

Alexander Vovin, Professor of East Asian Languages

Meeting time: R 3:00-5:30, Moore 351

Office hours: TR 2:00-2:50, and by appointment, vovin@hawaii.edu, 956-2074

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course in Old Japanese is a graduate seminar aiming at teaching students how to read Old Japanese texts (8th century) in the original *man'yōgana* writing. We will start with selections from the “Kojiki kayō” (712) and will read from the wide selections of other texts, mostly written phonetically, such as, “Man'yōshū” (ca. 759), “Nihonshoki kayō” (720), and “Bussoku seki ka” (ca. 756). We will also read selected edicts from “Senmyō”, written in a special *senmyōgaki* script. Time permitting we will also try to add some selections from the “Norito”.

Students will be given a list of most frequent *man'yōgana* signs for “Man'yōshū” and “Kojiki kayō” that they are advised to memorize. The list for all signs occurring in OJ texts will be also given later.

Textbook

There is no textbook per se, but you will be given certain materials electronically that will facilitate your learning + handouts of the texts.

You will need to use 時代別国語大辞典。上代編 (Tokyo: Sanseidō, 1967), available in the Departmental library (Araki Room), and in the reference section of the East Asia/Asia collection on the 4th floor of the Hamilton library (PL 682. J52 1968).

You are strongly advised to purchase 岩波古語辞典 from the University bookstore, unless you already have one.

Additional literature:

Vovin, Alexander 2005. *A Descriptive and Comparative Grammar of Western Old Japanese*. Vol. 1. Folkestone: Global Oriental. One copy is in the library.

Yamada, Yoshio 1952. *Nara chō bunpō shi*. Tokyo: There are two or three different editions in the library.

You will be given a choice between final paper or final exam.

GRADING

Your grade will be based on the following:

Class participation: 35%

Midterm exam: 15% (may be waived if everybody performs on A+ level)

Final paper or exam: 50%

A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: below 60%