

Sophia University –Summer Session 2026

July 1 – July 22, 2026

*July 1: Orientation, July 3: No Class Day

Date: November 2025

Course Title	First Steps in Japanese
Course Code	JPZ120
Instructor	Mami Tanaka
Class Period	1 st period: 9:00-10:40
Course Format	In-Person
Language of Instruction	English
Maximum class size	25
Course Description	This course is designed for students with no prior background in the Japanese language. It focuses on spoken Japanese and aims at developing basic listening and speaking skills for everyday situations. The course introduces basic sentence structures, useful vocabulary, common expressions, and the basic writing system (hiragana and katakana).
Course Objectives	This course aims at developing aural and oral communication skills in Japanese. By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to effectively communicate in various everyday situations, such as greeting, shopping, ordering food, talking about plans, what you did, etc.
Expected work outside of class	Preparing and reviewing materials, completing assignments, and preparing for quizzes and an exam. Length of time for work expected outside per class: 1 ½ to 2 hours
Course Materials	Required Textbook : Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture Starter A1 Coursebook for Communicative Activities “Katsudoo” (Japan Foundation, Sanshusha) (ISBN-10-4384057520) *The textbook written in your native language might be available in your country.
	Purchase of textbook: mandatory
	e-book: not acceptable
Moodle	Assignments will be posted on Moodle. Students must submit assignments in Moodle.
Contact Instructor	•via Moodle message
Evaluation (Attendance, Class participation, in-class assignments, final exam, quizzes, etc.)	Attendance & Class performance 25% Daily Homework 25% Daily Quizzes 20% Final Exam 30%

<p>Other comments</p>	<p>1) Attendance is very important. Language learning is a cumulative process; your success depends on how much you study daily. Missing even one class will affect your subsequent study, especially in this short and intensive summer course. You are expected to participate actively in class.</p> <p>2) Be punctual because you will disturb the class if you come in late. Also, do not leave in the middle of the class unless you are sick. This will distract your instructor and classmates. If you miss a part of a class, your attendance & class performance score of the day will be negatively affected.</p> <p>3) Daily quiz will be held at the beginning of each class session. Students are expected to arrive punctually to participate. There will be no make-up for any quiz. But the lowest score will be dropped at the end of the course.</p> <p>4) The final exam is scheduled on the last day of the session.</p> <p>5) Absolutely no cheating! If you cheat on a quiz or exam. You will get a grade of zero for that quiz and exam. If you cheat the second time, you will receive zero for the entire quiz category, and we will notify your home university about your dishonesty.</p> <p>6) Homework assignments will be given every day. More details will be discussed in class.</p> <p>7) Classroom courtesy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please do not eat food or chew gum. This is a language course. (Water, tea, and coffee are ok.) - Please do not use electronic devices during class unless instructed. (It includes a cellular phone.) If you need to take notes, please use a pen and paper.
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Course Schedule			
Date	Class Activity	Homework	Quiz
7/1(W)	Orientation		
7/2 (R)	L1 Greeting L2 Classroom Expressions		
7/3 (F)	No Class Day		
7/6 (M)	L3 Introducing Yourself, <i>Hiragana</i>	HW 1	Quiz 1
7/7 (T)	L5 What kind of food do you like? Food and Beverage, <i>Hiragana</i>	HW 2	Quiz 2
7/8 (W)	L5 What kind of food do you like? Food and Beverage, <i>Hiragana</i>	HW 3	Quiz 3
7/9 (R)	L16 Numbers and Shopping	HW 4	Quiz 4
7/10 (F)	L16 Numbers and Shopping	HW 5	Quiz 5
7/13 (M)	L6 Ordering Food, <i>Katakana</i>	HW 6	Quiz 6
7/14 (T)	L6 Ordering Food, <i>Katakana</i>	HW 7	Quiz 7
7/15 (W)	L9 Talking about Your Daily Routine, <i>Katakana</i>	HW 8	Quiz 8
7/16 (R)	L9 Talking about Your Daily Routine	HW 9	Quiz 9
7/17 (F)	L10 Talking about Plans	HW 10	Quiz 10
7/20 (M)	L17 Talking about What You Did	HW 11	Quiz 11
7/21 (T)	L17 Talking about What You Did	HW 12	Quiz 12
7/22 (W)	Review & Final Exam		

*Course format, evaluation methods and class schedule may be subject to change.

*Students will be introduced to the basic shapes and types of *hiragana* and *katakana*. This is only an overview, and memorization is *not* expected.

[Important Note Regarding Class Capacity]

Course enrollment in each course is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be aware that once the maximum capacity is reached, you will no longer be able to select that course.

If you plan to transfer the credits to your home university, please consider alternative courses as well when making your study plan, in case the courses you want to take are full.