CIEE Tokyo, Japan

**Course title:** Beginning Japanese  
**Course code:** JAPN 1001 TOJA  
**Programs offering course:** Summer Japanese Studies  
**Language of instruction:** Japanese  
**U.S. semester credits:** 3.00  
**Contact hours:** 45.00  
**Term:** Summer 2020

**Course Description**

This is a beginner's course that will provide students with the necessary tools for communicating in Japanese, providing students with a general understanding of the various linguistic elements of the Japanese language. Students will develop fundamental reading, speaking, and listening skills.

**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- Comprehend fundamental grammar principles and proper conjugation methods
- Acquire a working knowledge of the writing system, including hiragana, katakana, and basic kanji
- Hold short conversations about personal interests, time, directions, and other simple topics at a basic level
- Type Japanese characters including hiragana, katakana, and kanji on a computer
- Understand basic Japanese cultural concepts and social customs through studying the language

**Course Prerequisites**

None

**Methods of Instruction**

This course will incorporate in-class lectures, activities, and assignments, and homework assignments.

*N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.*

**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Homework Assignments 20%
2. Quizzes 20%
3. Group Skit 20%
4. Final Exam 20%
5. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

**Course Requirements**

**Homework Assignments**

Students will be expected to complete homework assignments and tasks that will allow them to review and practice key concepts learned that day. Students' understanding of the concepts will be quizzed the following day. Each submission is evaluated on a 5-point scale. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Assignments submitted during or after class are considered late and will only receive half credit. Assignments that are one day late or later will not be accepted. Cheating, plagiarism, and other breaches of academic honesty will negatively affect your grade. You are expected to know and abide by CIEE academic policies.
Quizzes

Students will take quizzes that cover material learned from their previous homework assignments. Exact contents may vary depending on the lesson covered, but quizzes will typically have 2 to 3 fill-in-the-blank questions on grammar, kanji, reading, and/or listening, respectively. Quizzes will also test writing by prompting the students to write an answer to one question. The grammar and kanji used, and the length of the response in the writing may vary.

Group Skit

Students will give Group Skits in Japanese on a topic of their choice, subject to instructor approval, followed by a Q&A with the audience. Total time for skit and Q&A should not exceed 15 minutes. Students will be graded on how effectively they are able to use the language learned previously in the course. Individual students within the group will also be graded on their contribution to the skit. Students in the audience are expected to participate in the Q&A as part of their Class Participation for that day.

Final Exam

The Final Exam is a comprehensive test of language concepts covered during the course, with an emphasis on grammar, kanji, reading, writing, and listening. The exam will be divided into 5 sections. Section 1 will test students’ understanding of grammar through fill-in-the-blank questions. Section 2 will test students’ understanding of kanji through fill-in-the-blank questions. Section 3 will test students’ reading ability. Students will read two to three short passages and answer multiple choice and/or fill-in-the-blank questions based on the reading. Section 4 will test students’ writing ability. Students will write responses to prompts at the length designated by each question. Finally, Section 5 will test listening. Students will listen to short dialogues and news reports adapted to the course level. Students will be prompted to answer questions based on the listening activity.

Class Participation

You are expected to follow CIEE’s attendance and participation policies as outlined in the CIEE Academic Manual for students.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1  Course Introduction

Greetings and common phrases
Introduction to Hiragana
Homework 1

Week 2
Class: 2.1  

DUE: Homework 1
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 1
Homework 2

Class: 2.2  

DUE: Homework 2
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 1
Homework 3

Class: 2.3  

DUE: Homework 3
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 2
Homework 4

Week 3
Class: 3.1

DUE: Homework 4
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 2 (continued)
Homework 5

Class: 3.2

DUE: Homework 5
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 3
Homework 6

Class: 3.3

DUE: Homework 6
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 3 (continued)
Homework 7

Week 4
Class: 4.1

DUE: Homework 7
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 4
Homework 8

Class: 4.2

DUE: Homework 8
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 4 (continued)
Homework 9

Class: 4.3

Fieldtrip. Location TBD. (Example: Photography and exploration a local neighborhood such as Yanesen.)

Class: 4.4
DUE: Homework 9
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 5
Homework 10

Week 5
Class: 5.1

DUE: Homework 10
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 5 (continued)
Group Skit preparation
Homework 11

Class: 5.2

DUE: Homework 11
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 6
Group Skit preparation
Homework 12

Class: 5.3
Fieldtrip. Location TBD. (Example: Shotengai shopping area.)

Class: 5.4

DUE: Homework 12
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
DUE: Group Skits
Homework 13

Week 6
Class: 6.1

DUE: Homework 13
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
CHAPTER 6 (continued)
Homework 14

Class: 6.2

DUE: Homework 14
QUIZ on previous day’s contents
Review for final exam

Class: 6.3
Course Materials
Readings