

Spring 2014: HR8146 Buddhist Japanese II

Course Level: Intermediate I

Instructor: Kurioka

This course covers intermediate Japanese grammar and sentence analysis. Students will acquire more Buddhist terminology and *kanji*. In Buddhist Japanese I, the focus was learning the basic sentence patterns. The assignments consisted of Japanese to English translation of (i) sentences without context and (ii) simplified texts from the Amida Sutra (modern Japanese version). This semester we will learn more complex sentence structures and grammar. Students will translate a paragraph long text every week, and study how the context affects the meaning of words or sentences.

During the course, students will read;

- i) Selections from modern Japanese publications on Buddhism (slightly modified): focusing on vocabulary and idioms that will help the student understand Buddhist texts.
- ii) Selections from the Amida Sutra in modern Japanese: focusing on applying intermediate level grammar to the simplified sentence patterns that studied in Buddhist Japanese I. We will begin to study the use of language complexity to convey subtle messages. This is a part of preparation to read *Bukkyo kanbun* (an adoption of Chinese Buddhist sutras into medieval Japanese language).

Course format: Online.

Evaluation method: online assignments, discussions, quizzes and exams.

Required dictionaries and materials:

Texts by the instructor will be distributed through Moodle site.

A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar. S. Makino & M. Tsutsui. The Japan Times.

A Dictionary of Intermediate Japanese Grammar. S. Makino & M. Tsutsui. The Japan Times.

The Learner's Japanese Kanji Dictionary. Mark Spahn & Wolfgang Hadamitzky. Tuttle Publishing

Dictionary of Japanese Buddhist Terms. Hisao Inagaki /P.G. O'Neill. Stone Bridge Press

A Japanese English dictionary.

Student's participation & Assignments: (All assignments are distributed through the Moodle site.)

Translation assignments and grammar notes will be given on Thursdays and due on Sundays.

Other assignments will be given on Mondays and due on Thursdays.

Discussion forums will be created by topic.

Students' responses are expected in timely manner.

Short quizzes:

Vocabulary, *kanji* and short (translation and grammar points) quizzes will occur on Mondays and Thursdays, available for 48 hours.

Midterm & Final:

Midterm exam: translate a passage.

Final paper: translations and an essay.

Grading:

Student's participation & assignments: 35% of grade

Short quizzes: 15% of grade

Midterm examination: 15%

Final paper: 35% of grade