

## Japanese Studies course descriptions 2020-21

### Part IA (first year)

Students take the following courses:

J.1 Modern Japanese 1

J.2 Japanese Grammar and Translation

J.3 Modern Japanese texts 1

EAS.1 Introduction to East Asian History

J.O Japanese Oral

### Descriptions

#### **J.1 Modern Japanese 1 (Dr Kawabata, Mrs Boulding)**

##### Supplementary Regulation

The aim of this paper is to help students acquire solid basic skills of language learning, both receptive (reading and listening) and productive (writing and speaking). In the Michaelmas and Lent terms students undergo an intensive study of the grammar of modern Japanese. The textbook used for this purpose is Bowring and Laurie, *Introduction to Modern Japanese*. In the Easter term, the emphasis shifts to reinforcing the basic structures and vocabularies learnt in the first two terms through developing students' listening and speaking skills further.

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##### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter

Total of 172 classes and 34 supervisions

##### Form and Conduct

This paper consists of four questions: section A tests candidates' kanji knowledge and ability to translate Japanese into English; section B requires candidates to translate English sentences into Japanese; section C contains a passage for translation into Japanese; section D requires candidates to write a composition in Japanese.

#### **J.2 Japanese Grammar and Translation (Dr Kawabata, Mrs Boulding)**

##### Supplementary Regulation

This paper is taught in conjunction with J.1 in the Michaelmas, Lent, and Easter Terms. It also draws upon skills learned in tackling the texts in J.3, both in terms of ability to construe Japanese texts and in terms of understanding of grammatical patterns.

##### Lectures and Classes

Supervisions: see under J.1

### Form and Conduct

This paper will consist of two sections. In Section A candidates are required to answer questions that test their knowledge of Japanese grammar. In Section B candidates are required: (1) to answer in Japanese and/or in English questions on one unseen text in Japanese and translate part of the text into English; and (2) to produce a guided composition in Japanese.

### **J.3 Modern Japanese texts 1 (Professor Adolphson, Dr Moretti)**

#### Supplementary Regulation

The reading of selected contemporary texts in order to put into practice the skills and knowledge learned in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms.

#### Course Description

This paper is designed for first-year students who have just finished the textbook to challenge themselves with real-world texts in Japanese. The syllabus offers a healthy balance between fictional short stories and non-fictional essays on Japanese history and Japanese language. Please familiarize yourself with the learning outcomes of this paper and with the schedule. We expect you to come to class having read and translated the text assigned for each session.

The learning outcomes for the course are as follows:

1. Reading unedited, real-world texts for the first time;
2. Making first steps into translation from Japanese into English and reflecting upon what this process entails;
3. Consolidating grammar knowledge;
4. Gaining passive knowledge of useful vocabulary.

#### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Easter Term

Total of 24 classes plus 2 supervisions

### Form and Conduct

This paper consists of two sections. In Section A candidates are required to translate from Japanese into English passages taken from texts read in class during the Easter Term. Knowledge of Japanese grammar may also be tested in the form of questions attached to one or more passages. In Section B candidates are required to translate one unseen passage from Japanese to English.

### **EAS.1 Introduction to East Asian History (co-ordinator: Professor Adolphson)**

#### Supplementary Regulation

The course covers East Asia thematically from the earliest times to the present, focusing on China, Japan, and Korea. Students will read literature, historical monographs, and primary sources to familiarize themselves with various types of evidence.

#### Lectures and Classes

Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter

Total of 46 lectures, 14 seminars/workshops and 8 supervisions

### Form and Conduct

The assessment of this paper will consist of two parts, each carrying an equal weight. First, students will select two of their supervision essays to be submitted to a portfolio by the division of Easter term. Students are free to choose any papers for the portfolio, but they must not deal with one and the same area. In other words, the two essays may not both focus only on China, or Japan, but must include at least one paper that deals with a region outside the student's target language. Second, there will be a viva voce examination either in person or virtually.

### **J.O Japanese Oral (Dr Kawabata, Mrs Boulding)**

The oral examination consists of two sections. All oral tests will be recorded. The teaching for this paper is the same as that for J.1.

### Form and Conduct

- (a) Listening comprehension: Candidates are asked to listen to recorded passages in Japanese and answer questions in English and/or in Japanese.
- (b) Oral test 1: Candidates are asked to read a short passage from the texts that have been studied in class.
- (c) Oral test 2: A short conversation.