

Rubrecht “Translation of Ideas” Seminar

2nd Year

Instructor: Dr. Brian G. Rubrecht, Ph.D. **Place / Time:** _____

Email: rubrecht@meiji.ac.jp

Webpage: <http://www.isc.meiji.ac.jp/~rubrecht/>

Class Materials:

- (1) looseleaf notebook paper; (2) electronic or paper dictionary
- (3) USB IC recorder (if no smartphone or other recording device)
- (4) file or binder for handouts **← VERY IMPORTANT!!!**

Class Objectives:

The objectives of this seminar are for students to:

- (1) get to know fellow students and their instructor
- (2) learn to reflect on task topics and future projects and discuss in English
- (3) develop notetaking skills, increase English listening skills
- (4) learn basic translation skills (E-J or J-E); (5) learn to think critically

Class Activities:

* Students will engage in foundational activities (generally speaking). Some activities will be individual based, but many will have a group focus. You will be required to have discussions in groups outside of class time (or in lieu of a class period). This year, we will focus largely on learning how to listen to lectures and take notes, discuss various topics, write reactionary papers, and begin some translations. Some handouts will be provided (only one set per student).

Weekly Schedule:

* We have a weekly schedule for the class (see Oh-O! Meiji). However, adjustments to semester lessons (and the syllabus) may be made depending on (1) students' understanding of the material, (2) the pace of student in-class interaction, (3) appropriateness of the material, and (4) students' learning attitude.

Semester Grading:

SPRING		FALL	
Class Contribution	30%	Class Contribution	25%
Homework	30%	Homework	25%
Group Logs	40%	Group Logs	25%
		Research Report + Presentation	25%

Grading Explanation:

• Class Contribution

* Do not be late to class. Do not be absent (without a valid reason). Speak up in class. Participate in the seminar that you are lucky to have been able to enter.

* Also, students must also be responsible (as adults) and participate in every lesson. This means **taking responsibility and being a good student!**

pay attention no sleeping have a good learning attitude
actively learn bring all class materials complete homework on time
keep file or binder organized
no smartphones, iPads, or laptops in view (without permission)
no AI use like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. (without permission)

• **Homework**

* It is important to do the homework assigned because (a) there will only be a few assignments, (b) homework will probably be used in the next lesson, and (c) homework will prepare you for other things. Please come to class by the start of class time on days when homework is to be checked so that I may check that your homework has been completed. Do not do homework right before class. It may not be accepted, meaning the assignment will be given a ZERO.

• **Group Logs**

* Several times a semester you will be asked to get into groups and discuss various topics. In such cases, you will need to record the discussion to a digital file and by a written record. Copies of both must be given to your instructor.

• **Research Report + Presentation**

* You will have a report due in the fall semester. It is connected to your presentation. Students will be required to follow instructions on how to write the report (this includes having references and including required information).

* You will have to give a presentation in the fall semester. Your grade will be determined by how well you give your presentation (e.g., by not memorizing it, by good audience eye contact, etc.). *Note that the presentation is NOT your report.* You are just presenting the information you give in the report. More will be discussed about this in the fall semester.

* Basically, the report and presentation are about students learning new skills and ideas on how to gather, synthesize, and present ideas. Not following instructions on how to do the report and presentation will result in very poor grades.

• **Confirmation Sheet – 5 points keep or lose from final grade**

→ **Additional Information:**

- ✓ Talk to me if you need help (email is OK).
- ✓ Absent students are **still responsible for understanding class information and for doing assigned homework**. The “I did not know about it” excuse does not work. Please be an adult. Act responsibly. Ask your classmates about the lesson you missed or ask me.
- ✓ Lying, cheating, or improper use of AI (in any course) = **course failure**.
- ✓ Following instructions in this class is for YOUR benefit. If you follow instructions, then you will be fine, so let’s enjoy our time together! 😊