

Lecturer: Wayne Lawrence
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Office hours: tba

Lectures: TThF 12:00 – 1:00

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% final examination

Coursework: Short in-class tests (x 4) 20%
One-hour long tests (x 2) 30%

Course Overview

This course introduces classical Japanese language (known as *kobun* (古文) or *bungo* (文語)) by examining the classical grammatical forms and their use in a range of texts from different eras. While Classical Japanese is no longer spoken, it is still alive in the language of today, especially in more formal situations. Learning the classical language opens the door not only to better literacy in modern Japanese, but also to a whole world of Japanese history and culture. This course provides a basic introduction to classical Japanese grammar, and an exploration of the historical and cultural backgrounds of a number of texts.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course you should be familiar with aspects of classical grammar including the ability to identify parts of speech, and be able to conjugate verbs and adjectives in their classical forms. You will recognise the basic vocabulary used in the pre-modern texts, understand the historical spelling conventions, and be able to pronounce texts written in pre-modern orthography. You will also have a knowledge of aspects of the historical and cultural contexts for the texts, with themes including Buddhist thought and attitudes, the usage of the lunisolar calendar, and various literary devices and genres.

Course Expectations and Materials

The course will be taught in seminar style. There are no timetabled tutorials for this course, but you are encouraged to ask questions during class. In this course we will use two course readers: one book containing the classical texts, and one reader containing grammar and vocabulary items. Please bring both readers to **every** class. In order to succeed in this course, it is very important that you attend every class. You are expected to devote around 10 hours per week to this course (including class time). Please use this time to read and review the required readings and familiarise yourself with the vocabulary and grammar items.

You are expected to show common courtesy towards your lecturer and fellow students. This means attending/leaving class on time, not talking privately/sleeping/eating/texting during

classes, and turning off your mobile phone. Teaching staff are here to help you. You are welcome to contact the teaching staff by email and phone, but please identify yourself when you do so. Email should include a relevant subject heading and be treated as formal correspondence. Be sure to read your university email regularly, as important messages about the course are sometimes sent via email.

Short Tests (20%): There will be four short tests of equal value (5%), which will each test one specific aspect of the Classical Japanese writing system or grammar. These tests will take about 10 minutes each.

Tests (30%): There will be two 50 minute long tests, worth 15% each. These will focus on the work covered in the preceding half of the semester.

Class schedule: The provisional class schedule is as follows.

	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>
<i>week 1</i>	verb conjugation	verb conjugation	かなづか 仮名遣い
<i>week 2</i>	いろは歌	「児のそら寝」	「児のそら寝」 ST1
<i>week 3</i>	「かぐや姫」	「かぐや姫」	「かぐや姫」 ST2
<i>week 4</i>	「枕草子」	「方丈記」	「方丈記」 ST3
<i>week 5</i>	Chinese Zodiac ST4	「徒然草」	「土佐日記」
<i>week 6</i>	「土佐日記」	Test 1	「平家物語」
Mid-semester break			
<i>week 7</i>	「平家物語」	「平家物語」	「平家物語」
<i>week 8</i>	poetry (古事記～連歌)	poetry (俳諧)	狂言 (DVD)
<i>week 9</i>	months & telling the time	「世間胸算用」	「世間胸算用」
<i>week 10</i>	「世間胸算用」	「今昔物語集」	「今昔物語集」
<i>week 11</i>	「今昔物語集」	「今昔物語集」	Test 2
<i>week 12</i>	「遠野物語」	「遠野物語」	Course Review

Student/Staff Consultative Cmte. Meetings: These are scheduled for Tuesdays 20th August and 9th October, from 9:00am on both days.

Disability Services

Any student with a disability who may require alternative arrangements in this course is encouraged to seek advice and assistance from Disability Services as soon as possible after enrolment. Contact details: Disability Services (www.disability.auckland.ac.nz), Room 036, Basement Level, ClockTower. Phone extn. 82936; email: disabilities@auckland.ac.nz