What are the brilliant wordplay, subtle allusions, vows for revenge, or even the haunting idea of “impermanence” that runs through much of Japan’s classical literature like in the original? This course offers a hands-on introduction to the classical written language, using primary sources from the 9th through 16th centuries. Moving from print to handwriting and across a variety of media, we will work towards an increased understanding of both the language and literature of classical & medieval Japan. To that end, in addition to an emphasis on grammar, syntax, and various classical written styles, the course will also focus on understanding texts within a larger social & historical context.

This course will be taught in English; however, students should have completed ASIANLAN 226 or 227 (or the equivalent).