

Introduction to Japanese Linguistics

Instructor: Dr. Mariko Karatsu (karatsu@email.arizona.edu)

Time: Monday & Thursday 2:40pm - 4:10pm

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the major characteristics of the Japanese language, and you will explore the linguistic and social aspects of Japanese language. The main goals are to learn about how the Japanese language is organized and used and to learn about basic concepts and approaches in the field of linguistics.

Course Materials:

Textbook: Tsujimura, Natsuko. 2007. *An Introduction to Japanese Linguistics* (2nd edition). Cambridge: Blackwell.

Other materials including study questions and handouts will be distributed in class.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following components:

Class participation 30%;

Homework assignments 40%

Midterm exam 15%

Final exam 15%

Class attendance and participation:

You are required to attend every session and do the required readings. Your active participation is expected. Regular attendance and participation in classroom discussions are important for your understanding of topics. You are required to complete the assigned readings and preview study questions by the date listed on the course schedule. If you miss a class, be sure to contact the instructor for assignments, announcements and/or changes in the schedule.

Class attendance policy:

You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester without penalty. A third unexcused absence will reduce your grade in the course by 10 points (equivalent to one letter grade in the American system). A fourth unexcused absence will reduce your grade by another 10 points. More than four unexcused absences will result automatically in a failing grade for the course. Legitimate excuses for absence are normally limited to illnesses or accidents that require medical attention. Please consult with the Resident Director in advance if you believe that you have some other legitimate reason for absence. Students must document all legitimate excuses.

Homework Assignments:

There will be a total of 6 regular homework assignments. Some additional assignments may be given. Homework assignments include problem-solving questions, short answer questions, and writing short essays. Each regular assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day listed on the course schedule. Late assignments may be accepted if you submit them by the next class after the due date. However, the grade will be lowered (i.e., half points) for each late assignment.

Midterm Exam:

The midterm will test the material we have covered in the course to that point.

Final Exam:

The final exam will test mainly the material we have covered after the midterm exam.

Academic Honesty:

All work you submit must be your own and must not have been submitted for any other course elsewhere. If you include ideas or words from someone else, even if it is “only” one of your classmates, that person must be properly cited. Work not your own will be given a failing grade and may result in a failing grade for the course.

Classroom Behavior:

You are expected to behave as a college student in the classroom. The use of cell phones, smart phones, and text messaging is not allowed during the class.

Accommodations:

Students who may require academic adjustments and/or reasonable accommodations in order to fulfill course requirements should speak with the instructor about them.

Course Schedule

* The schedule is subject to change.

1. Sep. 19 (Th) - Orientation and Introduction to Japanese linguistics

Unit 1: Phonetics and Phonology

2. Sep. 23 (M) - Phonetics

Reading: T 1-19

Study questions #1

3. Sep. 26 (Th) - Phonemic inventory of Japanese

Reading: T 22-37

Study questions #2

4. Sep. 30 (M) - Japanese Sequential Voicing (Rendaku)

Reading: T 50-58

Study questions #3

***** Homework #1 (Phonetics) due**

5. Oct. 3 (Th) - Syllable and moras; Accentuation in Japanese

Reading: T 58-61; 66-85

Study questions #3

6. Oct. 7 (M) - Mimetic words; Loanwords; Casual speech

Reading: T 85-104

7. Oct. 10 (Th) - Review & In-class activity

Unit 2: Morphology

8. Oct. 14 (M) - Parts of speech categories

Reading: T 114-129

Study question #4

***** Homework #2 (Phonology) due**

9. Oct. 17 (Th) - Morpheme types

Reading: T 129-136

Study questions #5

10. Oct. 21 (M) - Word formation

Reading: T137-142

Study questions #5

Unit 3: Writing

11. Oct. 28 (M) - Japanese writing system

Reading: TBA

***** Homework #3 (Morphology) due**

12. Oct. 31 (Th) - Review for Midterm Exam

13. Nov. 4 (M) - **Midterm Exam**

Unit 4: Syntax

14. Nov. 7 (Th) - Syntactic structures

Reading: T 206-224

Study questions #6

15. Nov. 11 (M) - Transformational rules; Word order and scrambling

Reading: T 224-254

Study questions #6

16. Nov. 14 (Th) - Null anaphora; Reflexives; The notion of subject

Reading: T 254-273

Study questions #7

17. Nov. 18 (M) - Passive

Reading T 273-287; S 262-280

Study questions #7

Unit 5: Semantics and Pragmatics

18. Nov. 28 (Th) - Word meaning and sentence meaning

Reading: T 340-349

Study questions #8

***** Homework #4 (Syntax) due**

19. Dec. 2 (M) - Deixis (Demonstrative words; Verbs of giving and receiving)
Reading: T 349-363
Study questions #8
20. Dec. 5 (Th) - Tense and aspect
Reading: T 364-397
Study questions #8
21. Dec. 9 (M) - Particles (*Wa* vs. *Ga*)
Reading: T 404-415
22. Dec. 12 (Th) - Review & In-class activity

Unit 6: Language Variation

23. Dec. 16 (M) - Dialect difference
Reading: T 422-428
Study questions #9

***** Homework #5 (Semantics and pragmatics) due**

24. Dec. 19 (Th) - Styles and Levels of Speech (Speech; Formality; Honorification)
Reading: T 428-432
Study questions #9

******* Winter Break (Dec. 21 - Jan. 5) *******

25. Jan. 6 (M) - Gender differences
Reading: T 433-442
Study questions #9

26. Jan. 9 (Th) - Review for Final Exam

***** Homework #6 (Language variation) due**

27. Jan. 16 (Th) - **Final Exam**

28. Jan. 20 (M) - Review of Final Exam & In-class activity