

Yamagata University (Yamagata)



Explore the world of language and the works of literature by haiku poet Basho, prolific novelist Haruki Murakami, and more!

《 Name of the course 》

Yamagata University Japanese Studies Program for International Students

◇ Yamagata University

(1) Yamagata University plays a central role in education and research in Yamagata Prefecture as a major multi-faculty university institution with some 10,000 students. Its idea of education is to offer specialized programs of natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences closely connected to each other as well as a wide range of liberal arts programs, and to foster global citizens who will play leading roles both in home and around the world. The university's academics aim to pursue and achieve excellence in a wide range of research activities and scholarship, and to contribute to development in the global and local communities.

(2) International Exchange (May 1, 2007)

1) Number of academic exchange agreements: 46 (17 countries and Region)

2) Number of international students: 172 (16 countries and region)

(3) Yamagata Prefecture

Yamagata Prefecture is blessed with easy-going lifestyle, four distinct seasons and an abundance of nature

Close at hand. Hot Spring can be found throughout the prefecture and enjoyed with the friendly human touch only Yamagata people can bring.



◇ Contents of the course

Features of the course

Yamagata University offers an excellent range of courses on Japanese language and culture. Japanese language courses are designed for students to develop a language competence, which lays the essential foundation for study. Multicultural studies courses and specialized courses cover a broad spectrum of Japanese culture, including such aspects as linguistics, literature, history, multicultural relations, sociology, geography, economics, politics, art and education. Students will also write an essay on an approved topic in Japanese and present it at the end of the course.

(1) Number of students to be accepted: two

(2) Period of the course: from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009

(3) Outline of the courses

To complete the program, students must take twelve or more courses, with six or more from categories ① and ② below. It is compulsory for all students of this program to take Independent Study Project in category ①. Categories ② and ③ contains courses for both Japanese and international students.

① Japanese Language Courses ※[Sp]: Spring Semester, [Fa]: Fall Semester

①a. Japanese Language Courses for Undergraduates
JAPANESE 3(Sp) Integrated (AOYAGI Taeko, IUCHI Toshimi)

Intermediate grammar, speaking and listening [Sp]

JAPANESE 3(Sp) Reading (YOKOSAWA Yumi) Intermediate reading [Sp]

JAPANESE 3(Sp) Writing (KUROSAWA Akiko) Intermediate writing [Sp]

JAPANESE 3(Fa) Integrated (AOYAGI Taeko, IUCHI Toshimi) Intermediate grammar, speaking and

listening [Fa]

JAPANESE 3(Fa) Reading (YOKOSAWA Yumi) Intermediate reading [Fa]

JAPANESE 3(Sp) Writing (KUROSAWA Akiko) Intermediate writing [Sp]

KANJI III (YOU Ming-Hwang) Intermediate kanji [Fa & Sp]

JAPANESE 4 Reading (KUROSAWA Akiko) Lower Advanced Reading: This course aims to develop basic skills to read authentic Japanese writings. [Sp]

JAPANESE 4 Speaking (UTSUMI Yumiko) Lower Advanced Speaking: The aim of this course is to help students acquire the knowledge, strategies and skills to effectively interact in Japanese with faculty, staff and other students in the academic environment. [Sp]

JAPANESE 4 Writing (KUROSAWA Akiko) Lower Advanced Writing: Students learn how to develop an argument effectively, using expressions appropriate for writing essays. [Sp]

JAPANESE 4 Listening (UTSUMI Yumiko) Lower Advanced Listening: The aim of this course is to acquire and enrich vocabulary pertaining to various areas of social life and to understand Japanese modern society. [Sp]

JAPANESE 5 Reading (ENDO Yoshitaka) Upper Advanced Reading: The purpose of this course is to develop skills to read authentic Japanese writings on a wide range of subjects. [Sp]

JAPANESE 5 Speaking (TAKAHASHI Sumiko) Upper Advanced Speaking: The aim of this course is to develop communication skills, focusing on the appropriate use of Japanese for the situations in which students face daily on campus. [Sp]

JAPANESE 5 Writing (WATANABE Fumio)

Upper Advanced Writing: This course will focus on how to write objective facts and subjective opinion, and expressions for these writings. The main goal is for students to acquire skills of academic writing in Japanese. [Sp]

JAPANESE 6 Reading (KUROSAWA Akiko)

Lower Advanced Reading: This course aims to develop basic skills to read academic writings. [Fa]

JAPANESE 6 Speaking (UTSUMI Yumiko)

Lower Advanced Speaking: The aim of this course is to help students acquire speaking skills necessary for studying and conducting research at university. [Fa]

JAPANESE 6 Writing (KUROSAWA Akiko) Lower

Advanced Writing: This course aims to develop writing skills necessary for writing academic papers. [Fa]

JAPANESE 6 Listening (UTSUMI Yumiko) Lower

Advanced Listening: The aim of this course is to help students develop their listening skills to understand natural Japanese on complex social issues. [Fa]

JAPANESE 7 Reading (ENDO Yoshitaka) Upper

Advanced Reading: The purpose of this course is to develop skills to read authentic Japanese writings on a wide range of subjects. [Fa]

JAPANESE 7 Speaking (TAKAHASHI Sumiko) Upper

Advanced Speaking: The aim of this course is to improve communication skills, focusing on analyzing the result of questionnaire, organizing it, and presenting it to others. [Sp]

JAPANESE 7 Writing (UTSUMI Yumiko) Upper

Advanced Writing: The aim of this course is to help students develop the ability to write essays required for assessment at university. [Fa]

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT I & II:

Compulsory to all students of this program. Students write an essay in Japanese on a topic agreed in conjunction with the advisor. They will present a paper on their topic at the end of the course. [Fa & Sp]

b. Specialized Japanese language courses at Faculty of Literature and Social Sciences

JAPANESE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS I (ABE

Hachirou): A training of the skill of Japanese oral communication for foreign students. [Sp]

JAPANESE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS II

(WATANABE Fumio): A training of the skill of writing reports and essays in Japanese required to write in regular courses. [Fa]

② Multicultural Studies (General Education courses)

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES I (YOU Ming-Hwang) Life events

in Japan: The purpose of this course is to understand Japanese culture and society through important life events such as pregnancy, giving birth, bringing up a child, and wedding ceremonies. [Sp]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES II (UTSUMI Yumiko) Foreign

residents in Japan: The aim of this course is to promote understanding of the situation and issues of foreign residents in Japan, appreciation of diverse cultures, and to develop critical consciousness through discussion. [Sp]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES III: (YOU Ming-Hwang) The Japanese

perspective on life and death: The purpose of this course is to understand the Japanese perspective on life & death through the most important and traditional ceremony the funeral. [Fa]

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES IV (SONODA Hirofumi) Multicultural

Communication: The purpose of this course is for international students and Japanese students to develop communicative competence in Japanese through role-plays and communication games. [Fa]

③ a. Courses in Humanities and Social Sciences

The following courses are taught by academic staff at the Faculty of Literature and Social Sciences.

* : Introductory courses offered as a part of general education for undergraduates

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LANGUAGE (LINGUISTICS)*

(ABE Hachirou): This is a course for beginners that will explain the characteristics of Japanese language. [Sp]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN JAPANESE GRAMMAR (ABE

Hachirou): This course will trace and teach modern and classical Japanese grammar. [Fa]

TOPICS IN JAPANESE LINGUISTICS (ABE Hachirou): This course

will examine the polite style of speech, mainly on Keigo (the honorific words). Focus is laid on modern Japanese. [Sp]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN JAPANESE

LINGUISTICS (ABE Hachirou): A reading of texts written in classical Japanese. [Fa]

TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF JAPANESE

LANGUAGE (ABE Hachirou): This course will treat the history of Japanese language and the history of the study of Japanese language alternatively every other year. [Fa]

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE STUDY OF JAPANESE

GRAMMAR (LINGUISTICS)*: (WATANABE Fumio): Explicates grammar and meaning of Japanese from the perspective of description. [Sp]

INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS AT AN

ADVANCED LEVEL (WATANABE Fumio): Surveys fundamental methods of linguistics, making use of examples mainly from Japanese, and other various languages. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS AT

AN ADVANCED LEVEL (WATANABE Fumio): Explains the descriptive grammar of modern Japanese. [Sp]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN JAPANESE

LINGUISTICS(WATANABE Fumio): This course aims to improve the students' skills of discussion and writing reports on various topics of modern Japanese grammar and meaning. [Fa]

CINEMA HISTORY (CULTURE)*

(NAKAMURA Miharu): Surveys the history of Japanese cinemas, including discussions on Japanese visual culture [Sp].

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LITERATURE

(NAKAMURA Miharu): Discusses some topics in classical and modern Japanese culture and literature. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LITERATURE AT

AN ADVANCED LEVEL (NAKAMURA Miharu): Surveys classical and modern Japanese literary history and methods of literary studies. [Sp]

TOPICS IN JAPANESE MODERN LITERATURE

(NAKAMURA Miharu): Aims to clarify the characteristics of modern and contemporary novels, poetry, essays and visual culture. [Fa]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN VISUAL IMAGES

(NAKAMURA Miharu): This course will examine analytic theories of Japanese cinema. [Sp]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN JAPANESE

LITERATURE (NAKAMURA Miharu): A study of modern and contemporary Japanese novels, poetry and essays. [Sp]

READINGS IN JAPANESE MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

(NAKAMURA Miharu): A close reading of modern and contemporary Japanese novels, poetry and essays. [Fa]

SEMINAR IN JAPANESE LITERATURE (NAKAMURA Miharu): A comparative study of Japanese modern and contemporary writers and their works with those of foreign countries. [Fa]

ORAL LITERATURE IN THE TOHOKU DISTRICT (CULTURE)* (KIKUCHI Hitoshi): This course will examine the characteristics of typical folk tales in the Tohoku district. [Fa]

JAPANESE LITERATURE—CLASSICAL (KIKUCHI Hitoshi): A close reading of “waka” (short poems) and narrative works written mainly in the “Heian” and “Kamakura” periods. [Fa]

THE DEBATES OF HISTORY (History)*

(MIKAMI Yoshitaka): This lecture will introduce various debates on Japanese history. [Sp]

HISTORY ON COINS IN JAPAN (History)*

(MIKAMI Yoshitaka) This lecture will survey Japanese history from a viewpoint of coins. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION OF JAPANESE HISTORY I

(HISTORY)* (MIKAMI Yoshitaka): This course will survey controversies in historiography concerning Japanese history. [Sp]

TOPICS IN JAPANESE HISTORY I (MIKAMI Yoshitaka): This lecture will clarify problems in Japanese ancient history, making use of documentary and excavated written materials. [Fa]

RECONSIDERATION OF YUKICHI FUKUZAWA (HISTORY)* (ITAGAKI Tetsuo): This course will explore the relation of the thoughts of Yukichi Fukuzawa and the modern Japanese society. [Sp]

WHAT IS THE EDO PERIOD? (SEMINAR) (ITAGAKI Tetsuo): Aims to clarify the

characteristics of the “Edo” period from variety of perspectives. [Fa]

JAPANESE HISTORY II (HISTORY) (ITAGAKI Tetsuo): This is a course on Japanese history of thoughts in the early modern, modern and contemporary ages. [Sp]

INTRODUCTION OF JAPANESE HISTORY II (HISTORY)

(ITAGAKI Tetsuo): This is a course on the structure of Japanese thoughts. [Fa]

UNDERGRADUATE SEMINAR IN JAPANESE HISTORY II (ITAGAKI Tetsuo): Aims to clarify the structure of Japanese history in early modern, modern and contemporary ages. [Sp/Fa]

READINGS IN JAPANESE HISTORY II (ITAGAKI Tetsuo): A close reading of Japanese historical documents in the early modern, modern and contemporary ages. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM (CULTURE)* (MATSUO Kenji): An introduction to Buddhism, focusing on Japanese Buddhism. [Sp]

CITYSCAPE OF KAMAKURA IN THE MIDDLE AGES (HISTORY)* (MATSUO Kenji): Discusses the real state of Kamakura as the “metropolis” of Japanese samurai in the middle ages. [Fa]

READINGS IN CHINESE LITERATURE (FUKUYAMA Yasuo): A reading of classical Chinese literature according to Japanese grammar. [Fa]

ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY I (AKOJIMA Isao): An introduction to the objects, methods, and achievements of physical geography. [Sp]

REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY (YAMADA Hirohisa): This course aims to clarify the relationship between various phenomena in a specific region and its historical and natural environment. [Fa]

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE CULTURE & REPRESENTATIONAL CULTURE (Staff): This course will trace and teach fundamental concepts and methods of cultural studies, applying it to the analysis of literature, cinema, picture, photograph, cartoon and so forth, and also of such problems as nation, state, community, mutual relation between cultures and so on. [Fa]

HISTORY OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE (ITO Yutaka): This is a course on the cultural exchange between America and Japan, focusing on Earnest. F. Fenollosa and Tenshin Okakura. [Sp]

JAPAN ECONOMY (TATEMATSU Kiyoshi): This course will examine the characteristics of contemporary Japanese economy and clarify the problems that it faces. [Sp/Fa]

JAPAN’S DIPLOMATIC HISTORY (MATSUMOTO Kunihiko): This course will survey the diplomatic history after the

Meiji period through visual and documentary materials and helps students to acquire the knowledge necessary to consider Japan’s foreign policy in the future. [Sp/Fa]

JAPANESE ECONOMIC HISTORY (IWATA

Koutaro): This course will trace the Japanese economic history from the 13th to 19th century, clarifying the characteristics of Japanese society. [Fa]

③b. The Faculty of Education, Art and Science

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS A

(SUGA kazuyoshi): An Introduction to Japanese linguistics, focusing on phonology, writing system, lexicon, and dialects. [Sp]

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE LINGUISTICS B

(SUGA kazuyoshi): An Introduction to Japanese linguistics, focusing on grammar, honorific system, and history. [Sp]

GENERAL STATEMENT OF JAPANESE

CULTURE (NAKO kikuo) :General Statement of Japanese Classic Literature , Modern Literature and books about Japanese Thoughts. [Sp]

GENERAL STATEMENT OF HISTORY ABOUT

JAPANESE LITERATURES (NAKO kikuo) : General Statement of History about Japanese Classic Literatures (Waka - verse [Manyou, Kokinsyuu and Sinkokinsyuu] , Heian Period Monogatari and Diary) and Modern Literatures (Meiji , Taisyuu and Syouwa Period Novels)[Sp]

INTRODUCTION OF JAPANESE

LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY (SONODA

Hirofumi) :Surveys the Japanese Language Pedagogy. [Sp]

SEMINAR IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE PEDAGOGY (SONODA Hirofumi) : Discusses some topics in the Japanese Language Pedagogy. [Sp]

JAPANESE LINGUISTICS (SUGA Kazuyoshi) : A case study on Japanese linguistics .[Fa]

ADVANCED JAPANESE LINGUISTICS

(SUGA Kazuyoshi) :This course will examine the grammar of modern Japanese. [Fa]

SEMINAR IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

(SONODA Hirofumi) :Discusses some topics in intercultural studies. [Fa]

(4)Academic advisors

- 1)Program coordinator
Akiko KUROSAWA (Professor in Linguistics, International Center)
- 2)Supporting academic staff
Yumiko UTSUMI (Associate Professor in Japanese Language Teaching, International Center)
Ming Fang YOU (Associate Professor in Sociology, International Center)
- 3)Academic staff in charge of the courses in (3) above an academic advisor will be assigned to each student to aid in completion of the essay project.

(5)Excursions and other events

Students will have the opportunity to meet Japanese people by staying with or visiting a family in Yamagata, through day trips (e. g. Yamadera, Hot springs) and local festivals (e.g. Hanagasa Matsuri, Kaminoyama Oshiro Matsuri). They can also participate in activities such as a tea ceremony, kokeshi doll making, and go (Japanese chess).

〈Annual Event & Activity Calendar of the International Center〉

Date	Event・Activity
Oct	International Communicate Event
	Campus festival
Des	International student's Japanese speech contest
Jan	Community party for prefecture citizen's and international students
Aug	Hanagasa Festival
Sep	Field Trip

5) Certificate

The students who fulfill the necessary requirements can obtain a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

(6) Credits

Credits will be given and a transcript will be issued to the students who have satisfied the course requirements. Their home institution has the final authority to determine how the approved credits are used to fulfill specific major requirements.

(7)Qualifications and conditions of applicants

- 1) Applicants are expected to have majored or minored in Japanese language and/or Japanese studies.
- 2) Applicants are expected to have a good command of Japanese, an equivalent of Level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. They are expected to have the ability to express their opinions and interact with Japanese people using Japanese.



Kago Relay Race →



◇ Accommodation

- 1)For accommodation, an international student at Yamagata University has options such as the Yamagata University International House, a private boarding house (usually half board), and a studio apartment. If you are made an offer of a place at Yamagata University as a student of the Japanese Studies Program, you will receive more detailed information on accommodation.
- 2)Number of students in this program lived in this accommodation. (2005: 1 person, 2006: 2 person, 2007: 2 person)



↑ International Student House



← Campus (Sakura)

◇ How to Contact Us

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