



NOTAT FRA PROGRAMSTYRE KNYTTET TIL PROGRAMSENSORRAPPORT I **JAP100** FOR VÅREN 2017

Dato for håndtering i programstyret:

_____ 25.august
2017 _____

Kommentarer fra programstyret:

Programstyret har diskutert programsensorrapporten for JAP100 i møte 25.8. 2017, og mener den svært positive rapporten tegner et riktig bilde av emnet. Styret merker seg imidlertid at programsensor påpeker at «seniority system» bør vies plass i undervisningen, og vil anføre at innenfor en ramme på seks introduksjonsforelesninger er det umulig å gå særlig i dybden av dette. Temaet blir imidlertid tatt opp i påfølgende emner (JAP110, JAP120, JAP205).

Fagkoordinator: Harry Solvang

Dato: 25.august 2017

REPORT FROM PROGRAMSENSOR

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Programsensor for the Bachelor Program in Japanese

Department of Foreign Languages

Faculty of Humanities

For the period of 2013-2017

REPORT 5: JAP 100 (HØST 2016)

About the course JAP 100

This is a report on the course, JAP 100, *Japansk historie, samfunn og språk*, which is offered as an introductory course for students of the Bachelor programs of Japanese language at the University of Bergen.

JAP 100 is a 12 week long lecture course, taught for 2 hours a week. It is compulsory for the students to attend at least 80% of the classes. After completion, the written examination is offered.

JAP 100 was first offered in autumn 2016. The purpose of the course is to provide a basic knowledge of Japanese history and society, insight to Japan's role in East Asia, and to introduce Japanese language to the students. By the end of the course, students have learned the Japanese writing system and obtained the practical skill to read and write two kinds of phonetic scripts, *hiragana* and *katakana*.

The course contents and teaching

According to the semester plan, the contents of the classes from the 1st week to the 6th week are an introduction to the history of Japan since 1868, Japan's role in East Asia and Japanese society and politics in the modern period; the contents of the classes from the 8th

to the 12th week focus on linguistic issues, emphasizing the practice of two kinds of Japanese scripts and the course is examined in the 13th week.

Pensum

According to the pensum list, the following books are used:

Arne Kalland: *Japans historie. Fra jegersamfunn til økonomisk stormakt (del III, IV, V (kapittel 11 21))*

Nihongo: Kana – An Introduction to the Japanese Syllabary (The Japan Foundation)

Arne Kalland's *Japans historie. Fra jegersamfunn til økonomisk stormakt* is currently the only book about overall history of Japan in Norwegian. Chapters 13 – 18 are used in the classes. This book is suitable as an introduction.

The Japan Foundation's *Nihongo Kana* is generally considered to be of high quality. It was used for the course ASIA 100 which was previously offered at Bergen, and the students' evaluation showed that they were satisfied with this book. I presume that it was one of the reasons why this book was chosen for the course JAP100 as well.

I conclude that the two books are suitable for the course.

Evaluation

At the end of the semester, a 3 hour long written examination is offered. The results of the examination are graded by the characters A-F, of which the F is fail. Completion of the course gives 10 study points.

Comments

In reponse to students' opinions that they wished to learn more about Japan rather than learning about both Japan and China, ASIA100, which was offered to both students of Japanese and Chinese languages, was replaced with JAP100 for the students of Japanese language.

Compared to ASIA100, JAP100 teaches more detail about Japanese history and society. In order to understand basic Japanese ways of thinking, it is very useful for the students to learn about religion in Japan. Learning about Japanese families and ideas about gender helps the students understand Japanese society. It would also help the students to

understand Japanese society if the 'seniority system' is taught in addition, because, judging from feedback from NTNU students returning from exchange studies in Japan, one of the most basic protocols, "the older the higher, the younger the lower" seems to be very hard to understand for Norwegian students.

In the second half of the semester, the course teaches basic Japanese linguistics including the writing system. It is very good to give the students plenty of time to learn and practice Japanese script, in order to make the further learning process more efficient.

