



# JAPN 10100 4, JAPN 10100 4 - Elementary Modern Japanese I - Instructor(s): Takeaki Okamoto

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **12**

Number of Responses: **8**

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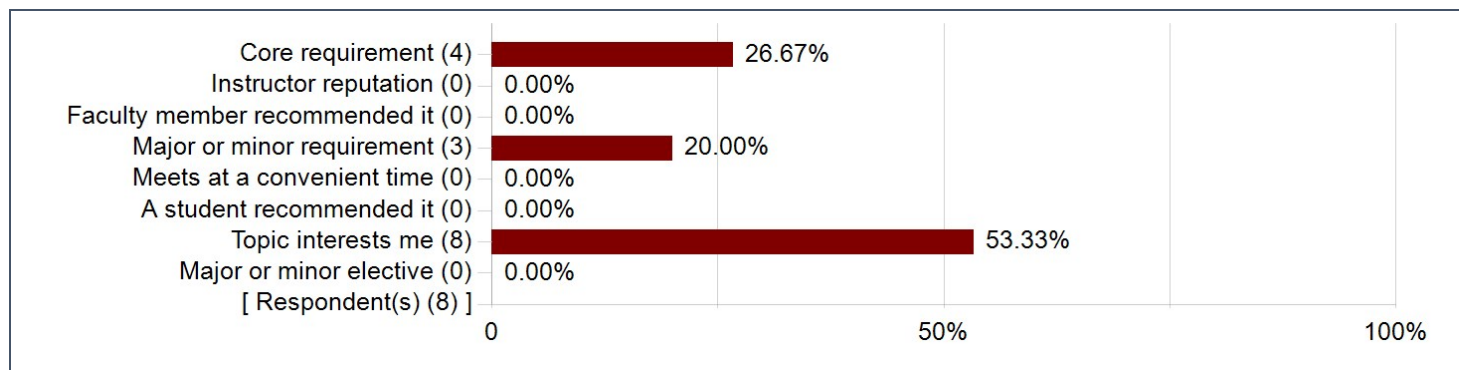
## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

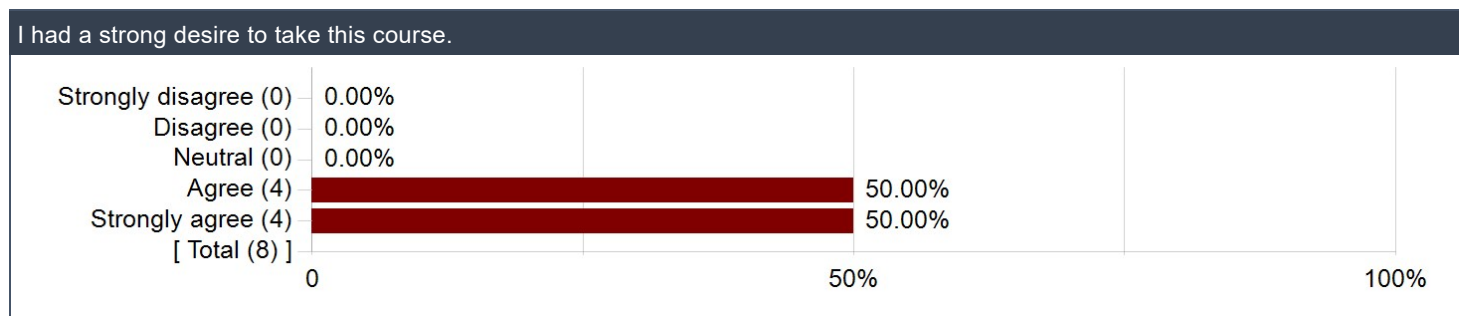
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Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

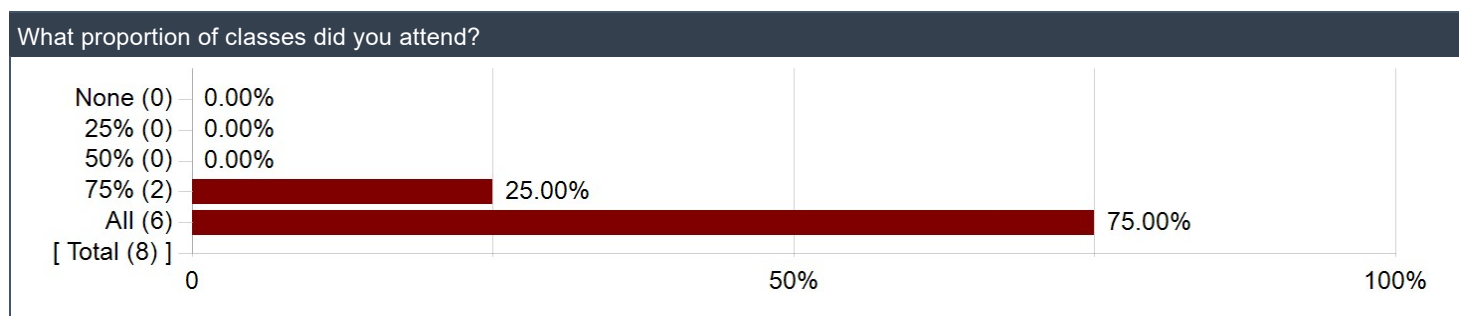
### Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



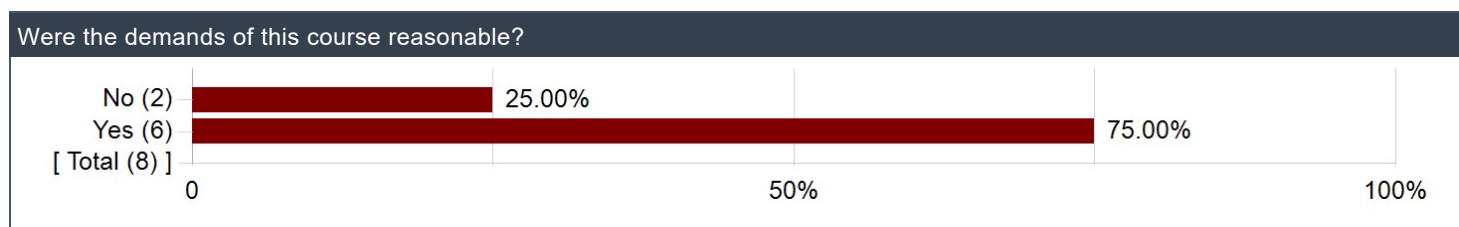
### I had a strong desire to take this course.



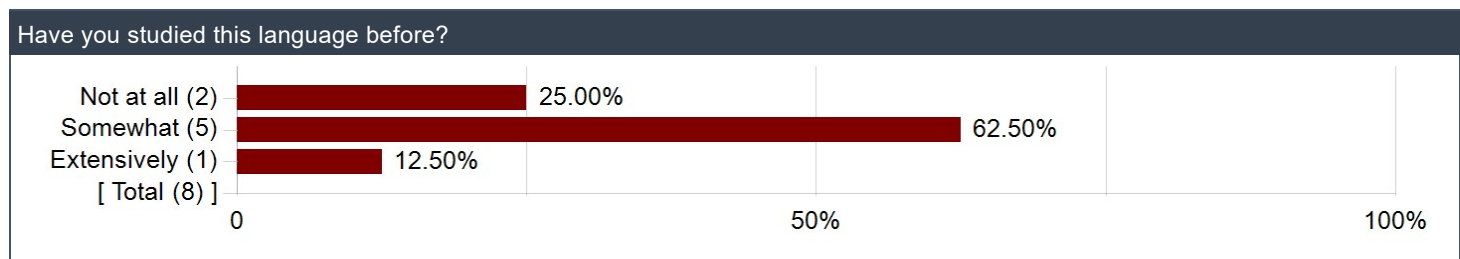
### What proportion of classes did you attend?



### Were the demands of this course reasonable?



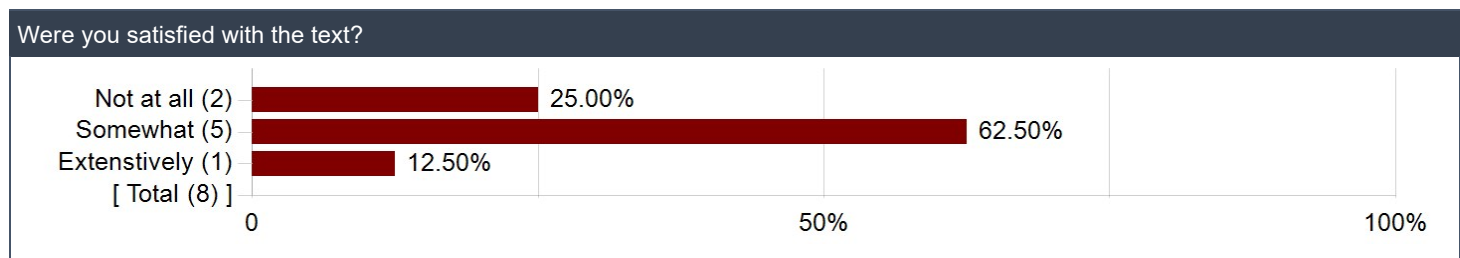
## Have you studied this language before?



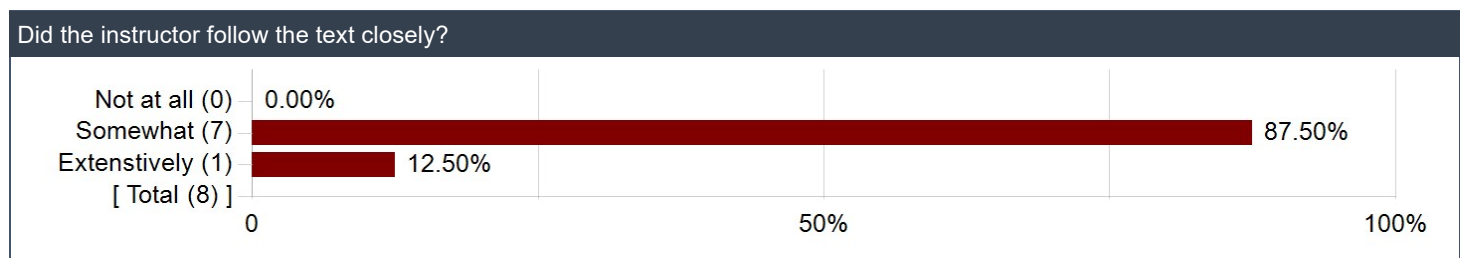
## Rate the extent to which different aspects of the language were stressed:

	Mean	Median	Not At All	A Little	Some	A Lot	Extremely	Vigorously
Speaking	4.88	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%
Spelling	3.75	3.50	0.00%	12.50%	37.50%	12.50%	37.50%	0.00%
Reading	3.63	4.00	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	37.50%	25.00%	0.00%
Writing	4.50	5.00	0.00%	12.50%	0.00%	25.00%	50.00%	12.50%
Grammar	4.63	5.00	12.50%	0.00%	0.00%	12.50%	50.00%	25.00%
Vocabulary	4.00	4.00	0.00%	12.50%	12.50%	37.50%	37.50%	0.00%

## Were you satisfied with the text?



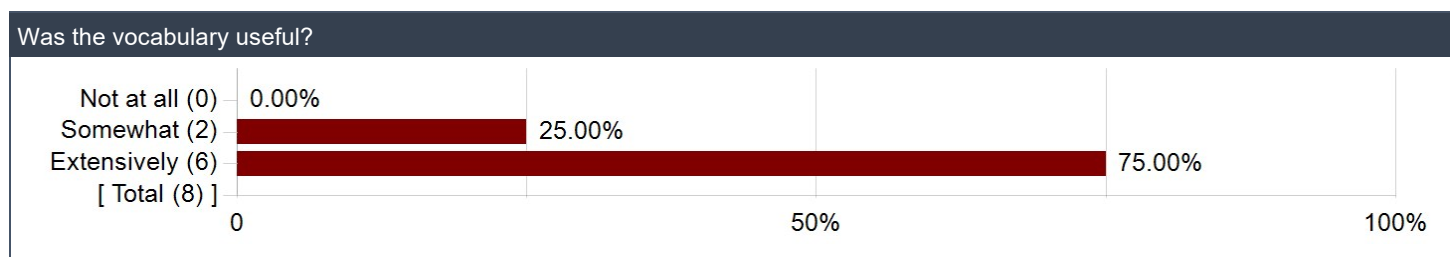
## Did the instructor follow the text closely?



## Explain:

Comments
The textbook is horribly confusing if you want to read and understand it yourself. However, combined with the lectures its much more understandable. Plus, Okamoto sensei teaches us material outside the textbook which is extremely helpful. Good that he does not strictly only teach the textbook (though the tests are all based on materials in the book).
we often learned more vocab / grammar points that were not covered in that chapter of the textbook (probably because the textbook is so old)
The textbook is terrible. It expects you to memorize kanji not on your kanji lists and it consistently uses examples that are overly complex. The order in which you learn things makes no sense and it explains concepts in a weird and confusing way. Okamoto Sensei did a great job considering how bad the textbook is. He organized the classes in a more natural way and taught the same material as the textbook.
Text difficult to read, especially on kanji page (very small text), and organization slightly confusing compared to other intro Japanese textbooks I have seen
We bounced around the text book but still went over the chapters that were planned
The textbook seems very ineffective. the kanji is taught in a strange way. some kanji you need to be able to write, some kanji you only need to be able to read. which category each kanji falls into seems arbitrary. some of the grammar is also outdated, and the professor had to explain that certain sentence structures in the textbook, which was written decades ago, were no longer regularly used in casual conversations.

## Was the vocabulary useful?

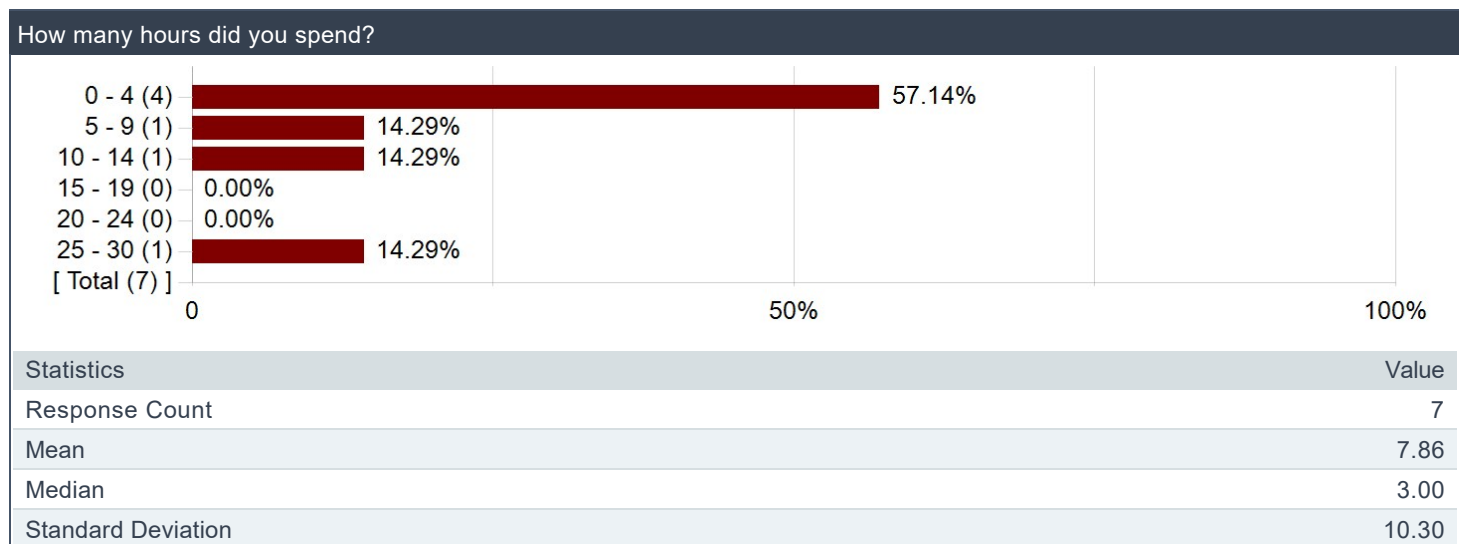
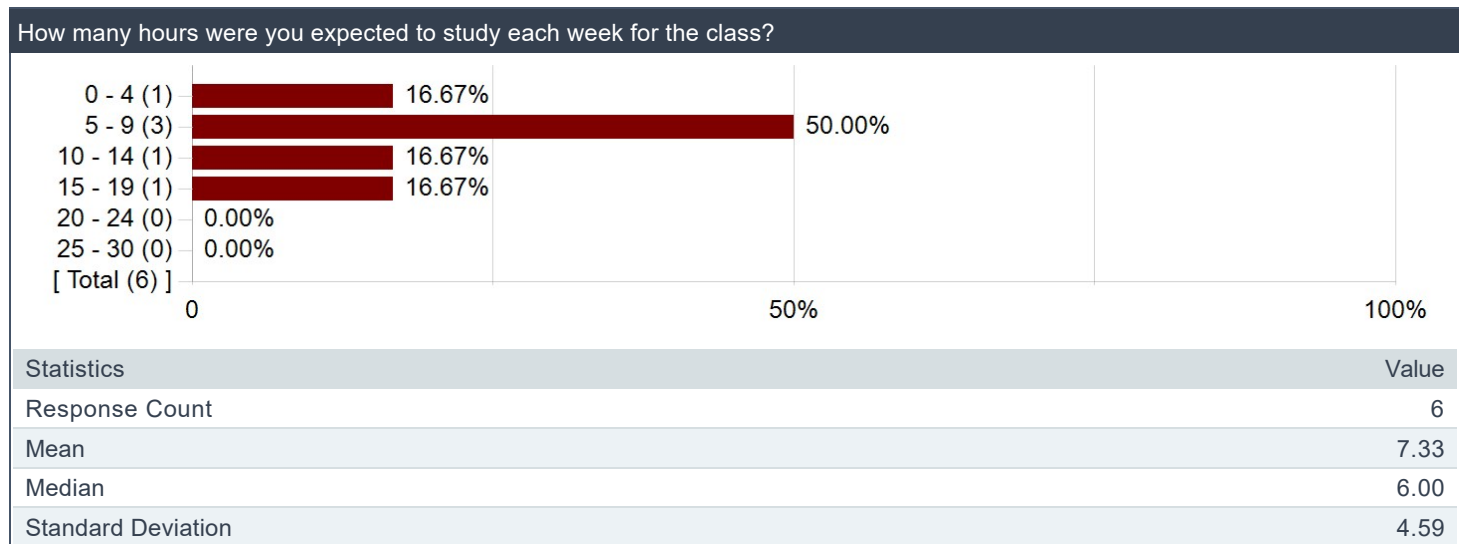


## Why?

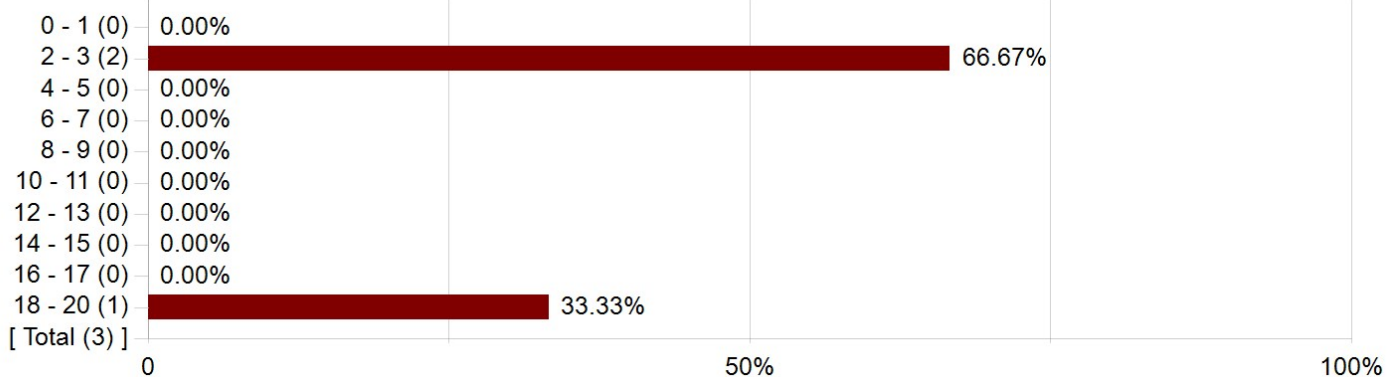
Comments
All common words what can I say.
we needed to study the vocabs ahead of class for a new lesson because each day we heavily rely on them to communicate and understand each other
The textbook chooses oddly specific vocab in its dialogue. For example, the word for anthropology is taught in the first chapter while the word for "today" isn't taught until the seventh chapter.
Vocab helpful in reinforcing topics such as grammar and sentence organization
They are used in everyday life
most of the vocabulary were related to being a student and the classroom, but some of the words taught in the textbook had limited use, such as the word for ashtray

**Describe the format of the class (lecture, drills, etc.). Was this format productive? Please be specific.**

Comments
During the class, the professor presented slides with breaks for speaking exercises and occasional listening or reading exercises. The slides were mainly focused on learning new elements of grammar. Class would end almost every day with a writing quiz, though it would sometimes be made take-home if there was not enough time remaining. I found the format to be very productive, the large amount of partner speaking meant lots of speaking and listening practice in the classroom.
I like this format where we learn something and practice immediately afterwards. A slight downside is that our class is too big for efficient practice going around the room.
pairwork in communicating / talking out the examples on the slide show. i did find this productive because it helped a lot with learning how to speak Japanese rather than just memorizing vocab and know how to write
We would usually begin with review from the previous lecture (new vocab, new grammar, etc) then we would be introduced to something new. After Okamoto Sensei explained the new concept or vocab we would practice conversation with a partner. Finally we end with a quiz (usually open note) on the previous lesson. This format was perfect for the class.
Significant focus on drills, helpful in reinforcing skills but creates a bit of a stressful class environment (instructor calls on students randomly)
We did lessons, then applied the lessons by talking to our partner, then did a quiz at the end
professor shows new grammar/vocabulary then we practice it in partners



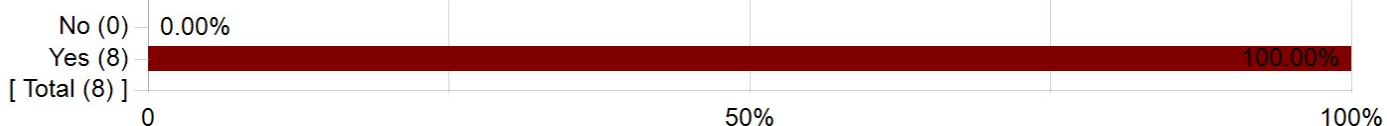
#### How many written quizzes were given?



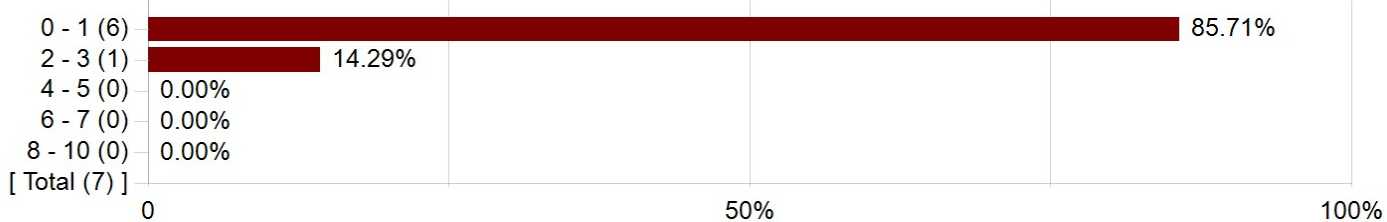
Statistics	Value
Response Count	3
Mean	8.00
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	10.39

#### Were there daily assignments? (i.e., journals)?

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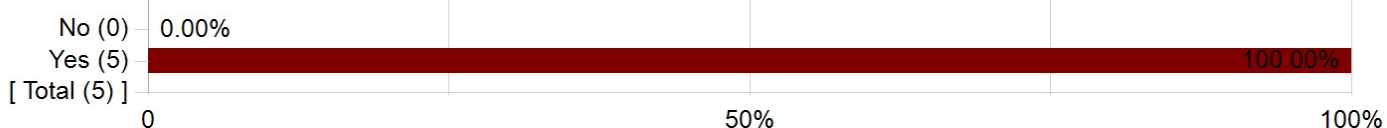
#### How many oral exams were given?



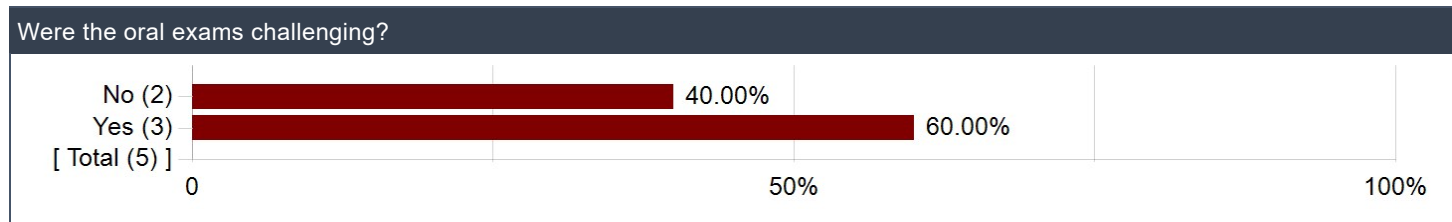
Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	1.14
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.38

#### Were the oral exams fair?

##### Were the oral exams fair?



## Were the oral exams challenging?



## Why? Please be specific.

Comments
Didn't take it yet.
i prefer written exam ove oral exam because im not super confident in my ability to converse in japanese
You are expected to know a lot of vocab/grammar and be able to speak with some level of fluency. Considering it is an intro course it felt like a lot.
I already speak the language
your performance is graded generously.

## If there were required outside activities (i.e. foreign films or SCOLA), describe your experience.

Comments
N/A

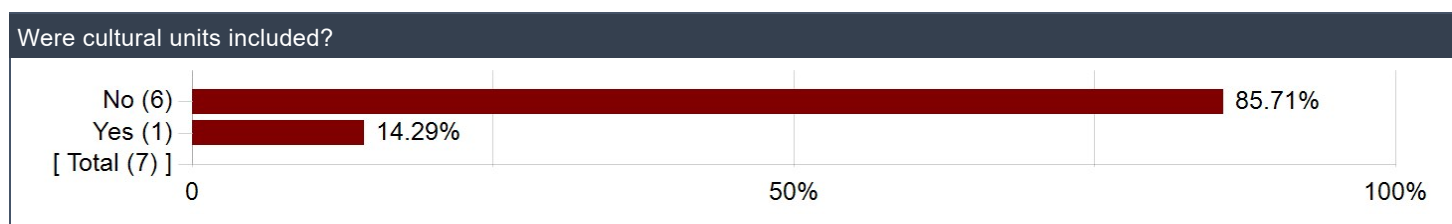
## Was your instructor organized?

Mean	Median	Very Unorganized	Somewhat Unorganized	Fairly Organized	Somewhat Organized	Very Organized
5.00	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

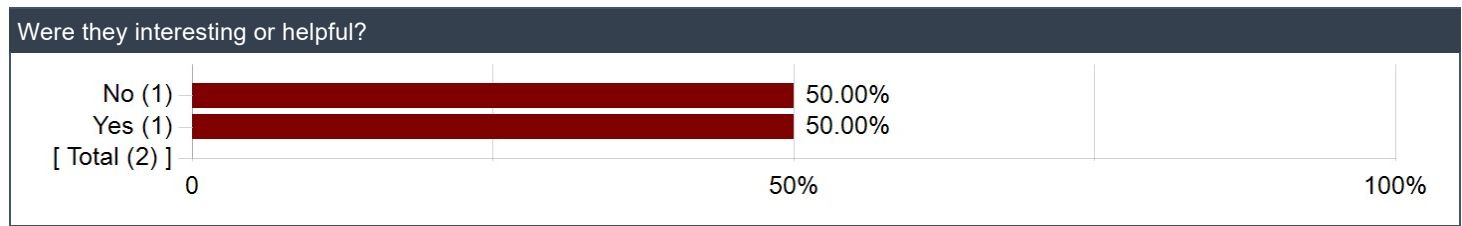
## Explain

Comments
The professor was consistently on top of having assignments and slides available, the one time he was a little late on posting a daily homework he gave an extension on it.
Always prepared.
we had daily quizzes and homeworks and he would always let us know ahead of time in class
Everything was formatted perfectly. Absolutely 100% impeccable organization.
Instructor very organized with grading and units of course, assignments were organized based on unit, making it easy to categorize information.
He had everything planned and succeeded in following it the whole quarter
follows the syllabus, posts all the powerpoints and homework assignments on canvas

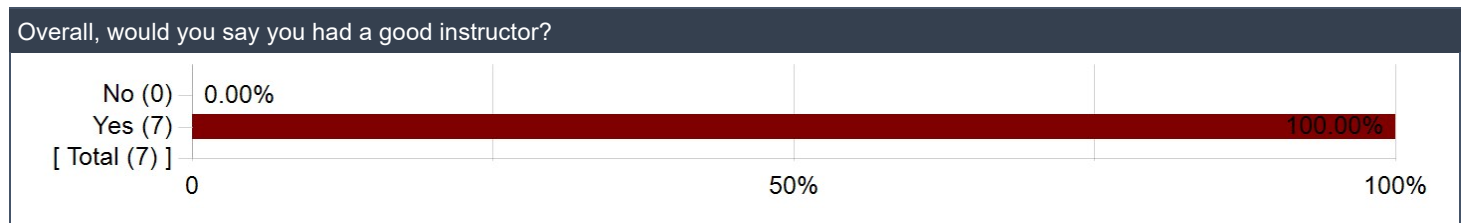
## Were cultural units included?



## Were they interesting or helpful?



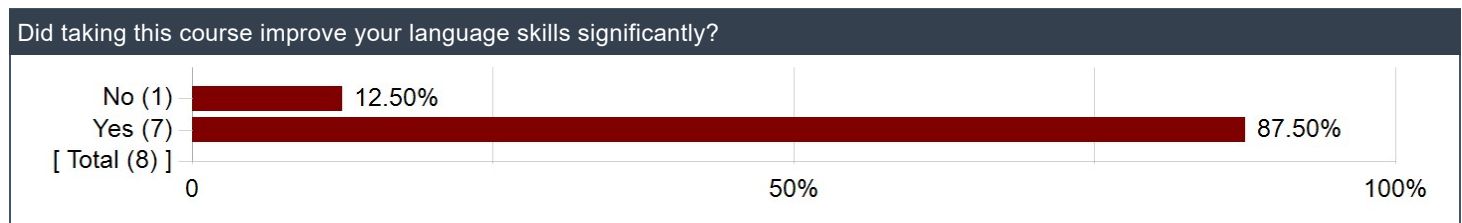
## Overall, would you say you had a good instructor?



## Why?

Comments
The professor was very good at maintaining a productive and positive classroom environment.
Just a good instructor who's always prepared.
okamoto sensei is SOOOO funny it makes the class really fun and engaging because we would always be laughing.
Okamoto Sensei isn't afraid to correct your mistakes which prevents you from building bad habits. In class lectures are formatted well and homework helps tremendously with understanding. He gives you all the tools you need to succeed and also acknowledges that the course is incredibly difficult.
Instructor helpful in reinforcing language skills, but pace of course too quick for content retention
Some things you can say in the US, but you can't in Japan
goes above and beyond. assigns lots of practice, cares a lot about your performance, helps you correct your mistakes. incorporates extra useful vocabulary that is not the textbook and teaches grammar in a more natural order than the textbook

## Did taking this course improve your language skills significantly?



## In what way?

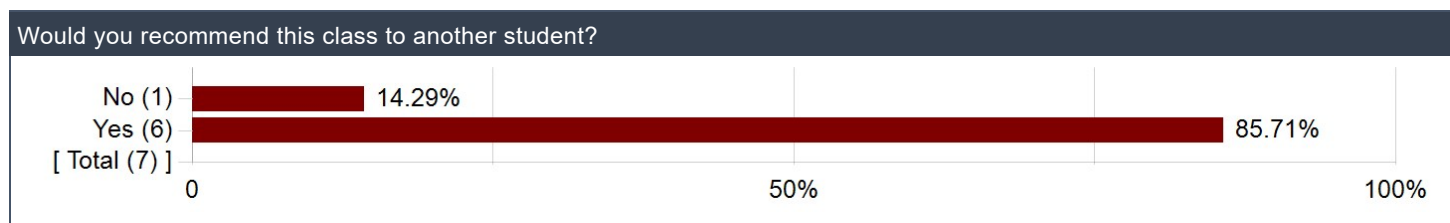
Comments
In essentially every area – writing, speaking, reading, listening, grammar, vocab, etc.
In all ways, grammar, speaking, vocab, etc...
there were a lot of grammar points that differed from what i had learned before. And the in-class conversations really helped me to feel a bit better about conversing in Japanese.
I went from zero Japanese to being conversational in 1 quarter. It was totally worth the effort.
I already knew almost everything in class, except for one or two kanji



## How would you improve this course?

Comments
The textbook used could maybe be a bit better.
Slower please. Too fast. At this pace I can take the AP Japanese exam after not even 2 years of studying which is insane considering how it usually takes 4 years of studying before taking the AP.
get rid of the current textbook and use genki.
Allow the instructor to introduce concepts in a more natural way that makes it easier to remember than just random things thrown at you.
Less fast-paced; course moved so quickly it was very difficult to have time to process information, which was challenging especially as a new language learner. Amount of work was demanding to the point where I did not have sufficient time to complete it while reviewing the material, making it difficult to understand what was going on in class.
I dont think it needs to be improved
Although the course rigor allowed my language skills to improve, the pace of the textbook was very demanding and required many more hours than you would expect/hope for in an elementary level course. For this, I know that many students, including myself, would improve the course by lessening the demands and rigor of the course (specifically with the textbook). With the use of a different textbook (slower-paced or less demanding), the course would become more enjoyable and better overall.
use a different textbook

## Would you recommend this class to another student?



## Why?

Comments
Very enjoyable class, you learn a lot but are given what you need to succeed
Good way of learning Japanese what can I say.
though this class is a lot of work for an intro class, it is overall very fun and engaging (i also just really like Japanese)
If you don't have a background in Japanese it will take a huge portion of your time to do well. You essentially need to be studying hours everyday because you are constantly being assessed. The sheer volume of content makes it difficult to find time for your other classes. If you really want to take the course I would recommend waiting a year and self studying. Then go into the class with some background knowledge and use it as an opportunity to practice your speaking.
Would recommend for any student who can handle rigorous content + a lot of outside work and studying (much of material has to be reviewed independently to keep up with pace of course, may be difficult for people with busy schedules/time constraints)
Would not recommend for anyone who struggles to learn languages or does not have background knowledge in Japanese/ a lot of time to commit to learning the language
It was very enjoyable, and learning is Japanese a good start to learning about Japan
If one wanted to improve/learn Japanese, then this would definitely be the course to take. However, the course isn't easy and I wouldn't take it for an "easy A". Your Japanese would improve, but you would put a lot of hours into studying and working for a good grade.