
PRACTICAL COURSES IN THE JAPANESE ARTS

Courses in the Japanese arts are offered to all students regardless of language level. Auditing is not permitted, and students are not allowed to enroll for any of the practical arts courses for a second semester.

81021 & 81022 CALLIGRAPHY (*Shodō*) II-A & II-B

INSTRUCTOR: Yūko Hirano

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course helps students to understand the origins and historical background of *kanji* (Chinese characters) and to appreciate *shodō* (calligraphy) as a traditional Japanese art form. Above all, students learn to write *kanji* correctly (and beautifully!) with traditional implements.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Introduction to basic implements of *shodō*. Writing practice: basic strokes
2. Origins of *kanji* and their introduction to Japan. Writing practice: *kaisho* (block) style
3. Development of *katakana* from *kanji*. Writing practice: *katakana*
4. Introduction to the five styles of *shodō*. Writing practice: *gyōsho* (cursive) style
5. Writing practice: *sōsho* (cursive) style
6. Development of *hiragana* from *kanji*. Writing practice: *hiragana*
7. Writing practice: *gyōsōtai* style (*gyōsho* and *sōsho* style)
8. Writing practice: *tensho* style
9. Writing practice: *reisho* style
10. Personal seals: making your own seal
11. *Shodō* for display
12. Personal *shodō* project
13. *Shodō* demonstration and appreciation

TEXTS

Textbook: None

ASSESSMENT

Attendance 20%; Participation 20%; In-class assignments 60% (each week students submit their best piece for evaluation)