

## 上級英語: *Humor Studies* — FALL

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian G. Rubrecht, Ph.D.

**Class Meeting Information:** Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

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

★ This syllabus supplements other university syllabi/information.

### **Class Materials:**

- |                                                   |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) looseleaf notebook paper                      | (2) a water-based (水性) marker     |
| (3) electronic or paper dictionary                | (4) download handouts             |
| (5) file or binder for <i>organizing</i> handouts | <b>← <u>VERY IMPORTANT!!!</u></b> |

### **Class Objectives:**

>>> The objectives of this introductory course to humor include (1) provide students with chances to learn about humor, including (a) humor's role in second and foreign language teaching and learning, (b) some theories behind humor, (c) how to respond to jokes in English, (d) joke types and levels, and (e) much more; (2) task students with examining and comparing aspects of English and Japanese humor; (3) provide students with additional listening, writing, and conversational activities; (4) encourage students to have confidence in using English for communicative purposes; and (5) develop useful life skills.

### **Class Activities:**

>>> Students will participate individually, in pairs, and in groups. Students will learn and practice lesson topics in controlled situations but will be encouraged to improvise more as the semester progresses.

### **Grading Explanation:**

#### **• Class Contribution: 25%**

>>> This grade = attendance, punctuality, participation, and responsibility.

>>> Students must attend class. Students must come to class ON TIME. Students arriving 5 minutes after class begins will lose points (even 1 second late = late).

**An excuse of a late train will not be accepted.**

>>> If you have special requirements that keep you from coming to class on time, you must inform me at the beginning of the school year.

**→ Missing more than 3 classes will result in course failure. ←**

>>> Students will be asked to participate in pairs and groups in lessons. Students' participation grade component is based on how well students work with others and using ENGLISH in class.

>>> 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*  
 use the water-based marker    keep file or binder organized  
 no smartphones, iPads, or laptops in view (without permission)  
 no AI use like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. (without permission)

### • Homework – 25%

>>> All homework assignments are due when class starts, *so late homework will not be accepted*. Thus: come to class on time. **DO NOT DO HOMEWORK IN THE CLASSROOM BEFORE CLASS.** Students doing homework like this, printing materials just before class, copying homework from others, etc., will receive **ZERO POINTS THAT DAY.**

>>> There are download handouts on my webpage (to be explained later).

### • Fall Semester Task – 25%

>>> Students must complete a Task which involves (a) bringing jokes to class, (b) analyzing jokes, (c) cultural reflections of jokes, and (d) comparative analyses of Japanese jokes. The Task is due the last class. NOTE: not following instructions = risk of a **ZERO** or **COURSE FAILURE**.

— **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** —

### • Final Report – 25%

>>> There is a final report due on the last day of class (due at the start of the lesson, in both **physical** and **digital** versions). Late submission = **ZERO POINTS**.

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

## 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.

## 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 or 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! ☺