

Syllabus

Japanese 472: Okinawan Language and Literature is one course in the JPN471–472 two-course Okinawan language and culture set designed for students with some background in the Japanese language. The class meets twice a week (MW 3 to 4:15PM) and includes an introduction to Okinawan vocabulary and grammar as well as instruction in using reference materials to read (decode) and appreciate written Okinawan materials from the modern, classical/literary, and archaic stages of the language. Students will also learn selected greetings and other useful expressions in modern Okinawan. In addition, the course may have guest lectures on various topics of interest, such as the Okinawan performing arts. As this class is designated Writing Intensive (WI), students will do a substantial amount of writing: weekly write-ups reflecting on materials presented in class, a midterm mini-research project (and presentation), and a final research paper on a topic of their choosing.

Instructor and contact information

Stewart Curry — scurry@hawaii.edu — Moore 368 — 956 2080 — office hours MWF 10:30–11, or by appointment

Recommended references and resources

Sakihara, *Okinawan-English Wordbook*

Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyūjo, *Okinawa-go jiten*

Uchima & Nohara, eds., *Okinawa-go jiten — Naha-hōgen o chūshin ni*
(*Ryūkyū-go onsei deetabeesu* at <http://ryukyu-lang.lib.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/>)

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Students in this course will learn Okinawan grammar and vocabulary that will enable them to appreciate Okinawan written material (and, on occasion, the performances associated with certain written materials) from various genres and ages of the Okinawan literary spectrum. They will also engage in a modicum of light analysis of themes involved in the works considered and their connections to similar works in other traditions. Specifically, students will be able to:

- employ a handful of basic modern Okinawan phrases and useful expressions, in order to build up an appreciation of the sounds and rhythms of Okinawan,
- read Okinawan language materials presented in romanization and *kana*-derived modern and traditional orthography,
- compare and contrast Okinawan and Japanese phonology and grammar,
- comprehend modern written Okinawan language material,
- comprehend and appreciate, with the assistance of reference materials, the written versions of the *ryūka* (*uta*) and *kumi odori* (*kumi wudu*) genres recorded in Classical/Literary/Middle Okinawan,
- be conversant, through exposure to and consideration of original poems and traditional expositions, regarding items from the *Omoro Sōshi*, written in Old Okinawan.

In addition, the following Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures Departmental SLOs apply, at least in part, to this course:

- [SLO 5—Research] Conduct independent research on topics in Japanese literature and/or linguistics, and effectively communicate the results.
- [SLO 6—Linguistics] Demonstrate an understanding of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics through analysis of words, phrases, and clauses from authentic Japanese samples.
- [SLO 7—Literature] Identify and describe major authors, works, features, forms, and styles of Japanese literature, both pre-modern and modern.
- [SLO 9—Literature] Situate and evaluate Japanese literature in its social, historical, intellectual, and religious contexts.

Further, the following University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) apply, at least in part, to this course:

- [ILO 1—Know: Breadth and Depth of Knowledge] 1a “General Education” and “Specialized study in an academic field”
- [ILO 2—Do: Intellectual and Practical Skills] 2b “Conducting research” and 2c “Communicate and report”
- [ILO 3—Value: Personal and Social Responsibility] “Respect for people and cultures”

Writing Intensive information

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- [WLO1] Adapt writing to a clearly identified purpose and audience, according to disciplinary conventions and genres;
- [WLO2] Develop and organize appropriate and relevant content;
- [WLO3] Evaluate and integrate supporting materials from appropriate sources, and credit them appropriately according to the genre and discourse requirements of the field; and
- [WLO4] Control style and mechanics to communicate effectively.

Hallmarks

- [W1] The class uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.
- [W2] The class provides interaction between the instructor and students while students do assigned writing.
- [W3] Written assignments contribute significantly to each student's course grade.
- [W4] The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing—a minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.

Prerequisites

This course assumes no familiarity with Okinawan, although some previous experience with the language, such as Japanese 471, EALL 197, or extracurricular sources (such as family, for example) might be helpful. A reading knowledge of Japanese is essential (minimum Japanese 202 or 205; 301 or concurrent enrollment preferred), as much of the reference and background material is available only in Japanese, and Japanese models are overtly referenced in presentations of Okinawan grammar and vocabulary. In addition, an ability to tolerate abstractions about grammar and language (i.e., some experience in general and/or Japanese linguistics, such as Linguistics 100 or Japanese 350) might prove useful as well. The only other basic requirement is a willingness to work hard and to be an active participant in the conduct of the course.

Structure

The semester is divided into thematic blocks. The length of each block may vary depending on our progress, so the schedule below is more of a general outline than a specific plan; if you think of this course as a journey in which the experience, rather than some intended absolute destination reached via clearly defined waystops, is the end, you will enjoy it more and get more out of it. The fixed things on the schedule are the Midterm Reading/Writing Project, the Final Project topic due date, the Final Project write-up due date, and the and the project presentations. And the final exam, of course.

Block 0: Introduction to the course; resources; Japonic overview

Block 1: sounds, words, grammar, and syntax of Okinawan

Block 2: reading in Modern Okinawan: *Utu nu tami...*, *Uchinanchu nu ugwansu*, *Wannee mayaa du yaru*

Block 3: Midterm Reading/Writing Project: *Uchinaa nu shikee isan*

Block 4: Classical Okinawan dance drama *Kumi wudui: Shūshin kani'iri*

Block 5: Classical Okinawan poetry/song: *Ryūka*

Block 6: Old Okinawan poetry: *Omoro*

Block 7: Project presentations

Attendance

Your regular attendance and participation are expected. As a general policy, no make-up work will be given without a valid, documented excuse. A valid document could be from a medical doctor, a commanding officer, a work supervisor, a faculty supervisor, or a police or court official. Except in the case of emergency, an excused absence must be accompanied by email, text, or personal notification *no later* than the day of the class absence (and ideally, before the class). Emails must include JPN472 and your name in the subject line. Texts must include JPN472 and your name in the first line. You can send texts to 808 225 8080.

Class preparation

Getting ready for each class will require engaging with worksheets, texts with supporting notes, and study questions. These will be assigned and are required, but will not be turned in or checked *per se*. Full participation in the class depends on your doing the required advance work, such as readings and worksheets, for each class; anything less will do a disservice not only to yourself, but also (and perhaps more importantly) to the congenial functioning of the class as a whole. All homework will be posted at the course site on Lulima a few days in advance of the class in which the homework is discussed.

Some material(s) reflecting class discussions of assigned material will be posted at the course site at Lulima, but will likely not completely reflect all information presented and discussed. **You will not be able to fully rely on posted materials to take the place of attentive preparation for class and active engagement during class.**

Weekly reaction papers

After most Wednesday classes (around 11 times over the semester), you will write up a short reaction paper (roughly one-plus pages, equivalent to about 300 words if double-spaced) reflecting on material presented during the week, to submit to Lulima>Clog before the next class session on the following Monday (or Wednesday in the case of Monday holidays). Reaction papers can include mentions of new things learned, insights gained, aesthetic takes on literary items presented, comments and questions about details in translating the text, and so forth. On occasion they will be responses to specific questions posed by the instructor. Personal anecdotes are welcome as well. These are informal exercises—meaning they need not adhere to any particular format and will not undergo revisions—but they must be grammatical and audience-appropriate. If you reference an outside source, be sure to fully document that source according to recognized bibliographical standards from any of the humanities disciplines. You will also need to credit the source for any graphics you use to support or enhance your paper. You will be required to read other students' posts, and, if you feel so inclined, you may comment on them as well.

The instructor will provide feedback, when relevant, via email or direct consultation, to address style and grammar issues on these assignments.

Midterm Reading/Writing Project (MRWP)

For the Midterm Reading/Writing Project, you will work on short excerpts from a modern Okinawan text about the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Okinawa. Tackling the material more or less independently, you will analyze and translate each text and do research regarding the background of the sites, and of the people and historical events related to the sites. You will turn in a brief (three-pages-ish) write-up of your translation and other findings. The MRWP will help you hone analytical skills and (and maybe find sources) that will be of use for the final project. At least (part of) one class session will be given over to your independent work on the material. You may find it useful to collaborate with other class members who are assigned the same material for general questions, but everyone is required to submit their own paper.

Final Project

For the Final Project, you will work to deploy your own interests and curiosity to discover sources, conduct investigations, and develop a research paper, the highlights of which will be shared in a class presentation. Both the paper and the presentation will be in English. The final project will be worth 30% of the final overall grade, broken down as detailed below.

+Topic Submission (2.5%) Topics investigated by students in previous semesters include: a thematic and grammatical analysis of a folk song, a discussion of the appropriateness of reading *omoro* as history, and reports on independently sourced materials such as Okinawan colloquialisms and idioms. The point is to find something of interest to you that involves **written Okinawan** (e.g., song lyrics, transcribed conversation, vocabulary sets, folk tales, etc.), and work with that. Your topic submission should include a working title, a brief outline, and at least three responsibly sourced references you might consult.

+Written Report (25%) For the written report, which must adhere to MLA standards, you will produce a minimum of five pages of **content** (sections for notes and works cited will not count towards this total). An MLA formatting and style guide is available at owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html.

The report should be of good quality, meaning it has documented and reliable sources, a scholarly tone, and the like; it should also be entirely free of mechanical errors, such as mistakes in spelling, grammar, and formatting. Errors in spelling, grammar, and formatting will result in a half-grade (5% of the report grade, equivalent to 1.25% of the final overall grade) deduction for each occurrence. The due date for the write-up allows for ample time for the instructor to provide comments and feedback, and the submission of a revised version, if necessary, is possible.

Superlative papers will be the record of the investigation of a clearly stated hypothesis (even if it turns out to be wrong) or research question, or a critical analysis (comparison/contrast) of differing views on a topic of significance (a literature

review). Papers that summarize other works (i.e., book reports) will be accepted but may not end up with the best scores. Special consideration will be given to papers that involve field work.

+Presentation (2.5%) The presentation will be **seven to eight minutes**, supported by the use of some manner of presentation software. Note that this does not mean a *minimum* of seven to eight minutes: your presentation must be planned, practiced, and honed to meet the time specified—as is the custom for presentations at academic conferences, you will be cut off once your presentation runs one minute over the allowed time. Keep in mind that the report write-up will likely include more information than the time frame for the presentation will allow you to present; treating the highlights and significant points of your research in the actual presentation will be the key to a successful report/presentation combination. Your grade for the presentation will be based solely on finishing at or near the time limit.

Exams

There is only one exam, the final, which will consist of two parts of roughly equal weight: 1) discrete-point and short-answer exercises on topics considered in class, including facts about Okinawan, its similarities and contrasts with Japanese, grammar issues, and readings, and 2) an analysis and discussion of a short text in Modern Okinawan. It will be distributed after the last regular class session as a take-home exam, open-note and open-reference, and due by the following Friday's scheduled final exam session finish time (i.e., Friday 12 May, 4:15 PM HST).

Grading

Weekly reaction papers			30%
Midterm Reading/Writing Project (MRWP)			10%
Project development and presentation:	topic submission	2.5%	30% total
	report	25%	
	presentation	2.5%	
Final exam			30%
Total			100%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the scale below. Note that plus-minus grading will *not* be used for this course.

90–100%	A
80–89%	B
70–79%	C
60–69%	D
under 59%	F

Percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Online course information

As alluded to above, this course is a fully online synchronous course.

Just as a reminder, you will need access to a computer or other internet-capable device (something tablet-sized or larger is recommended), a stable internet connection, and a quiet space with a minimum of outside intrusions. (For that last, just do the best you can—working/studying from home can have some interesting moments.)

Projects (the MRWP and Final Project steps) can be emailed.

Additional information

Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL)

Information on a Japanese major, minor, or certificate, course offerings, and other department activities.

Phone: 808 956-8940

Website: www.hawaii.edu/eall

Location: Moore 382

KOKUA Program

The KOKUA Program is the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's program serving students with disabilities. If you have a disability with related academic access, you are warmly encouraged to contact the KOKUA Program and me to make any necessary arrangements.

Phone: 808 956-7511

Email: kokua@hawaii.edu

Website: www.hawaii.edu/kokua

Location: Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services (Room 013)

UHM Counseling & Student Development Center (CDSC)

If you have personal, academic, or career-related inquiries or concerns, CDSC provides encouraging, collaborative, goal-focused, and culturally-sensitive support and assistance.

Phone: 808 956-7927

Website: manoa.hawaii.edu/counseling/

Location: Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services (Room 312)

Office of Gender Equity (Title IX)

The University of Hawai'i is committed to maintaining and promoting safe and respectful campus environments free from sex discrimination and gender-based violence. If you experience...

- Sexual Harassment/Stalking
- Gender Discrimination
- Sexual Discrimination
- Sexual/Domestic Abuse or Violence

...you are encouraged to first contact the Office of Gender Equity, which will provide an *absolutely confidential* assessment of your situation and discuss options with you. (*Note: Any conversations with faculty about incidents pertaining to the above issues will be reported to the Office of Gender Equity*).

Phone: 808 956-9499

Website: manoa.hawaii.edu/genderequity/titleix/ (www.hawaii.edu/titleix/)

Location: Hawai'i Hall 112

Back Credits

To check your eligibility for back credits, please see the UH Mānoa guidelines and policy.

manoa.hawaii.edu/gened/req/hsl/

manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/academic-policies/5-403/

In a nutshell, these basically state that if you pass your *first* JPN-designated class at UHM, you can petition to receive credit for prerequisite courses.

UHM Emergency Management Resources

manoa.hawaii.edu/dps/emergency-management/

UHM Covid-19 Updates

manoa.hawaii.edu/covid19/

UH Student Conduct Code

As a University of Hawai'i student, you will be held to the highest standards of conduct. Breaches of academic honesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, can have a deleterious effect on grades and maintenance of good academic standing. Note that plagiarism can include plagiarizing from yourself (e.g., submitting the same paper for two different classes, or recycling material from your own earlier work without appropriate citation).

See the Student Conduct Code at the link below for further information and details:

studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/

Academic Dishonesty

The University of Hawai'i considers Academic Dishonesty a serious offense. Cheating is a primary type of academic dishonesty, and involves the unauthorized use of information, materials, devices, sources, or practices when completing academic activities. So, for example, it is considered cheating when a student even allows another student to copy from their work, as well as when a student copies the work of another, especially during a test or exam that is to be completed individually: both are highly unauthorized practices. Any student attempting to cheat or involved in cheating will be penalized in said class and will also be reported to the University Office of Student Conduct, where they will be subject to disciplinary action.

Basic Needs for UH Students

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources and transportation, among others. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence and graduation and overall student well being. If you or someone you know are experiencing basic needs insecurity, please see

www.hawaii.edu/student-basic-needs/

Employability and your Japanese Language Study

The Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures is committed to providing students with information about the value of the skills and learning they develop in conjunction with their Japanese language study for future employment. The Department works with the Hawai'i Language Roadmap, a statewide initiative for a multilingual workforce for Hawai'i housed in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters, to provide students with opportunities to learn about marketing their language proficiency to employers (e.g., résumé writing, interview training), to meet employers who are hiring for bilingual proficiency, and to credential their language proficiency with the nationally-recognized Global Seal of Biliteracy, a valued workforce credential. For more information: email roadmap@hawaii.edu, or visit the Roadmap website at nflrc.hawaii.edu/languageroadmap.

Schedule

Block	Wk	Day	Content	
0/1	1	9 Jan	Introduction to the course; resources; Japonic overview; sounds and words	
		11 Jan	Nouns and particles	
	2	16 Jan	<i>holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	
		*17 Jan	<i>see below</i>	
	3	18 Jan	Adjectives Reaction Paper 1 due Monday 23 Jan before class	
		23 Jan	Verbs	
	1	4	25 Jan	More Verbs RP 2 due Monday 30 Jan
			30 Jan	Sentences
		5	**1 Feb	Reading in Modern Okinawan: <i>Utu nu tami ni bana ushichitcharu tuji (**see below)</i> RP 3 due Monday 6 Feb
			6 Feb	
6		8 Feb	RP 4 due Monday 13 Feb	
		13 Feb	Reading in Modern Okinawan: <i>Uchinaanchu nu ugwansu</i>	
7		15 Feb	RP 5 due Wednesday 22 Feb	
		20 Feb	<i>holiday: Presidents Day</i>	
2		8	22 Feb	
			27 Feb	Reading in Modern Okinawan: <i>Wannee mayaa du yaru</i>
	9	1 Mar	RP 6 due Monday 6 Mar	
		6 Mar	Midterm Reading/Writing Project: Uchinaa nu shikee isan	
	3	8 Mar	Classical Okinawan dance drama <i>kumi wudui: Shusbin kani'iri</i>	
		13–17 Mar	<i>Spring Recess</i>	
	3	10	20 Mar	MRWP due
		4	22 Mar	RP 7 due Wednesday 29 Mar
			***24 Mar	<i>see below</i>
		11	27 Mar	<i>holiday: Kubio Day</i>
29 Mar			Final Project topic due	
12		3 Apr		
		5 Apr	RP 8 due Monday 10 April	
4		13	10 Apr	Classical Okinawan poetry/song: <i>Ryūka</i>
		5	12 Apr	RP 9 due Monday 17 Apr
			14	17 Apr
	15	19 Apr	Old Okinawan poetry: <i>Omorō</i> Final Project write-up due RP 10 due Monday 24 Apr	
		24 Apr		
	6	26 Apr	Project Reports	
		7	16	1 May
	7	16	3 May	Project Reports RP 11 due Monday 8 May
			Finals week	Final Exam due date: Friday 12 May 4:15PM (HST)

- * Tuesday 17 January, last day to register, add classes, change grading option, register for audit, or drop courses for 100% refund.
- ** Wednesday 1 February, last day to drop courses (for 50% tuition refund) without a W on your record. After 1 February, all withdrawals require written consent of instructor and College Student Academic Services Dean.
- *** Friday 24 March, 4:00PM, last day for in-person restricted withdrawal (with W grade). After 24 March, no withdrawals are permitted, except under unusual circumstances beyond your control.

NB: for detailed information, please consult manoa.hawaii.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/spring-2023/