

UNIV. OF THE RYUKYUS (OKINAWA)



Characteristics of the course: Through the various courses you will be able to acquire high-level command of Japanese, reading skills and academic writing skills. Studying in Okinawa surely gives you a unique perspective on Japan and Japanese culture.

◇Introduction

1. University of the Ryukyus

The University of the Ryukyus was founded in 1950 under the U.S. Administration. The university acquired its present status as a national institution upon the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1972. The university is comprised of the Faculties of Law and Letters, Faculties of Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management, Faculties of Education, Faculties of Science, Faculties of Medicine, Faculties of Engineering and Faculties of Agriculture. In addition to the undergraduate programs, all the faculties have postgraduate programs. The tropical location enables the various and fruitful studies of the surrounding ocean, nature, culture, and dialects.

Faculty members: 859

Undergraduate students:

7190

Graduate students: 945



International Student Center

2. Number of International Students

a) From 45 countries, 299 students study on the campus (as of May 1, 2008)

(b) Japanese Studies program

From 25 countries, 56 students (1994~2008):

Thailand 9, South Korea 6, U. S. A. 5, Ukraine 4, Poland 4, Switzerland 3, Hungary 3, Russia 2, Turkey 2, Australia 2, Austria 1, Belgium 2, Brazil 1, China 1, Czech 1, Colombia 1, Egypt 1, France 1, India 1, Latvia 1, Peru 1, the Philippines 1, Slovakia 1, Spain 1

3.Characteristics of Okinawa

Blessed with year-round warm temperatures, Okinawa boasts Japan's only true semitropical climate. Set amidst emerald green seas under a canopy of azure skies, the islands are a premier southern resort destination. Okinawa Prefecture is home to rare birds and animals like the Pryer's Woodpecker *noguchiguera*, Okinawa Rail *yambaru kuina* and Iriomote wildcat, famous worldwide for their uniqueness. With their abundance of distinctive semitropical flora and fauna, their profusion of coral reefs and their salubrious climate, these islands are becoming increasingly popular among tourists and people seeking to recharge their batteries.

(quoted from "This is Okinawa")



Nishihara Marine Park

◇Course Description

This program is offered to achieve the following three points: a) to train students to have a higher-level comprehension of Japanese, which enables them to study in Japan, b) to educate students to acquire techniques and knowledge Japanology, and c) to help students gain a deep insight into Japanese culture and Okinawan local culture.

The program offer the opportunity for students to study with other international students with various backgrounds, which leads the students of this program to discover similarities and differences of Japan and other cultures. Courses such as Linguistics, Teaching Japanese as a second language, Japanese linguistics, Dialectology (Okinawan dialects), Japanese literature, Okinawan literature, History (Japanese and Okinawan), Cultural Anthropology and Folklore are offered. Students can take these courses with a permission from their supervisors.

Students are required to study their own field(s) of interest in Japan (or Okinawa): The results are presented orally and in written form. Their studies presented in written form are compiled in a book titled "Study Reports," and the copies are published and distributed to other universities.

1. Number of students accepted: Total 12

2. Period of the course:

Oct. 1, 2009 – Sep. 30, 2010

(Fall semester Oct. 1, 2009~Mar. 31, 2010

Spring semester Apr. 1, 2010~Sep. 30, 2010)

3. Previous students' study topics

- American Bases on Okinawa
- Traditional songs of Tarama Island
- Yasukuni, The Emperor, and Okinawa
- Convenience Stores and Young People
- Seven Wonders of Seesaa

Note: You can watch how the presentation goes at the following web site:

http://jp.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=AD83C84B41758643

3. Course Outline:

There are required courses and elective courses. Courses in the Japanese language program of General Education and courses aimed at regular Japanese students of the department of Languages and Cultures in the Faculty of Law and Letters will also be available for international students. The elective courses are not limited to those listed below.

4. Subject Outline

In general classes usually run for 15 weeks during each semester. Each class is held once a week.

1) Required Courses

Course name	Description
Basic Seminar I, II	Learning report writing and presentation.
Japanese Culture I, II	Experiencing Okinawan and Japanese culture through pottery, dyeing and textile. Also visiting historical sites in Okinawa.
Japanese Sentence Structures and Expressions (Only 1 semester)	Development of composition writing, and sentence structure skills. Questionnaire, report compilation and presentation on a specific topic.

2) Elective Courses

Course name	Description
Japanese Grammar Seminar I, II	This course will introduce a number of grammatical issues of Japanese. Students will be required to observe actual data and find regularities through integrating their previous knowledge on Japanese.

Special Study of Ryukyuan Culture I, II	This course will introduce various (controversial) issues on Okinawa, such as culture and people in Okinawa through an experience of Ryukyu dancing and lectures about Ryukyu dialect.
Japanese Literature I, II	Reading of modern Japanese literature (poetry and novels).
Contrastive Study of Japanese and Other Languages	This course aims to develop a conceptual framework for analyzing the linguistic features of Japanese and other languages.
International Relations I, II	This course will address the "contemporary" period of Japan and its relation to other countries with historical perspective.

3) Field Trips and Events

Local research trips to museums, historical sites, and old battlefields will also be taken. To understand the local culture, tea ceremony participation and watching traditional dance are also a part of the program. Additionally, an international students get-together, festival, the university festival, and social exchanges within Okinawa will also be held. For those who would like to stay with/ visit a Japanese family, we offer assistance in finding a host family.

Visits:

- Shirijo Castle & Tamaudun
- Abuchiragama (An old battlefield)
- Peace Memorial Park & Museum
- The Ryukyu Shimpo
- Okinawa prefectural Police HQ
- Makishi Public Market
- Okinawa Prefectural Archaeological Center
- Okinawa Television Broadcasting Co.,Ltd.



Peace Memorial Museum

4) Other subjects (Optional)

Course name	Description
Introduction to Ryukyuan dialects I and II	Focusing on its sound system and syntax, the students learn basic communicative expressions
Sanshin and Shimauta	Learning how to play the Okinawan traditional musical instrument (sanshin) and singing Okinawan songs.

Introduction to the Study of Okinawa and Asia	Lecturers on various topics such as arts, traditions and religion.
Politics and Society of Okinawa	Lectures on the politics and society of Okinawa with its historical background
The Bases and Old Battlefields in Okinawa	Learn what peace is, on the basis of the war on Okinawa.

Japanese Language Courses

【Number of classes】(one class is for 90 minutes)

Subjects		Number of classes		
		Fall sem	Spr. sem	Total
Japanese III・IV	Listening & Vocabulary	30	30	60
	Reading & Grammar	30	30	60
	Writing & Presentation	30	30	60
Japanese Culture I・II	Okinawan Society & Culture	15	15	30
	Japanese Society & Culture	15	15	30

Japanese language program



5. System of Instruction

(a) Program Coordinators

Naomi Kinjo

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Katsuya Kinjo

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*Besides the above three instructors, two instructors of International Student Center (Japanese language and language education major) and other instructors of Faculty of Law and Letters can be the students' advisors.

(b) Guidance System

If needed, individual instruction will be given in addition to regular classes. Research plans, surveys, and research will also be conducted under the supervision of an instructor. Individual studies will be presented orally and in written form.



Library

6. Events

- Oct. Field trip to Shuri Castle & Tamaudun
- Nov. Party with international students in Okinawa
Appreciation of Kumiodori
- Dec. Visit a newspaper company
- Jan. Calligraphy experience
- Feb. Speech contest
- Mar. Tea ceremony
- Apr. Mid-term presentation
- May Visit a TV company
- Jun. Peace Study
Field trip to old battlefields & Peace Memorial Park
- Jul. International Student Festival
Performing a Play in Japanese
- Aug. Final presentation
Closing ceremony
- Sep. Visit Chura-umi Aquarium



7. Course Completion Requirements and Issuance of Completion Certificates

To students who meet the required 540 hours or more throughout the year, they will be issued with an academic transcript and a certificate of completion.

8. Credit acknowledgement and transfer

Acknowledgement of credits is at the discretion of the students' home university.

9. Qualifications and conditions of applicants

Those wishing to enrol in this course must be 3rd year students or above, enrolled in a university outside of Japan, and must meet the following criterias:

- (a) It is preferred that the applicant should have passed level one of the Japanese Proficiency Test or have the ability in which to do so.
- (b) The applicant should be majoring in Japanese Studies with a good academic standing.

◇Housing

The students of this program are usually assigned rooms in the dormitory with Japanese students. Students will be provided with a desk, a chair, and a locker in their room. Shower, laundry, lounge, dormitory shop, and a vending machine is provided in common setting.

•Students of the Japanese Language and Culture Program for the last three years (as of October, each year):

	International House	Dormitory	Apartment	Total
2005	0	5	0	5
2006	0	5	1	6
2007	1	2	2	5



Dormitory

◇ Contact

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(Available in both Japanese and English)

