Grading Guidelines JAP4110 Classical Japanese Spring 2025

This class has consisted of 11 meetings, where we translated classical texts, practiced classical grammar, and discussed articles around the theme of the “invention of modern Japanese” in the Meiji period.

The exam consists of three parts. The translation counts 40%, the grammar section 15%, and the three essay questions count 45% (15% each).

Students take the exam at home, so they have access to dictionaries, notes, and the Internet. They are banned, however, from using AI in any form or shape.

For the translation, I do not insist on a literal rendering of every word, but rather stress stylistic flow. Students are not only allowed but encouraged to break up sentences, translate passive verbs as active verbs etc. if that results in a better text.

The grammar questions are about verb forms, and must be answered in the following format:

高かりし

Takakari: ren’yōkei of takashi

-shi: -ki (past) in rentaikei

飲まぬ

Noma: mizenkei of nomu (yodan)

-nu: -zu in rentaikei

The essay questions build on essays read in class. Fuller answers that reveal mature reflection receive higher grades.