



Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU)

Syllabus

Course Title:	Japanese Language Presentations
Credits:	3
Language of Instruction:	Japanese
Course Instructor:	Naomi Otsuji Email otsuji@jcmu.net Office Hours By appointment
Course meeting time:	Mondays and Thursdays 13:30-15:00

Course Description

This course explores a variety of presentation styles and methods. During the semester, students will engage in activities such as *kamishibai* (Japanese picture-story show) performances, picture-book read-alouds, and short presentations using slides. Students will also give presentations to local community members of varying demographics and interact with them. The course emphasizes that presentation is more than simply reading written text aloud. Students will develop skills in pronunciation and spoken delivery, as well as learn techniques for engaging and maintaining the audience's attention. In addition, students are expected to develop an understanding of the historical and cultural background of the materials they present and to learn how communication styles can be adapted according to the audience.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- perform different styles of presentations in Japanese;
- improve pronunciation and spoken delivery for clearer and more natural communication;
- use strategies to engage and maintain audience interest during presentations;
- understand and incorporate cultural and historical context into presentations;
- adapt speaking styles and presentation methods according to the audience;
- develop self-expression and effective communication skills;
- gain confidence in presenting and interacting with local community members.

Textbooks & Other Materials

Handouts will be used as course materials.

Requirements

Attendance

Attendance requirements are outlined in *the JCMU Academic Policy*.

Grading and Attendance

• Attendance and Participation	20%
• Homework/Assignments	20%
• Presentations	50%
• Final Paper	10%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale

The conversion between the 4.0 grading scale, letter grades, and point system for assignments / participation is as follows:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
4.0	3.5		3.0	2.5		2.0	1.5		1.0	0
90-100	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	59 ↓

Outline of Course Content

The schedule is tentative; further information will be explained during class.

Week 1	Sep. 10	Course Introduction & Presentation Basics • Course overview and expectations • What is “presentation”? (beyond reading text) • Introduction to <i>kamishibai</i>, read-alouds, and <i>PechaKucha</i>
Week 2	Sep. 14	Visit to the city library to select picture books.
	Sep. 17	Voice, Pronunciation & Delivery Basics • Breathing, pacing, and projection • Basic pronunciation practice in Japanese • Introduction to expressive reading • Understanding the story context and background • Practice: short scripted reading
Week 3	Sep. 21	*National Holiday -- No Class
	Sep. 24	Picture Book Read-Aloud Preparation -1 • Techniques for reading aloud (intonation, pauses, emotion) • Practice with children’s picture books

Week 4	Sep. 28	Picture Book Read-Aloud Preparation -2 • Practice with children's picture books
	Oct. 1	<i>Kamishibai</i> Introduction & Analysis • What is <i>kamishibai</i> (historical and cultural background) • Analyzing structure and performance style • Practice: performing an existing <i>kamishibai</i> • Assigning creative <i>kamishibai</i> project
Week 5	Oct. 5	Picture Book Read-Aloud Preparation -3 • Practice with children's picture books • Rehearsal in pairs
	Oct. 8	Kindergarten Visit – Picture Book Read-Aloud • Visit to local kindergarten • Students perform picture book read-alouds in Japanese • Interaction with children
Week 6	Oct. 12	*National Holiday -- No Class
	Oct. 16	Visit to the city library to select <i>kamishibai</i> .
Week 7	Oct. 19	<i>Kamishibai</i> Practice -1
	Oct. 22	<i>Kamishibai</i> Practice -2
Week 8	Oct. 26	<i>Kamishibai</i> Creation Workshop (Original Work) • Story development and script writing • Visual design and sequencing • Focus: clarity + audience engagement • Draft performance practice in class
	Oct. 29	<i>Kamishibai</i> Creation-1
Week 9	Nov. 2	<i>Kamishibai</i> Creation-2
	Nov. 5	<i>Kamishibai</i> Creation -3
Week 10	Nov. 9	<i>Kamishibai</i> Rehearsal • Group rehearsal • Focus on: voice delivery, pacing, audience engagement
	Nov. 12	School Visit – <i>Kamishibai</i> Performance • Visit to local elementary school • Students perform one existing <i>kamishibai</i> and/or one original <i>kamishibai</i> • Interaction with children
Week 11	Nov. 16	Introduction to <i>PechaKucha</i> Presentation • What is <i>PechaKucha</i> format (20 slides × 20 seconds) • Structuring visual storytelling • Topic selection and planning
	Nov. 19	<i>PechaKucha</i> Development Workshop • Practice mini <i>PechaKucha</i> in class
Week 12	Nov. 23	*National Holiday -- No Class

	Nov. 26	<i>PechaKucha</i> Development Workshop • Slide design and narrative flow
Week 13	Nov. 30	<i>PechaKucha</i> Development Workshop • Audience engagement strategies • Pronunciation and timing practice
	Dec. 3	<i>PechaKucha</i> Development Workshop • Individual consultation and rehearsal
Week 14	Dec. 7	<i>PechaKucha</i> Rehearsal & Refinement • Full rehearsal with timing constraints • Focus on delivery and audience engagement
	Dec. 10	Final <i>PechaKucha</i> Presentations (Adults / Community Audience, TBD) • Full <i>PechaKucha</i> performance (original slides) • Q&A / interaction
Week 15	Dec. 14	Course closing reflection