audio introducing yourself
- Block 6: My Family & Friends
  - Assignment: Create some sentences to describe family members by using adjectives in Japanese
- Block 7: My Activities
  - Assignment: Create some sentences describing habitual actions of the speaker
- Block 8: Final Project
  - Assignment: Design and create a poster or a slide presentation to present a self-introduction

RESOURCES/MATERIALS USED IN THIS COURSE

- Block 1: All About Japan
  - Article: National Geographic Kids - Japan
  - Video: Fun Facts About Japan
  - Video: How to Use Trains in Japan
  - Video: Japan's Culture and Tradition
  - Slide Presentation: How Much Do You Know about Japan?

- Block 2: Hiragana & Katakana
  - Video: Hiragana & Katakana
  - Slide Presentation: Hiragana & Katakana
  - Video: What is Katakana for? and Kanji?
  - Video: Japanese Alphabet Song
  - Video: How to Pronounce Hiragana
  - Video: Writing Hiragana - Stroke Order
  - Video: How to Read and Write Katakana Alphabet
- Block 3: Numbers
  - Video: Numbers in Japanese
  - Slide Presentation: Numbers in Japanese
  - Video: Learn Japanese Numbers 1 to 20
  - Article: How to Count after 10
  - Video: How to Count Numbers in Japanese 1-100
  - Article: Count in Japanese - A Complete Guide to Japanese Numbers
  - Video: Where Tradition Meets the Future
- Block 4: Counters
  - Video: Japanese Counters
  - Slide Presentation: Japanese Counters
  - Video: Myu Sings "123 Song"
  - Video: Learn Japanese Counters - Tsu
  - Article: 10 Basic Japanese Counters for Beginners with Useful Chart
  - Video: 10 Rules of Chopsticks
- Block 5: Greetings & Self-introduction
  - Video: Greetings & Self-introduction in Japanese
  - Slide Presentation: Greetings & Self-introduction in Japanese
  - Video: Top 20 Super Useful Greetings in Japanese
  - Video: How to Introduce Yourself in Japanese
  - Video: 18 Culture Shocks Tourists Have in Japan
- Block 6: My Family & Friends
  - Video: How to Describe Members of Your Family 1
  - Video: How to Describe Members of Your Family 2
  - Slide Presentation: How to Describe Members of Your Family
  - Video: Family Members in Japanese
  - Article: My Family (kazoku)
  - Video: 5 Reasons Why The Japanese Are So Polite
- Block 7: My Activities
  - Video: My Activities
  - Slide Presentation: My Activities

- ○ Video: Japanese Basic Verbs You Have to Study First!!!
- ○ Video: How to Use Frequency in Japanese
- ○ Video: Japanese High School Sports Festival
- ● Block 8: Final Project
  - ○ Learners are responsible for preparing the materials for their project independently

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

This is an online course, and while there is flexibility in how and when you do assignments, it is best to log in and complete work each day according to the posted pacing schedule. Each BLOCK in a course is worth about 1 week of work during the regular semester. You can find our suggested pacing guide at ileadonline.org under 'CALENDARS'. It is highly recommended that learners follow the pacing schedule posted. Please be sure to check in with your teacher of record (coach/EF/Guide/ES) for guidance with scheduling.

This course uses project based learning to encourage an authentic, developed appreciation of the topics covered. That means that while it may include quizzes and some traditional assessments, the bulk of the coursework focuses on projects that require learners to display their learning in a thorough and creative manner. If you are struggling to complete your work or you need some assistance with an alternate schedule or workload, please contact me as soon as possible. I am more than happy to help support your success in the class!

LEARNER EXPECTATIONS

Learners are expected to participate in the course via email, discussion boards (or other communication) with the facilitator, by reading the assigned readings, submitting assignments and completing and submitting original work. Learners are expected to check their course and email account every day and complete work on time as assigned with designated dates and time. Learners are expected to communicate with their instructor and each other in a respectful manner. Please follow the guidelines below:

1. **Make sure identification is clear in all communications**. If you are emailing or messaging your instructor or each other, please be sure they know who you are and what class you're in. That really helps with clear communication.

2. **Review what you wrote and try to interpret it objectively.** When we speak face to face and are misunderstood, we have an on-the-spot opportunity to rephrase our words. In writing, we must strive twice as hard to be understood, as we do not have the benefit of modifying or elaborating in real time. All caps ("I'M SHOUTING") and exclamation points ("Give me a break!!!") can be misinterpreted as intense anger or humor without the appropriate context.
3. **If you wouldn't say it face to face, don't say it online.** When you're working online, you're safe behind a screen, but that's no excuse to be ill-mannered or say things you would never say in public.
4. **Use emoticons when appropriate.** In casual chat room settings, emoticons can help convey feelings that may otherwise get lost in translation, including humor, exasperation, exhaustion and even confusion. These aren't the best choice for formal assignments or projects though.
5. **Respect others' voices and be kind.** We all come from different backgrounds and have our own stories. Assume the best of each other and always be kind in your communication.
6. **Remember, if it's on the internet, it's everywhere.** Don't share personal information about yourself in a public online forum, especially something that could put your safety or security at risk.
7. **Practice Patience.** All your facilitators are doing their best to grade work in a timely manner. We also want to give you meaningful feedback, which takes some time. If you feel like there has been an error or an assignment was missed, please reach out with your name and class and we will do our best to sort it out.

GRADING

Each assignment is given a specific number of points. The number of points earned by the student is determined and a percentage is calculated. The raw score is recorded in the grade book. An overall grade in the course will be determined according to your school's grading scale.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All work must be submitted to Brightspace, our learning management system. This is very important for record keeping and compliance. You have access to directions on how to do this in the 'Course Resources' folder of this class and in your Orientation class. If you need any help submitting work, please reach out to your instructor and we will make time to ensure that you're able to turn in work to Brightspace.

HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM
Academic Integrity is essential to authentic learning. We want you to get the most out of your courses, and a BIG part of that is learning how to:
1. Come up with your own ideas
2. Use technology (like AI and other online resources) to inform your original ideas
3. Research in ways that help you develop your thoughts
4. Give credit where credit is due
5. Explore and use tools (like AI, citation generators, etc.) that help you grow as a person and a learner

Please review [this resource](#) for more information on plagiarism and [this guide for choosing, using and citing resources](#).

Our goal is to support you so that you can learn in a meaningful, authentic way. Any plagiarized work (this includes work generated solely by AI) will be given a zero and referred to your EF/COACH/GUIDE for review. From there we will work with you to support you as best we can.

PRIVACY POLICY
All work submitted is the property of the author and is not available to anyone not in the class. If work is to be submitted or viewed outside of this website, I will obtain permission from the author.