Goals
This course is designed to help you acquire the ability to read classical Japanese (bungo 文語), the written language of Japan from earliest times until the nineteenth century and beyond. This skill is necessary for native-equivalent proficiency in modern Japanese and is indispensable for anyone who wishes to undertake serious study of Japanese literature, history, linguistics, art, religion, or philosophy.

Content
Much of the quarter will be devoted to learning the overall structure of classical Japanese, differences in pronunciation and orthography (the way words are written) with modern Japanese, and the complex workings of verbs and inflected suffixes. In the latter part of this quarter, we will read a literary text in the original: Hōjōki 方丈記 (Record of a Ten-Foot Square Hut), a classic autobiographical essay written in the early 13th century.

Class sessions will be conducted in English, except for reading texts aloud.

Prerequisite: Japanese 313 or equivalent with a grade of 2.5 or higher

For more information, visit asian.washington.edu