



Language Center

333 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017

japansociety.org

書道

2025 Summer Shodo (Online) (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 at-home practice, instructor-student dialogue, and instructor demonstration. **Classes will meet 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). Students will need to purchase their own supplies.

The Language Center offers both online and in-person Shodo course options. These courses are designed for adults aged 18 and above.

*Please note this is **not** a language course. If you wish to learn Japanese language, please see our other courses.*

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 (online) or Shodo Open Level (in-person) course.

No prior Shodo or Japanese language experience necessary.

	In-Person Courses	Online Courses
Beginner	Shodo for Beginners	Shodo for Beginners
⇓	Open Level	Basic Kanji
		Kanji
Advanced		Kana

Section	Dates	Time	# of Classes	Instructor	Location
Beginners	Fridays, 5/9 – 7/18 (no class 7/4)	6:30 - 7:30 pm ET	10 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 students 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, 5/9 – 7/18 (no class 7/4)	5:15 – 6:15 pm ET	10 classes	Asai	ONLINE

Shodo Kanji:

Every week, two typefaces from 行書 (gyosho) / semi-cursive, 草書 (soso) / 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, 5/9 – 7/18 (no class 7/4)	3:30 – 4:30 pm ET	10 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 (soso) /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, 5/9 – 7/18 (no class 7/4)	10:30 – 11:30 am ET	10 classes	Barringer	ONLINE

COURSE STRUCTURE

These courses consist of online class meetings with instructor demonstration and live instructor-student dialogue, at-home practice, and asynchronous instructor-student dialogue via feedback by email.

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 at the beginning, and then 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.

Writing Sample / *kadai* 課題:

Students will receive the writing sample from the instructor by email before each class meeting. This sample will be practiced during the class meeting, and then students will continue to work on the sample over the next week. Students may submit their final version any time before the next class meeting.

(Students are also welcome to begin working on the assignment once received from the instructor, even before the class meeting time.)

We recommend that students print the assignment samples out in advance so that they can be used in practice or in class.

Writing Sample Submission:

Students may submit their final sample/assignment(s) as a photo or scan to the instructor via email any time before the next class meeting. In most cases, the instructor will email feedback to each student within 2 business days (weekdays) after receiving.

Further details will come from the instructor.

TUITION

10-Class Shodo Courses

Non-members: \$340

Members: \$300

Inclusive of fees, where applicable. Inclusive of a nonrefundable administrative fee (see cancellation policy).

Early Registration Discount: at checkout, enter code **EARLY** through **Wednesday, April 23** to receive **\$10 off**.

Japan Society Members: please log in to see the member price. To learn more about Japan Society Membership, please visit the [Membership page](#).

HOW TO REGISTER

At latest, please register by Tuesday, May 6 if possible. These classes are small, so we appreciate your early enrollment. Late registration may be possible if seats are available (please contact the office if registering after May 31).

Registration is accepted **online (preferred)**, by phone at (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293, or in-person (please inquire for hours).

All registrants will receive a Welcome Letter and Zoom link by email from language_inquiries@japansociety.org on the afternoon of **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

Questions? Please email us at language@japansociety.org, or call (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293. お問い合わせは 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 または 212-715-1293 までご連絡ください。

CANCELLATION POLICY

UPDATE! Cancellation Policy: Cancellations are accepted until 12 pm ET, TWO business days before the course begins. The Language Center's business days are Monday – Friday, except for most federal holidays. 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 the nonrefundable administrative fee will be refunded. Fees are as follows: \$35 for 9-/10-class courses, \$20 for 5-class courses, and \$60 for 20-class courses.

Cancellation requests (can be made either by phone or email) must be received by the office by the cancellation deadline. Otherwise, cancellation requests will not be fulfilled.

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

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

COURSE POLICIES

While we try to provide as much consistency as possible, there may be occasions when adjustments to class schedule, instructor, or location are necessary. **The Language Center reserves the right to make these changes as needed.** (Reasons for changes may include inclement weather, emergency situations, or instructor illness.) In the case of a change, we will do our best to create an alternate means for keeping classes running, which may include switching an in-person class to online over Zoom.

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

SHODO SUPPLIES

Shodo materials: Students should acquire their own shodo materials for at home use. The materials needed are:

- Brush (appropriate size for the work you are doing)

- Kanji calligraphy (For classes: Beginners, Basic Kanji, Kanji, Open Level): 3cm or 1in brush tip (#3 or #4)
- Kana calligraphy (For classes: Kana, or Open Level advanced students working in Kana): skinny sharp point brush
- Ink (liquid or stick), and dish/container or ink stone to hold the ink
- Paperweight
- Felt pad
- Hanshi paper (printer copy paper is 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.

For suggestions and further details about the materials, please [see the website](#).

Devices: a computer, tablet, or smart phone which has a camera, microphone, and speaker, or a computer with an external microphone and camera, and internet access.

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. We can help you set this up in advance; please contact the office.

For suggestions about your set up, please [see the website](#).

Zoom: you will need to access Zoom for the Friday class meetings. We recommend [downloading the app](#) in advance, since this will work better than the web browser.

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

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.

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.