

Modern Japanese I (A005166)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 10.0

Study time 300 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch, English, Japanese Gent

seminar

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Horckmans, Mieke

LW21

staff member

Uenishi, Hideaki

LW21

staff member

Niehaus, Andreas

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Japan\)](#)

crdts

offering

10

A

[Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe](#)

10

A

Teaching languages

Japanese, English, Dutch

Keywords

Modern Japanese

Position of the course

This basic course teaches students the basic structures of the modern Japanese standard language (*hyōjungo*) and the elementary vocabulary of the modern Japanese standard language. The course teaches students to understand and have simple conversations with a *native speaker* in the modern Japanese standard language. The course teaches them the two Japanese phonetic writing systems (*katakana* and *hiragana*) and the elementary characters (*kanji*) of modern written Japanese. Students are taught how to translate texts of an elementary level (Japanese-Dutch, Dutch-Japanese).

Contents

This course offers an introduction to the basic grammar and elementary vocabulary of the modern Japanese standard language. By means of basic dialogues that handle situations of everyday life, the general polite formal spoken language (*teineitai*) is analysed and taught. The students are being familiarized with the two syllabic phonetic writing systems and also with the elementary Sino-Japanese characters. The students are also presented with an historical overview of the development and evolution of the Japanese writing system.

Initial competences

Knowledge of grammar.

Final competences

- 1 To have elementary oral and written knowledge of the Japanese language.
- 2 To be able to make elementary translations from Dutch to Japanese and vice versa.
- 3 To be able to apply elementary knowledge of grammatical analysis.
- 4 To be able to analyse and use the basic structures of the modern Japanese standard language (hyo-jungo).
- 5 To master the elementary vocabulary of the modern Japanese standard language (speaking, reading, writing, understanding).
- 6 To be able to understand and have simple conversations with a native speaker in

the modern Japanese standard language.

7 To be able to read and write the two Japanese phonetic writing systems (katakana and hiragana).

8 To be able to read and write the elementary characters (kanji) of modern written Japanese.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- During the lectures theory is provided. The teaching of the theory (vocabulary, grammar) is done by the lecturer.
- The seminars with practicing and applying the theory under guidance. The students are trained in speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Basic dialogues and simple conversations are trained by means of a role play.
- Independent work: The students also receive a portfolio with exercises that have to be made individually.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Genki I, An Integrated Course in Elementary Japanese. Tekstboek + werkboek

Indicative price: € 70

Optional: no

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

Makino, Seiichi; Tsutsui, Michio: *A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar*. Tokyo, The Japan Times 2009.

Course content-related study coaching

All theoretical elements of language acquisition are immediately set into practise. Therefore conversation exercises, listening exercises and writing exercises are provided. The class exercises offer the students a continuous feedback. The results of the oral and written exercises are discussed individually. Students can make listening exercises on UFORA.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Written assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The non-periodical examination is written (50%) and the periodical exam oral (50%). The oral examination stresses speaking and listening skills.

Calculation of the examination mark

Non-periodical exam written (50%) and periodical exam oral (50%). Students have to pass each part of the periodical evaluation in order to pass the exam.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during educational activities is required
 2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
 3. Feedback can be given by email or during an appointment during office hours
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy