

## Syllabus

## The course

Japanese 471 Okinawan Language and Culture is one course in the JPN471–472 two-course Okinawan language and culture set designed for students with background in the Japanese language as either an intermediate to advanced student or as a native speaker. “Okinawan” here refers to the language of the Shuri-Naha area of the island of Okinawa; reference will be made to both varieties during the course, though for our purposes only the modern colloquial Naha forms will be treated in detail. (The Shuri variety still remains important in the performing arts, and in certain ritual expressions.) The class meets twice a week and features instruction in the Okinawan language, including practical aspects (words, sentences, conversations), comparison and contrast with Japanese, and consideration of its ongoing vitality. Language-focused lessons are interspersed with readings on Okinawan culture topics, and an extended modern Okinawan reading exercise treating a cultural topic is also included. In addition, the course may have guest lectures on various cultural topics, including the Okinawan performing arts. Students are required to write a research paper and to make a brief presentation to the class on the results.

## Instructor and contact information

Stewart Curry—[scurry@hawaii.edu](mailto:scurry@hawaii.edu)—Moore 368—956 2080 (office), 225 8080 (mobile)—virtual office hours MTWF 12:30–1

## References and resources

Sakihara, *Okinawan-English Wordbook* ISBN 978-0824831028  
 Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyūjo, *Okinawa-go jiten* ISBN 978-4171490006  
 Uchima & Nohara, eds., *Okinawa-go jiten — Naha-hōgen o chūshin ni* ISBN 978-4767490526  
*Ryūkyū-go onsei deetabeesu* at <http://ryukyu-lang.lib.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/>

## Other materials (available on Laulima)

Okinawa Prefectural Board of Education, *A Survey of the History and Culture of Okinawa*  
 Hijirida & Oshiro, *Chanpuruu handobukku*  
 handouts, largely based on Shigehisa Karimata’s *Wakai hito no tame no Uchinaaguchi nyūmon*

## Student Learning Outcomes

Students in this course will learn: 1) about the Okinawan language, both in practical terms (grammar, vocabulary, etc.) and in consideration of its current status and viability, 2) its contrasts with and connections to Japanese, and 3) several aspects of Okinawan culture. Specifically, students will be able to:

- have an appreciation and awareness of the existence of Okinawan as an independent linguistic entity and of its position as such, expressed through a willingness to undertake learning about the language abstractly and practically,
- actively and accurately understand and employ level-appropriate noun, verb, and adjective forms,
- understand and create level-appropriate sentences and extended exchanges using learned material,
- comprehend and use contextually apt vocabulary,
- describe the similarities and differences between Okinawan and Japanese phonology and grammar,
- read (decode), with support from reference materials, modern Okinawan language samples written in romanization and *kana*-derived orthography,
- be conversant regarding the food, festivals, folklore, and facts (history and geography) of Okinawa.

It should be noted that this course will not produce fluent, full speakers of Okinawan. The practical language component is introductory: students will emerge with conversational experience sufficient for basic polite necessities, self-introductions, and simple interactions in and accounts of activities in a limited range of domains. (The 400-level designation reflects the research and reporting component of the course.)

In addition, the following Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures Departmental SLOs apply, at least in part, to this course:

- [SLO 5—Research] Conduct independent research on topics in Japanese literature and/or linguistics, and effectively communicate the results.
- [SLO 6—Linguistics] Demonstrate an understanding of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics through analysis of words, phrases, and clauses from authentic Japanese samples.

Further, the following University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) apply, at least in part, to this course:

- [ILO 1—Know: Breadth and Depth of Knowledge] 1a “General Education” and “Specialized study in an academic field”
- [ILO 2—Do: Intellectual and Practical Skills] 2b “Conducting research” and 2c “Communicate and report”
- [ILO 3—Value: Personal and Social Responsibility] “Respect for people and cultures”

#### Prerequisites

The course presumes an interest in Okinawan language and culture and a willingness to work hard, but no actual prior experience with Okinawan is required. While the medium of instruction is English, a (reading, at least) knowledge of Japanese is necessary, (minimum Japanese 202 or 205; 301 or concurrent enrollment preferred) since some of the reference materials listed above (and many of the sources relevant to final projects) are available only in Japanese. Also, Japanese models are overtly referenced in the introduction of Okinawan vocabulary and explanations of Okinawan grammar patterns. Note, however, that all required material will be available in romanized Okinawan and English versions. Last, some familiarity with grammatical analysis of Japanese and/or a background in linguistics (Linguistics 100 or 102, or Japanese 350) might be helpful.

#### Attendance

This class will be conducted as a fully online synchronous class. As in a “normal” face-to-face semester, your regular attendance and participation are expected. As a general policy, no make-up work will be given without a valid, documented excuse. A valid document could be from a medical doctor, a commanding officer, a work supervisor, a faculty supervisor, or a police or court official. Except in the case of emergency, an excused absence must be documented via email, telephone, text, or personal notification *no later* than the day of the class absence. (**Email or text is strongly preferred.**)

#### Homework

The purpose of homework is to prepare you for each class session. It will be assigned and is required, but will not be turned in. (Some homework may be checked in class.) Full participation in the class depends on your doing the required advance work, such as readings and worksheets, for each class; anything less will do a disservice not only to yourself, but also (and more importantly) to the others in your workgroup and to the congenial functioning of the class as a whole.

Homework assignments are noted on the schedule below.

All the homework is available at the course site on Lulima. Most of the language-oriented assignments are adapted from *Wakai hito no tame no Uchinaaguchi nyūmon* and include readings, study questions, and practice exercises. The culture-oriented readings are from the *Survey of the History and Culture of Okinawa* and the *Chanpurun handobukku*. There are study question sets for these as well.

#### Quizzes

You can expect a short quiz for (almost) every class. It will generally be a take-home exercise distributed via various channels at the end of class, and due via Lulima Dropbox before the following class. In the case of an excused absence, the quiz for that day will not be considered when overall grades are calculated. In the case of an unexcused absence, that day's quiz will be counted as a zero. Your quiz score average will comprise 40% of the final overall grade.

Material from recent classes will be considered fair game for the daily class quizzes, as will the content of guest lectures and student presentations. You are encouraged to constantly review class material, as well as to attentively take notes during lecture presentations and reading discussions.

Quizzes will be available at the end of each class, posted on Lulima and the general text channel on Discord. You will write or type your answers, scan or otherwise digitize the document, add your name to the file name, and submit it via Lulima > Dropbox. The file-naming convention is Quiz#.Lastname.Firstname.pdf.

#### Final Project

For the final project, you will work with two or three other students to deploy your own interests and curiosity to discover sources, conduct investigations, and develop a research paper, the highlights of which will be shared in a class presentation. The final project will be worth 30% of the final overall grade, broken down as detailed below.

+Topic Submission (1%) Topics investigated by students in previous semesters include a thematic analysis of an Okinawan folksong, whether Okinawan food and drink are uniquely Okinawan, etymological work on colloquialisms and slang in Okinawan, and the extent to which modern Okinawan popular music is genuinely Okinawan. The point is to find something interesting to you that **has some bearing on the language and culture of Okinawa**, and work with

that with reference to how the Okinawan language informs the cultural object. That is, you must include the language aspect as part of your topic. You should begin thinking about your topic and investigating sources as soon as possible; you will be submitting a brief statement of your topic in early October and an expanded topic discussion (working title, three or four sentences summarizing the direction of your investigation, and at least three possible resources you are consulting or plan to consult) during the last week of October (specific dates are noted below).

+Written Report (25%) For the written report, which must adhere to MLA standards, you will produce five to eight pages **of content** (sections for notes and works cited will not count towards this total). An MLA formatting and style guide is available at [owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/1/).

The report should be of good quality, meaning it has documented and reliable sources, a scholarly tone, and the like; it should also be entirely free of mechanical errors, such as mistakes in spelling, grammar, and formatting. Errors in spelling, grammar, and formatting will result in a half-grade (5% of the report grade, equivalent to 1.25% of the final overall grade) deduction for each occurrence.

Superlative papers will be the record of the investigation of a clearly stated hypothesis (even if it turns out to be wrong) or research question(s), or a critical analysis (comparison/contrast) of differing views on a topic of significance (a literature review). Papers that summarize other works (i.e., book reports) will be accepted but may not end up with the best scores. Special consideration will be given to papers that include a field work component.

Papers are to be submitted via email attachment to [scurry@hawaii.edu](mailto:scurry@hawaii.edu) by 11:59 PM on the Wednesday preceding the Thanksgiving break. Acceptable paper formats are .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .txt. The subject line for the email, and the file name for your attached report, must be in this format: 471.lastname<sub>1</sub>.lastname<sub>2</sub>.lastname<sub>3</sub>.(lastname<sub>4</sub>).topic.docx.

+Presentation (4%) The presentation will be **around ten minutes**. Note that this does not mean a *minimum* of ten minutes: your presentation must be planned, practiced, and honed to meet the time specified. Keep in mind that the report will likely include more information than the time frame for the presentation will allow you to present; treating the highlights and significant points of your research in the actual presentation will be the key to a successful report/presentation combination. While the results of your investigations will be presented in English, you should make prefatory remarks (introductions of group members, topic, and possibly reasons and/or justification for topic) in Okinawan, because that is the fun way to do things. **Your grade for the presentation will be based solely on finishing at or near (+/- 1 minute) the time limit and making good introductory remarks in Okinawan.**

#### Exam

There is only one exam, the take-home final, which will consist of two parts: 1) a content-oriented short-answer section based on readings, class discussions, and presentations on culture topics, and 2) a language-focused section based on facts about the Okinawan language, comparison of and contrast between the Okinawan and Japanese languages, and Okinawan vocabulary, grammar, and conversations presented and practiced in class. Proportions for the two parts will roughly reflect class time devoted to each. The final exam will bear striking resemblance to the daily quizzes in format and content.

The exam will be distributed after the last class and will be due Friday 18 December by 4:15 PM (the end time for our scheduled final spot), submitted via Lulima > Dropbox, using the using the file name convention 471final.Lastname.Firstname.pdf.

#### Grading

**Final grades** will be based on the results of the following, as discussed above.

Daily quizzes (around 25)		40%
Project:	topic submission	1%
	written report	25%
	presentation: intro in Okinawan	2%
	presentation: finishing at or near time limit	2%
Final exam		30%
Total		100%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the scale below. Plus-minus grading will *not* be used for this course. Percentages will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

90–100%	A
80–89%	B
70–79%	C
60–69%	D
under 59%	F

Additional information

### **Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL)**

Information on a Japanese major, minor, or certificate, course offerings, and other dept. activities.

Phone: 956-8940

Website: [www.hawaii.edu/eall](http://www.hawaii.edu/eall)

Location: Moore 382

### **KOKUA Program**

The KOKUA Program is the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's program serving students with disabilities. If you have a disability with related academic access, you are warmly encouraged to contact the KOKUA Program and me to make any necessary arrangements.

Phone: 956-7511

Email: [kokua@hawaii.edu](mailto:kokua@hawaii.edu)

Website: [www.hawaii.edu/kokua](http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua)

Location: Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services (Room 013)

### **UHM Counseling & Student Development Center (CDSC)**

If you have personal, academic, or career-related inquiries or concerns, CDSC provides encouraging, collaborative, goal-focused, and culturally-sensitive support and assistance.

Phone: 956-7927

Website: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/counseling/>

Location: Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services (Room 312)

### **Office of Gender Equity (Title IX)**

The University of Hawai'i is committed to maintaining and promoting safe and respectful campus environments free from sex discrimination and gender-based violence. If you experience...

- Sexual Harassment/Stalking
- Gender Discrimination
- Sexual Discrimination
- Sexual/Domestic Abuse or Violence

...you are encouraged to first contact the Office of Gender Equity, which will provide an *absolutely confidential* assessment of your situation and discuss options with you. (*Note: Any conversations with faculty about incidents pertaining to the above issues will be reported to the Office of Gender Equity*).

Phone: 956-9499

Website: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/genderequity/titleix/> (<https://www.hawaii.edu/titleix/>)

Location: Bachman Hall 109 J

### **Back Credits**

To check your eligibility for back credits, please see the UH Mānoa guidelines and policy:

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/gened/req/hsl/>

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/policies/pdf/M5.403%20HSL%20Back%20Credit.pdf>

### **UHM Emergency Management Resources**

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/dps/emergency-management/>

### **UHM Covid-19 Updates**

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/covid19/>

### **UH Student Conduct Code**

As a University of Hawai'i student, you will be held to the highest standards of conduct. Breaches of academic honesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, can have a deleterious effect on grades and maintenance of good academic standing. Note that plagiarism can include plagiarizing from yourself (e.g., submitting the same paper for two different classes, or recycling material from your own earlier work without appropriate citation).

See the Student Conduct Code at the link below for further information and details:

[http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct\\_code/](http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/)

## Schedule

### Structure

We will alternate between a) language-oriented days, focusing on grammar and conversation, and comparisons and contrasts with Japanese, in which work on word forms and such, and application in conversational contexts, are emphasized (>80% of the course), and b) culture-oriented days, in which readings on cultural topics will inform the lecture and discussion (<20%).

### Disclaimer

Keep in mind that the schedule is an ideal semester plan that may or may not work out ideally; it is our guide for the semester, but may be subject to adjustment as the pace of the class allows or requires. The culture days, however, will occur as scheduled, as they are independent of our progress in the language. The other fixed dates are Mondays 12 and 26 October (due dates for final project topic submissions), and Wednesday 25 November (due date for the final project written report).

CH = *Chanpuruu handobukku* (CH 5 = Lesson 5)

SHCO = *A Survey of the History and Culture of Okinawa* (SHCO 107–110 = pages 107 to 110)

UN = *Uchinaaguchi nyūmon*

Wk	Day	Date	Content	HW
1	M	24 Aug	Introduction; workgroups; resources; discussion; Japanese-Okinawan sound correspondences	
	W	26 Aug	Okinawan orthography and pronunciation; useful expressions	UN 1
2	M	31 Aug	Okinawan grammar overview	UN 1
	(*T	*1 Sept	<i>*last day to register, add classes, or change grading option)</i>	
	W	2 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; self-introductions; topic marking	UN 2
	<del>SS</del>	<del>5–6 Sept</del>	<del><i>Okinawan Festival</i></del>	
3	M	7 Sept	<i>Holiday: Labor Day</i>	
	W	9 Sept	Culture day 1: Food	SHCO 107–110; CH 5
4	M	14 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; identity questions & answers	UN 3
	(**T	**15 Sept	<i>**last day to drop courses without a W grade)</i>	
	W	16 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; identity questions & answers	UN 4
	F	18 Sept	<i>Shimakutuba nu fii</i>	
5	M	21 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; past tense and question forms	UN 4a
	W	23 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; numbers	UN 5, 6
6	M	28 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; numbers	UN 5, 6
	W	30 Sept	N + <i>yan</i> ; locations	UN 7
7	M	5 Oct	Culture day 2: Geography	SHCO 4–7; CH 1

	W	7 Oct	N + <i>yan</i> ; possession and modification	UN 8, 9
8	M	12 Oct	Introduction to verbs <b>turn in Final Project topic submission 1</b>	UN 10
	W	14 Oct	Verb sentences	UN 10
9	M	19 Oct	Verb sentences	UN 11, 12
	W	21 Oct	Verb sentences	UN 11, 12
10	M	26 Oct	Verb sentences <b>turn in Final Project topic submission 2</b>	UN 13, 14, 15
	W	28 Oct	Culture day 3: Music and Dance	SHCO 93–96, 111–114; CH 4 (p.1–2)
	<del>F</del>	<del>1 Nov</del>	<del>Nippon Culture Day/日本カルチャーデー</del>	
11	***M	***2 Nov	Guest Lecture (tentative) ***last day to withdraw from class (with W)	
	W	4 Nov	Verb sentences	UN 13, 14, 15
12	M	9 Nov	Culture day 4: Religion, Festivals, and Yearly Events	SHCO 85–92; CH 6
	W	11 Nov	Holiday: Veterans' Day	
13	M	16 Nov	Introduction to adjectives	UN 20
	W	18 Nov	Adjective sentences	UN 20
14	M	23 Nov	Adjective sentences	UN 22
	W	25 Nov	in-class decoding exercise <b>Final Project write-up due 11:59 PM</b>	Handout
15	M	30 Nov	Culture day 5: Disappearing Ryukyuan Languages	471-88 CD5 (handout)
	W	2 Dec	Reading: <i>Haarii nu yuree</i>	
16	M	7 Dec	Presentations	
	W	9 Dec	Presentations; (Final review)	

Final: due by Friday 18 December, 4:15 PM

\* Tuesday, September 1 (4:00 PM): Last day to register, add classes, or change grading option.

\*\* Tuesday, September 15 (4:00 PM): Last day to drop courses without a W grade.

\*\*\* Monday, November 2 (4:00 PM): Last day for in-person restricted withdrawal, with W grade. After November 2, no withdrawals are permitted, except under unusual circumstances beyond your control.

For other relevant academic dates, see [https://manoa.hawaii.edu/records/calendar/fall\\_2020.html](https://manoa.hawaii.edu/records/calendar/fall_2020.html)