

Introduction to Kanbun: W4019 (Spring 2007)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12:15, 500C Kent Hall

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This class is intended to build proficiency in reading the variety of classical Japanese written styles subsumed under the broad term *kanbun* [漢文]. More specifically, it aims to foster familiarity with *kundoku* [訓読], a collection of techniques for reading and writing classical Japanese in texts largely or entirely composed of Chinese characters. It is impossible to achieve fluent reading ability using these techniques in a mere semester; this class is an introduction. Students will gain familiarity with a basic toolbox of reading strategies as they are exposed to a variety of premodern written styles and genres, laying groundwork for subsequent attainment of more thorough competency in specific areas relevant to their research.

This is **not** a class in Classical Chinese: those who desire facility with reading Chinese classical texts are urged to study Classical Chinese itself. (On the other hand, some prior familiarity with Classical Chinese will make much of this class easier). The pre-requisite for this class is Introduction to Classical Japanese (W4007); because our focus is the use of Classical Japanese as a tool to understand character-based texts, **it is assumed that students will already have control of basic Classical Japanese grammar**. Students with concerns about their competence should discuss them with me immediately.

Goals of the course:

- 1) Acquire basic familiarity with *kundoku* techniques of reading, with a focus on the classes of special characters (unread characters, twice-read characters, negations, etc.) that form the bulk of traditional Japanese *kanbun* pedagogy.
- 2) Gain facility in the use of Classical Chinese-Japanese dictionaries (*kanwa jiten* 漢和辞典) and other basic reference materials, and understand how to apply the skills learned in this course to more extensive readings in literary or historical sources.

Texts and Dictionaries:

- 1) The primary text is **Akira Komai and Thomas Rohlich's *An Introduction to Japanese Kanbun* (Univ. of Nagoya Press, 1988; hereafter referred to as **Komai**)**; it will be supplemented by material from a standard Japanese study guide, *Shin kanbun no kihon nôto* (新・漢文の基本ノート; **Nichieisha, 1998; hereafter referred to as **Kihon****).
- 2) **Sydney Crawcour's *An Introduction to Kambun* (Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, 1965)** is available online as a pdf from the Center (<http://www.hti.umich.edu/c/cjs/>); students are expected to consult this very helpful guide as a supplementary resource.
- 3) The last, and most definitely mandatory, text is a **Classical Chinese-Japanese dictionary** (*kanwa jiten* 漢和辞典), which students must purchase and *bring to every class*. What type of dictionary to obtain will be discussed during the introductory session; basically, you should look for the following two features:

- 1) all example texts accompanied by *kakikudashi* (書き下し; writing out *kanbun* in more readable Classical Japanese format)
- 2) definitions of characters that explain their different meanings rather than simply supplying one-word readings.

Kanjigen (漢字源; **Gakushû kenkyûsha 1994/2001**), widely available in electronic form, and **Hikkei kanwa jiten** (必携漢和辞典; **Kadokawa shoten, 1996**), which can be purchased at Kinokuniya, from Amazon.co.jp, or from www.bk1.co.jp, are particularly recommended.

SCHEDULE

- 1) Tues. 16 Jan. **Introduction** to goals and structure of course
 - 2) Thurs. 18 Jan. **Unread Characters** (*okiji* 置き字) and **Auxiliary Characters** (*joji* 助字) *okurigana* 送り仮名, *kaeriten* 返り点 etc.; prepositional particles *o* [於] and *u* [于]; conjunctive particle *yo* [與]; conjunctive particle *ji* [而]; sentence particle *i* [矣]
 - Komai Chap. 1, pp. 1-3, 5-9, 15
 - Kihon pp. 3-5 and 7
 - Komai Chap. 2, pp. 19-23
 - Komai Chap. 3, pp. 33-36
 - Kihon p. 6, p. 58
 - 3) Tues. 23 Jan. **Negation, Quotation, Simple Requests and Requests for Permission**
 negatives *fu*[不] and *futsu*[弗], quotative *etsu* [曰], and requests
 - Komai Chap. 2, 23-28
 - 4) Thurs. 25 Jan. **Causative Markers, Sentence Final Particles**
 causative markers *shi* [使], *rei* [令], *kyô* [教], and *ken* [遣]; sentence particles *ji* [耳], *i* [已], *i* [矣], and *ya* [也]
 - Komai Chap. 3, pp. 36-38
 - Komai Chap. 4, pp. 46-49
 - Kihon p. 28
- Reading:** Uesugi Kenshin sends salt to Takeda Shingen (Komai Chap. 2, p. 32)
- 5) Tues. 30 Jan. **Negative Imperative, Negative Copula**
 negative imperative (prohibition) *butsu* [勿]; negative copula *hi* [非] ([匪])
 - Komai Chap. 4, pp. 45-46
 - Komai Chap. 5, pp. 55-56
 - Kihon p. 20
 - 6) Thurs. 1 Feb. **Existential Expressions, Comparative Statements**
 existence *yû* [有]; comparison *jo* [如] and *jaku* [若]
 - Komai Chap. 5, pp. 56-60
- Reading:** Kobayakawa Takakage's valor in Korea (Komai Chap. 3, p. 43)
- 7) Tues. 6 Feb. **Starting Point Indicator, "If" Clauses**
 starting point *ji* [自], *ji hi* [自非]; conditional *jaku* [若]
 - Komai Chap. 5, pp. 60-61

Komai Chap. 6, p. 72

8) Thurs. 8 Feb. **Twice-read Characters I** (*saidoku moji* 再読文字)

mi [未] (*imada ... zu*) and *shô* [將]/*sho* [且] (*masa ni ... -mu[n] to su*)

Komai Chap. 6, pp. 67-69

Kihon pp. 14-15

Readings: Parting words and posthumous deceptions of Takeda Shingen (Komai Chap. 4, p. 54) and *Hôjôki* mana-bon beginning (Komai Chap. 5, p. 66)

9) Tues. 13 Feb. **Twice-read Characters II**

tô [當]/*ô* [應] (*masa ni ... beshi*), *shu* [須] (*subekaraku ... beshi*), and *gi* [宜] (*yoroshiku ... beshi*)

Komai Chap. 6, pp. 69-71

10) Thurs. 15 Feb. **Desire, Means, and Reasons**

desiderative marker *yoku* [欲], means and reasons *i* [以], and multi-purpose *i* [爲]

Komai Chap. 7, pp. 77-84

Readings: *Hôjôki* mana-bon excerpt and Nobunaga's heroic character (Komai Chap. 6, pp. 75-76)

11) Tues. 20 Feb.. **Potential, Permissibility, and Emphasis**

multi-purpose *ka* [可] and emphasis marker *sha* [者]

Komai Chap. 7, pp. 85-89

12) Thurs. 22 Feb. **Comparison**

comparative *o* [於] (*u* [于] and *ko* [乎]) and *yû* [猶]

Komai Chap. 8, pp. 97-99

Kihon pp. 34-35

Readings: Hideyoshi's name (Komai Chap. 7, p. 94) and Nobunaga's valor (Komai Chap. 8, p. 107)

13) Tues. 27 Feb. **Potential and Approximation**

potential *nô* [能] and *toku* [得]; approximate *kyo* [許]

Komai Chap. 8, pp. 99-103

14) Thurs. 1 March. Review.

Reading: Nobunaga's valor continued (Komai Chap. 8, p. 106 and p. 108)

15) Tues. 6 March. **MIDTERM EXAM**

16) Thurs. 8 March. **Passive Sentences**

Komai Chap. 9, pp. 109-113

Kihon p. 32

Reading: Nobunaga's downfall (Komai Chap. 9, p. 127)

NO CLASS 13 and 15 March (Spring Break)

17) Tues. 20 March. **Concessions, Conditions, and Reasons**

concessive *sui* [雖] (*iedomo*), conditional marker *ko* [苟], and reason *shoi* [所以] (*yuen*)

Komai Chap. 9, pp. 122-123

Kihon p. 59

18) Thurs. 22 March. **Genuine Questions: Yes-No, Alternative, Interrogative**
Komai Chap. 9, pp. 113-122

Reading: Nobunaga's downfall continued (Komai Chap. 9, p. 126 and p. 128)

19) Tues. 27 March. **Rhetorical Questions I**

Yes-No, WH-word, and *gai* [豈] rhetorical questions

Komai Chap. 10, pp. 129-135

Kihon pp. 42-47

20) Thurs. 29 March. **Rhetorical Questions II**

rhetorical question markers *kan fu* [敢不], *fu eki ... ko* [不亦...乎], and *ka fu* [何不]
(advice)

Komai Chap. 10, pp. 136-139

Kihon pp. 50 and 52-53

Reading: Record of Mt. Fuji (Komai Chap. 10, pp. 143-142 [vocabulary notes on p. 144])

21) Tues. 3 April. Nara/Heian readings

22) Thurs. 5 April. Nara/Heian readings

23) Tues. 10 April. Medieval readings

24) Thurs. 12 April. Medieval readings

NO CLASS MEETING 17 and 19 April

individual *kakikudashi*/translation assignments due **by email only** by 1 PM, 19 April

****late assignments will not be accepted****

25) Tues. 24 April. Edo readings

26) Thurs. 26 April. Review

Final exam: Date, time, and location TBA