

2024 Late Spring Shodo (Japanese Calligraphy)

Japanese calligraphy, also known as *shodo*, is a revered, centuries-old art form and Zen practice which evokes harmony, beauty, and balance. Shodo uses a brush and charcoal ink on paper, wood plaques, and fabric and includes Chinese characters (*kanji*) and Japanese *hiragana*. Although it originated in the techniques used for letter writing, with its unique form of expression it has developed into an art genre.



These online courses will consist of self-study, instructor-student dialogue, and instructor demonstration. *Please note this is **not** a language course. If you wish to learn Japanese language, please see our other courses.*

These courses will be conducted online via Zoom. To participate fully, you will need access to a device with internet, microphone, and camera (such as a laptop, smartphone, or tablet). Please note that all times listed are New York time (ET).

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Shodo for Beginners:

Students will learn the brush strokes used in the basic 楷書 (*kaisho*)/regular script. This will be a small class size, and the course will involve both homework practice and in-class time over Zoom. (For details of the schedule, please read below.) In the Zoom class, students are expected to show their work with the teacher and other students so that everyone can learn from each other. Students must purchase their own supplies ahead of beginning coursework, and the Language Center can provide recommendations for supplies. This course will prepare you for the Shodo Basic Kanji course.

No prior Shodo or Japanese language experience necessary.

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Beginners	Fridays, Apr. 19 – May 17 <i>Course work begins Apr. 15</i>	5:00 - 6:00 pm ET	5 classes	Asai	ONLINE

Shodo Basic Kanji:

Students will mainly learn how to write Kanji in the 楷書 (*kaisho*)/regular script. In the class, the instructor will give a demonstration in the beginning, and then students will get to practice. This course is designed to be taken multiple times, and will help prepare you for the Shodo Kanji course (please consult with your instructor for approval before enrolling in Shodo Kanji).

Prerequisite: students must have previously enrolled in the Shodo for Beginners course or have taken at least 1 course (5+ lessons) of Shodo at Japan Society. (If you do not fit this prerequisite but have previous experience with Japanese calligraphy, please contact us at language@japansociety.org.) Complete beginners to Japanese calligraphy should enroll in Shodo for Beginners.

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Basic Kanji	Fridays, Apr. 19 – May 17 Course work begins <u>Apr. 15</u>	5:00 - 6:00 pm ET	5 classes	Barringer	ONLINE

Shodo Kanji:

Every week, two typefaces from 行書 (*gyosho*) / semi-cursive, 草書 (*sosho*) / cursive, and 隸書 (*reisho*) / clerical script are practiced in the class. This class is for those who have previous experience with Japanese calligraphy and have learned the basic 楷書 (*kaisho*) / regular script already.

Prerequisite: students must have enrolled at least once in Shodo Basic Kanji at Japan Society, or have already learned the basic *kaisho*/regular script style. (If you do not fit this prerequisite but have significant previous experience with Japanese calligraphy, please contact us at language@japansociety.org.)

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Kanji	Fridays, Apr. 19 – May 17 Course work begins <u>Apr. 15</u>	3:30 – 4:30 pm ET	5 classes	Barringer	ONLINE

Shodo Kana:

Students will write 俳句 (*haiku*) and 短歌 (*tanka*) using the Japanese syllabaries of *hiragana*, *man'yogana* (classic *hiragana*), and 草書 (*sosho*) /cursive script. This course is not for beginners.

Prerequisite: For participants with intermediate level Shodo experience and above. *Hiragana* recognition and writing is required. (If you do not fit this prerequisite but have significant previous experience with Japanese calligraphy, please contact us at language@japansociety.org.)

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Kana	Fridays, Apr. 19 – May 17 Course work begins <u>Apr. 15</u>	2:00 – 3:00 pm ET	5 classes	Barringer	ONLINE

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course will consist of self-study, instructor-student dialogue, and instructor demonstration. The structure for the courses is as follows:

Assignment Sample: *by Monday prior to the class*

The instructor will correspond with students (by email) about assignment samples. Students will work individually and submit the completed assignment(s) by the due date (see below). **Please note, this will begin on the Monday prior** to the first Friday class meeting.

Please print the assignment samples out in advance so that you can use them in practice or in class.

Sample Submission: *by Friday at 10 am ET*

Students submit their assignment(s) as a photo or scan to the instructor via email ideally before class (by 10:00 am Friday). The instructor will email feedback to each student except on Sundays. More details will come from the instructor.



Class Meeting: *see class meeting times above.*

Students will meet with the instructor on Zoom. The instructor will review key points and details from that week's sample for the first 5-10 minutes, and then for the rest of class will work with students individually on technique, etc. This will happen with everyone in the same Zoom meeting, so students will also hear/see feedback given to other students. We recommend that while not working directly with

the instructor, students may practice the ideas introduced at the start of class and the sample assignment. The instructor may work with each student more than once.

TUITION

Non-members: \$180

Members: \$160

HOW TO REGISTER

Please register by Thursday, April 11 if possible. These classes are small, so we appreciate your early enrollment.

Registration is accepted **online (preferred)**, by phone at (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293, or in-person on select days.

To purchase or renew a membership, please visit the [Membership page](#) and **pay online**. Or, call 212-715-1270 and leave a message; they will get back to you.

All registrants will receive a Welcome Letter by email from language_inquiries@japansociety.org on the afternoon of **Friday, April 12, 2024**

The instructor will email the samples and Zoom link by the end of the day, **Monday, April 15, 2024**, at the latest

Registrants of Shodo for Beginners will receive an email about course materials upon registration for the course.

Questions? Please email us at language@japansociety.org, or call (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293. ご質問は language@japansociety.org までご連絡ください。電話でのご登録を希望される方は、クレジットカードをご用意の上、212-715-1269 又は 212-715-1293 までご連絡ください。

PLEASE NOTE

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations are accepted until 12 pm ET on the business day before the course or workshop begins (for Shodo, until 12 pm ET on the business day before coursework begins). After this deadline, cancellations are not accepted and tuition is not refundable or transferable for any reason (including for credit). Upon cancellation, the tuition paid minus a service charge (\$20 for courses, \$5 for workshops) will be refunded. Cancellations are only accepted via phone.

Japan Society also reserves the right to cancel any course or workshop if sufficient enrollment is not obtained. In such cases, students already enrolled will receive full refunds (no service charge).

By registering for a course or workshop, you accept and agree to the above terms of the cancellation policy.

Students must be age 16 or older.

We do not record these classes, and recording of these classes is prohibited.

SHODO SUPPLIES

Students are required to purchase their own materials for at home use.

Shodo materials include: brush, ink (liquid or ink stone and stick), a felt pad, and a paperweight. Hanshi paper if you have it, or printer copy paper will be fine as well.

Alternatively, a limited quantity of Shodo supply kits (which include a brush, felt pad, and paperweight but NOT ink or paper) are available to rent for the semester from the Language Center. Supply kits are

available for a \$40 rental fee (of which \$35 will be returned for supplies with no significant damage). Partial kits can be rented as well. Please contact the office to arrange rental and pick-up.

Devices include: a computer, tablet, or smartphone which has a camera, microphone, and speaker. It is preferred that you set up a camera to show your work/brush strokes live, rather than your face. This could mean using a stand or creating a comparable set up. If you have two devices, you could create an arrangement where the instructor can see both your work and your face.

If you are purchasing supplies, please do so far enough in advance so that you receive the materials before your first class. The Language Center is not responsible for delays resulting in a student not being prepared by the first class session, and the cancellation policy still applies.

If you need assistance acquiring Shodo materials, setting up your technology/checking your camera angle, or further information, please email language@japansociety.org.

INSTRUCTORS

Megumi Barringer (Calligraphy name Shuka Barringer) has a calligraphy instructor license from the Nihon Sogo Shogeiin of Public Interest Incorporated Association in Japan since 1997, and she has been teaching calligraphy in Kamakura, Japan and Princeton, New Jersey for over 20 years. She is a calligraphy instructor at Princeton Community Japanese Language School, Princeton University, and teaches calligraphy classes to children and adults in Princeton. She has been teaching Shodo at Japan Society since 2017. Her work (seal carving, kanji, kana) was selected for the Mainichi Calligraphy Exhibition. She presents her work every August at a calligraphy exhibition held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum.

雅号：波琳 修佳（Barringer, Shuka）は、1997年に公益社団法人日本総合書芸院より書道師範の免許を取得。日本の鎌倉とニュージャージー州プリンストンで20年以上書道を指導をしています。NJ州プリンストンに書道教室を開き、小学生から大人まで幅広く指導しています。またプリンストン日本語学校、プリンストン大学の書道講師、日本企業・美術館・日系人会のイベントにて書道体験教室もしています。2017年よりJapan Societyの書道講師に就任。毎日書道展にて、篆刻部門・漢字部門・仮名部門でそれぞれ入選歴があります。毎夏、東京都美術館で行われる書道展に出品しています。

Sanae Asai (Master Suiho) obtained a BA in Commerce from Meiji University and finished the courses of Certified Financial Planner at NYU, and was bestowed with a Master in 1996 by the Calligraphy Institute of Daitobunka University. She has taught calligraphy for 20 years in schools and cultural institutes in New York, The New School, the Long Island Japanese Culture Center, the Japanese American Society of New Jersey, Japanese Schools, the Hammond Museum, The Mid-Hudson Japanese Community Association, Arts Mid-Hudson as well as her own private studio. As a modern-day calligrapher, she has performed live calligraphy at Rotary Clubs, museums, and cultural festivals as an artist, and has been engaged in commercial projects including marketing materials, logos, school certificates, and industrial designs.