

The Japanese Studies Program

Spring 2026

れいわ ねん
令和8年春号

日本語ニュースレター



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日本語スピーチコンテスト
JASCO Speech Contest



**Congrats to Our Two CWRU Students
Who Advanced to the Finals of
the 2026 Ohio Japanese Language Speech Contest**

 14 Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026
 Location: The Ohio State University



ヤンカイ・シエ

Yankai Xie

Computer Science (BA)/Asian Studies (BA),
Class of 2026

「おじさんが教えてくれたこと」

"A Lesson Learned from an Old Man"



ダニエル・キム

Daniel Kim

Mathematics (BA), Class of 2027

「アクセントを直したい学習者へ」

"For Learners Who Want to Work on Their
Accent"



Since 1999, JASCO has hosted the annual Ohio Japanese Speech Contest to promote Japanese language learning across Ohio and highlight student achievement while fostering connections between Japanese and American communities. The 2026 contest will feature a single open category, with the finals held on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at The Ohio State University in Columbus.

Finalists will deliver an original speech from memory before a panel of judges and an audience, followed by a Q&A session conducted in Japanese. Two top speakers will receive competition awards, and additional honors may be presented in categories such as College, High School, and Best Pronunciation.



がくせい ぶんかこうりゅうかい
日本人学生との文化交流会



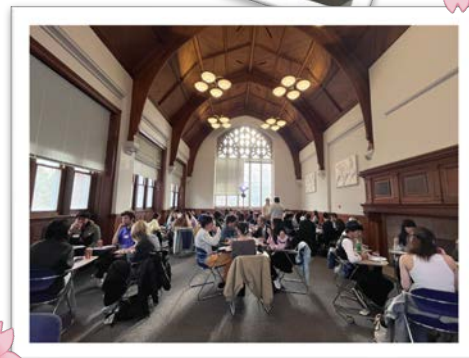
Cultural Exchange Event with Japanese International Students



On Friday, October 24, 2025, we held a wonderful exchange meeting between Japanese students from Kindai University and Chukyo University and CWRU students enrolled in JAPN 201, JAPN 301, and JAPN 350. A total of 55 students participated in the event and enjoyed cheerful and lively conversations. Thanks to the great cooperation of our volunteer students, who helped the instructors manage the event, it was a great success.

The student groups used question cards written in both English and Japanese, helping each other practice their language skills while enjoying pizza, snacks, and drinks. We were also delighted to see them making new friends.

We hope to hold another cultural exchange between the Japanese students and Case students in the spring!





つながりジャパンの一大イベント
Flagship Event by Tsunagari Japan



今年のコンビニ Flagship では、オハイオ発のローソンにちなんだ CWRUSONS をやることにしました。予定は4月4日です。

At this year's Convenience Store Flagship event, we've decided to host **CWRUSONS**, inspired by Lawson, which originated in Ohio. The event is scheduled for April 4.

飲食類の内容は去年とほぼ同じで、メロンソーダ、ラーメン、午後ティー、おにぎり、などなどとなります。

The food and drink offerings will be similar to last year, including melon soda, ramen, afternoon tea, onigiri, and more.

今年のイチオシは美容品となります。日焼け止め、アイライナー、顔マスクなどを購入することができます。

This year's featured highlight will be beauty products. You will be able to purchase items such as sunscreen, eyeliner, and face masks.

チケット販売は3月30日発売予定です。Campus Groups を通してチケット購入可能です。また、Thwing Atrium にて、現金払いも可能です。

Tickets are scheduled to go on sale on March 30. They can be purchased through Campus Groups, and cash payments will also be accepted at the Thwing Atrium.

★ Upcoming Events ★

Mar 27: Mochi Making (tentative)

Apr 5 (Sat): Flagship Event: Conbini! - We will have items you might find at a conbini

Apr 10 & 17 Plans are tentative

Apr 24: Hanami picnic





Waseda Update from Will Newton

Japanese Studies Major, Class of 2026

My time at Waseda University was by no means a walk in the park. I struggled with figuring out the Japanese insurance system at first. Classes and adjusting to the different systems and rules of a new University proved challenging when I somehow managed to lose the lottery during course registration. With that said, I cannot recommend the experience enough.

The community is incredibly tight-knit yet also easy to break into. There is always some sort of event going on around campus, whether its sports games or festivals of some kind, and the large-scale required and orientation events at the start of the semester make it very easy to get to know your fellow exchange students. I was a student in the SILS or the School of International Liberal Studies at Waseda, the school where classes are taught in English. Thanks to that, meeting Japanese students proficient in English who wanted to make friends with foreigners was much easier than I anticipated.





One unusual aspect of my experience abroad was that rather than living in the international student dorms or at a homestay, I lived in an all men's boarding house for university students just outside of campus called *Wakeijuku*. I had an incredible time there, and I would absolutely recommend it. However, if it is your first time going to Japan, I cannot recommend the homestay experience enough. I had done one year prior, so I did not pursue that experience this time around, however, the value of the structure and community that a homestay provides is incalculable. On top of that, since Waseda offers a system through which they find you a homestay, I urge anyone applying for this program to sign up. I spoke to several of my peers who were doing homestays and heard only glowing reviews of their experiences and their families. Living in Tokyo, regardless of which ward, is an awesome exposure to the heights of city life. Thanks to its public transit systems and its overall safety, you can do almost anything there, and with Waseda's slightly lighter course load than Case Western Reserve University, you do get the opportunity to experience the most of what the city has to offer! (Also, if you go early for the spring semester, like I did, you should be there just in time for the peak of sakura season!)



If you have any questions at all, feel free to contact **Cami Ross**, the study abroad advisor for Japan, or check out the CWRU study abroad website at: <https://case.edu/studentlife/educationabroad/>



JAPN 235 The Japan Experience: Kyoto Language, Culture & Exchange

(May 18 - 29, 2026) (3 credits)



Interview with Onitsuka-sensei! おにつかせんせい 鬼塚先生きに聞いてみた。



Q1. How many students will be traveling with you this May?

A1. We have 12 students!

Q2. What are some reasons your students are interested in participating in this faculty-led study abroad program?

A2. I asked my current students who will be participating in the **May 2026 trip**, and here are some of their responses. Please see their comments in the following page.

Q3. What types of activities will students participate in during this program?

A3. We help you develop your language skills while also offering a variety of cultural experiences.

To name a few, we will have:

- Origami Lesson and Karuta Tournament
- Visit to the Manga Museum
- Yukata Experience
- Zazen Meditation
- Wagashi Making (Traditional Japanese Sweets)
- and a Collaborative Activity with Student Organizations: Tea Ceremony
- etc.

Q4. If a student is interested in traveling with you on this program next year, what is some good information to know?

A4. We will have another two-week trip in May 2027, so please look out for the spring semester registration!



Q2. What are some reasons your students are interested in participating in this faculty-led study abroad program?

Hannah Kositsky



I am interested in this study abroad program because physically going to a new place is the only way to truly understand the culture. My mom spent much of her childhood in Japan, and going on this program is a way that I can connect and understand her and the rest of my family better. I am excited to broaden my education to different parts of the world while also deepening my understanding of my family's culture.

Nathan Summers



I've always wanted some studying abroad experience, but I felt that a lengthy period might interfere with my premed track. The brevity of this program circumvents that issue. Moreover, I anticipate that this course will help me develop my speaking skills greatly, which I think could use the most improvement. Finally, the program being led and catered by Japanese native faculty helps us students receive a more authentic experience, which I think is the most important thing when traveling abroad.

Andrew Slattery



I have never visited Japan before, so I wanted to see what it is like and learn more about what it would look like if I lived there some day. So, I could visit some time myself, and have to figure out everything on my own, or participate in this faculty-led program where I will get much more out of my visit, learn more, earn credits, and have friends to go with me, which is obviously the way better choice. Also, because this program doesn't ask too much of you before the end of the semester, it allows me to stay involved in learning Japanese when the next course in the standard CWRU Japanese sequence wouldn't fit with my schedule.

Alexander Bothe



I could say that I want to go to Japan to build on what I learned in Elementary and Intermediate Japanese, but visiting Japan offers much more than practicing the language and experiencing the culture. As a graduate student, I am also interested in making connections with Ritsumeikan University, which could lead to opportunities such as an international internship, a job, or even pursuing a PhD in engineering or a related field. While I look forward to exploring Japan's culture and history, I am also excited to learn about other aspects of Kyoto. And on a lighter note, if there is time, I hope to find some hidden retro video game shops around town.

Kevaun Porter



My main reason is to expand my language learning skills and learn about Japanese culture via experience instead of texts and pictures. The best way to learn any language is to speak with native speakers, and the best way to truly embrace a culture is to be in it, not just read it. I want to be able to do both at the same time, which this program provides. On top of everything, it is faculty-led, which means for my first dip I won't be in the deep end, but instead with a guide.

John Pounds



The primary reason I am interested in participating in this faculty-led study abroad program is that I want to experience Japanese culture firsthand, while also getting the opportunity to practice my speaking in a real-world context. This program will allow me to apply the Japanese I have learned in the classroom in daily conversation. I am also excited to see what day-to-day life will be like in Japan, and to engage in all of the cultural activities that are planned!





ねん なつがつき ご がっか じゅぎょう
 2026年 夏学期 日本語学科の授業
 Summer 2026 JAPN Courses



Elementary Japanese



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
 College of Arts and Sciences



101 & 102 Summer 2026



CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY offers Elementary Japanese courses (JAPN101 and JAPN102) in the summer of 2026! They are online intensive language learning, where you learn two semesters of Japanese language skills in two months! We will explore basic language skills such as speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture, designed for students with no Japanese language background. Students learn through communicative activities, various online materials as well as authentic conversation practices with Japanese university students.



JAPN101:

June 1-June 29 (4-Week Session)

MTW&R 9:00 AM-11:20 AM + lab (online)

Instructor: Kosuke Ogaki

JAPN102:

July 8-August 4 (4-Week Session)

MTW&R 9:00 AM-11:20 AM + lab (online)

Instructor: Yukie Miura

Reference: <https://www.ac-illustr.com/main/detail.php?id=24016488>

**LOVE MANGA?
READ IT IN JAPANESE!**



JAPN 306: Readings in Manga

Build your Japanese reading skills through the world of manga in lively **remote-synchronous sessions**. In this course, you will learn strategies for reading manga in the original—without relying on translation—while strengthening your understanding of Japanese grammar and expressions. Explore authentic language used in manga, including **colloquialisms, speech styles, onomatopoeia, contractions, interjections**, and more. Classes are conducted primarily in Japanese. **Prerequisite:** JAPN 202.

Please contact Yukiko Onitsuka (yukiko.nishida@case.edu) for more information.

4-Week Session (1): June 1, 2026 – June 29, 2026
MTuWTh 9:00AM – 11:10AM (online)





ねん あきがつき ご がっか じゅぎょう
 2026年 秋学期 日本語学科の授業



Fall 2026 JAPN Courses

JAPN Courses Fall 2026



JAPN101: Elementary Japanese I

M/W/F + Virtual lab 4 credits

[Class time] 9:20-10:10 10:25-11:15 11:30-12:20 2:05-2:55

JAPN102: Elementary Japanese II

M/W/F + Virtual lab 4 credits

[Class time] 2:05-2:55 3:10-4:00



JAPN201: Intermediate Japanese I

M/W/F + Virtual lab 4 credits

[Class time] 11:30-12:20 4:40-5:30

JAPN202: Intermediate Japanese II

M/W/F + Virtual lab 4 credits

[Class time] 3:10-4:00



JAPN255: Modern Japanese Literature in Translation

T/R 3 credits

[Class time] 4:15-5:30

JAPN301: Advanced Japanese I

M/W + Virtual lab 4 credits

[Class time] 4:40-5:55



JAPN350: Contemporary Japanese Texts I

M/W 3 credits

[Class time] 12:35-1:50

JAPN435: Japanese Linguistics

T/R 3 credits

[Class time] 10:00-11:15



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
 UNIVERSITY
 College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures



教員研究の最新情報 Faculty Research Corner



Dr. Beth M. Carter, assistant professor of Japanese and section head, has been busy at work, seeped in study of *Genji monogatari* (Tale of Genji, c. 1008).

Over the summer of 2025, supported by a Glennan fellowship, Dr. Carter travelled to Japan to promote the study of *utamakura* (famous place names) in premodern Japanese poetry. The results from this research endeavor yielded a nascent database of these *utamakura* and related allusions (*engo*). In fall 2025, Prof. Carter deployed this database among her students as a teaching tool to facilitate their understanding of the emotive forces behind coded words.

This spring, Dr. Carter will be presenting her work on this database and related teaching activities in multiple forums. As a 2026 Baker-Nord Institute for the Humanities Faculty Affiliate, she presented “Elucidating Famous Place-Names (*Utamakura*) and Allusions in Premodern Japanese Poetry” to the CWRU community. Later this spring, she will give a second round presentation as part of UCITE’s Teaching Forward day of learning and discussion. Finally, she will present her work to an international audience this summer at the Asian Studies Conference Japan at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan.

Unrelated to the *utamakura* database project, with the support of a Baker-Nord Faculty travel grant, Dr. Carter presented her paper, “Reading Gendered Terms: Contours of ‘Masculinity’ in *Genji monogatari*,” at the spring 2026 American Association for Teachers of Japanese conference. Her paper proposes that the inclusion of male characters who lack expected traits, exhibit unexpected attributes, or come dangerously close to displaying “womanish” (*onnashi* or *memeshi*) behavior reveals a more complex performance of gender in the tale than the rigid term “manly” (*ooshi*) may suggest.

- Daijirin (Japanese dictionary published by *Sanseido*)





ことわざ

おな あな むじな
同じ穴の貉

あくやう
悪友



【意味】 おな なかま 同じ仲間であること。

【参考】 わる なかま 悪い仲間についてよく使われる。「貉」はアナグマのこと。

【使い方】 いい人に見えるかもしれないが、あの人も同じ穴の貉だ。

【類義語】 一つ穴の貉

Reference: <https://gakcomic.gakken.jp/5byowaka-series/>

Meaning: Even if people appear different in appearance or position, they are actually the same kind. It often carries a **negative nuance**, implying that they are **the same type of bad people**.

Origin: *Mujina* (貉) mainly refers to a **badger**. The expression comes from the habit of badgers sharing the same burrow with animals such as **tanuki** or **foxes** that use the burrows badgers dig.

Example sentence: “Those two complain about each other openly, but they’re secretly working together — they’re truly *birds of a feather* (literally, ‘badgers from the same hole’).”



きじぼしゅう 記事募集

SEND US YOUR ARTICLE

Would you like to write your own article to share your love of Japan, its culture, and society?
Do you want to share your favorite anime, manga, video games, novels, movies, sports, etc.?
Or would you like to share news about student activities, events, and other interesting information? Please do!

How to Submit Your Article

きじ おうぼほうほう 記事の応募方法

1. Submit an article as a Microsoft Word document!! Each article should be at least 100 words (either in Japanese or English). If you write in Japanese, please also provide a summary of your article in English.
2. Pictures for your article can be either e-mailed separately or inserted into the article.
3. Include a heading and subheading (if applicable).
4. Include your name and the course(s) in which you are/were enrolled (if applicable).
5. We are also looking for illustrations to feature on the first page.
6. Send your article or illustration to **Yukie Miura** at yxm562@case.edu by May 8th, 2026.

[NOTES] * Your article can also be held for use in future issues.
* If your article requires excessive editing, you will be asked to rework it.
* If you are currently taking a course in the Japanese Studies Program, you might be able to earn extra credit for the course(s) you are in! Contact your instructor for more information.

The next issue will come out in Summer!

