Japanese for Heritage Speakers (ELJ105) is a Japanese language course for heritage speakers of Japanese -- those who were born in or came to the U.S. at early age and learned Japanese at home rather than through formal schooling (often called "2nd generation Japanese American").

Research and our experience show that these students are extremely fluent in oral Japanese, but are unable to take advantage of their Japanese fluency in their professional careers. The primary reason for this gap is heritage speakers’ limited knowledge in formal Japanese, especially in written Japanese. This Japanese language course is tailored for those heritage speakers of Japanese and focuses on developing students’ literacy skills, mainly reading and writing Japanese with kanji. This course also helps students develop their Japanese fluency in a high-register setting (e.g., honorific and humble vocabulary). In sum, we will develop your bilingual skills to a "marketable" level in a real workplace.

Another goal of this course is to link your knowledge in Japanese to your career development. In collaboration with the internship program, we help you locate various internship opportunities where you can use your Japanese-English bilingual skills. Through the internship experience, you will learn how to use Japanese effectively to be successful in professional and