

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2026	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	JPNL100		
Course Title	Konnichiwa Japanese for Total Beginners		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	BALASOORIYA Udani	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Japan Studies: Japanese Language	Number of Credits	2
Class Style	Seminar	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	Cap (registrant capacity): 25 students This course is designed as the first introductory course to Japanese and is targeted at students who have never studied Japanese. The primary focus of this course is on learning the Japanese writing systems, especially Hiragana and Katakana, with emphasis on reading and writing. Grammar explanations in class will be minimal. The course will also introduce basic survival-level oral communication. Extra materials on the web will be used extensively, and students will learn some aspects of Japanese culture related to everyday life. Class instruction will be conducted mainly in English.
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	This is a new and revised course of "Konnichiwa Japanese" offered in 2026. It will be continuously improved in the coming years based on student feedback, with new course materials and teaching methods incorporated as needed. The course primarily focuses on developing communication skills for students who plan to stay in Japan for a short period. At the same time, it aims to build a strong foundation in Hiragana and Katakana for those who wish to continue studying Japanese over the long term.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	N/A
Learning Goals	At the end of this course, proficient students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and write all Hiragana and Katakana accurately. • Recognize and understand basic words and expressions written in Hiragana and Katakana. • Function in Japanese in simple everyday situations. • Understand basic Japanese customs in everyday situations, including shopping and ordering at restaurants.

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Discussion, Debate/Group Work
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	Various teaching methods are used in this course to encourage students' active participation in learning Hiragana and Katakana, including guided reading and writing practice, Q&A sessions, character recognition and writing exercises, and communicational activities such as pair work, group work, and role plays.
Use of ICT	Various ICT tools will be used in this course, including LMS (UNIPA), Google Forms and Google Sheets

Contents of class preparation and review	Students enrolled in this course are expected to engage in approximately two hours of independent study per week outside of scheduled class time. Prior to each class, students are required to review Hiragana and Katakana characters, including their readings and writing conventions, in order to maximize in-class time for structured reading and writing practice.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	1 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Feedback for quizzes and tests will be provided individually in person.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Studentship	20%	Attendance, Participation, Feedback Responsiveness.
Topic Test	40%	Four tests will evaluate speaking, reading, and writing skills for each topic.
Achievement Test	40%	Final test evaluates students' speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Required Textbook(s)	<p>Main Textbook *You need to purchase*: Marugoto Starter A1 Katsudoo (activities), the Japan Foundation, 2013 (JP¥2,090+tax) The textbook can be purchased after the class starts. Please consult the instructor if you would like to purchase it beforehand.</p> <p>All other materials will be provided in class.</p>
Other Reading Materials/URL	<p>Supplemental materials *You do not purchase it*: Marugoto Starter A1 Rikai (understanding), the Japan Foundation, 2013 (JP¥2,420+tax) Marugoto Plus (http://marugotoweb.jp/en/)</p>
Plagiarism Policy	<p>The instructor of this class takes the issue of academic honesty very seriously. All students' homework and assessments must be their own work. No outside assistance is permitted beyond what is explicitly allowed by the instructor. If students are unsure whether an action constitutes a violation, they must consult the instructor before submitting their work. Any breaches of academic honesty will be addressed in accordance with university policies.</p> <p>Before the first assessment, please familiarize yourself with the academic honesty policies outlined in the iCLA Student Handbook.</p> <p>Please also refer to the attached "Konnichiwa Japanese for Total Beginners AI Policy" regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).</p>
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>Students are expected to participate actively in all class activities. The instructor will take attendance at the beginning of each class. Students who are not present at the time attendance is taken will be counted as absent. Being late, leaving midway through a class session, or leaving early for more than five minutes will also be recorded, with three instances of tardiness or early departure counting as one absence. Any absence exceeding thirty minutes, including being late or leaving midway/early, will likewise be counted as one absence. Please note that missing more than one-third of the total course hours will result in the inability to take the achievement test (equivalent to the final exam in other courses), and the student will not receive credit for the course.</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Orientation
Class 2	Topic ①: Japanese L1: Konnichiwa ・ Exchange Greetings
Class 3	Topic ①: Japanese L1: Konnichiwa ・ Recognize Japanese characters Hiragana: あ、い、う、え、お Katakana: ア、イ、ウ、エ、オ
Class 4	Topic ①: Japanese L2: Would you say that again? ・ Use basic classroom expressions. Hiragana: か、き、く、け、こ Katakana: カ、キ、ク、ケ、コ
Class 5	Topic ①: Japanese L2: Would you say that again? ・ Write your name and country in Japanese Hiragana: さ、し、ず、せ、そ Katakana: サ、シ、ス、セ、ソ
Class 6	Topic ① Test (Reading, Writing & Speaking)
Class 7	Topic ②: Watashi L1: Nice to meet you ・ Give a simple introduction Hiragana: た、ち、つ、て、と Katakana: タ、チ、ツ、テ、ト
Class 8	Topic ②: Watashi L1: Nice to meet you ・ Recognize the parts of a business card Hiragana: な、に、ぬ、ね、の Katakana: ナ、ニ、ヌ、ネ、ノ
Class 9	Topic ②: Watashi L2: There are 3 people in my family ・ Talk briefly about your family Hiragana: は、ひ、ふ、へ、ほ Katakana: ハ、ヒ、フ、ヘ、ホ
Class 10	Topic ②: Watashi L2: There are 3 people in my family ・ Tell someone about your family, using a family photo Hiragana: ま、み、む、め、も Katakana: マ、ミ、ム、メ、モ

Class 11	Topic ② Test (Reading, Writing & Speaking)
Class 12	Topic ③: Tabemono L1: What kind of foods do you like - Talk about your favorite foods Hiragana: や、ゆ、よ Katakana: ヤ、ユ、ヨ Small Hiragana & Katakana
Class 13	Topic ③: Tabemono L1: What kind of foods do you like - Offer someone a drink Hiragana: ら、り、る、れ、ろ Katakana: ラ、リ、ル、レ、ロ
Class 14	Topic ③: Tabemono L1: What kind of foods do you like - Talk about your breakfast Hiragana: わ、を、ん Katakana: ワ、ヲ、ン
Class 15	Topic ③: Tabemono L2: Where are you going to have lunch today - Say what your favorite dish is Contracted Sounds in Hiragana & Katakana
Class 16	Topic ③: Tabemono L2: Where are you going to have lunch today - Talk with a friend about where to go for lunch Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity
Class 17	Topic ③: Tabemono L2: Where are you going to have lunch today - Read a menu Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity
Class 18	Topic ③: Tabemono L2: Where are you going to have lunch today - Order food and drink at a hamburger shop Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity
Class 19	Topic ③ Test (Reading, Writing & Speaking)
Class 20	Topic ④: Kaimono L1: Cute - Talk what you want to buy Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity
Class 21	Topic ④: Kaimono L1: Cute - Talk about where to shop for something you want Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity

Class 22	<p>Topic ⑧: Kaimono L2: I 'll take this - Make a brief comment on things in a shop Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity</p>
Class 23	<p>Topic ⑧: Kaimono L2: I 'll take this - Read prices Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity</p>
Class 24	<p>Topic ⑧: Kaimono L2: I 'll take this - Do some shopping Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity</p>
Class 25	<p>Topic ⑧ Test (Reading, Writing & Speaking)</p>
Class 26	<p>Topic ⑥: Yasumi no hi L1: What 's your hobby - Talk about your hobbies - Talk about what you do on your days off Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity</p>
Class 27	<p>Topic ⑥: Yasumi no hi L2: Shall we go together? - Recognize information on posters and calendars for event - Say whether you will attend an event Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity</p>
Class 28	<p>Topic ⑥: Yasumi no hi L2: Shall we go together? - Talk about whether you can go out with your friend Hiragana & Katakana Practice Activity</p>
Class 29	<p>Review of Hiragana, Katakana, and Topic-Based Dialogues</p>
Class 30	<p>Course Achievement Test (Reading, Writing & Speaking)</p>