

# INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Spring, 2024

<b>Class location &amp; time</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Kim Jones</b>
<b>Contact info</b>	<b>kjones@arizona.edu</b>
<b>Office hours</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers a variety of issues in Japanese sociolinguistics and several different sociolinguistic methodologies, including questionnaire studies, variation analysis, ethnography of communication, conversation analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, and language and social interaction. You will have the opportunity to collect your own data by recording Japanese speakers interacting together, and then to analyze that data.

## TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS

- Selected sociolinguistic journal articles
- Language and culture related websites and blogs
- Video examples of verbal and nonverbal communication

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Being in Japan gives us great opportunities to collect our own data and analyze how the people around us use Japanese to communicate with each other. Class assignments are planned to help you make the most of these opportunities. In this course, we will:

- Observe and study how Japanese speakers use language to communicate
- Record, transcribe, and analyze examples of language use
- Read, discuss, and critique sociolinguistic research articles from a variety of approaches

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain different approaches to the study of how speakers in different societies and cultures use language to communicate
- Critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of articles explaining sociolinguistic research
- Conduct basic sociolinguistic research

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Preparation and active participation in class discussions: It's important to read and think carefully about the assigned material. Please don't be shy about participating! In order to participate fully,

you will need to have either an electronic or a paper copy of the reading(s) to be discussed that day.

2. Recording and transcription assignment: Details will be given in class.
3. Data analysis assignments: Two short (3-5 page) papers, using your recording(s) and transcription(s) as data. You may use classmates' transcripts as data too, if they agree to make them available. The first paper will be written using a conversation analysis approach. The second paper will be written using one of the next two approaches that we will cover in class—ethnography of communication and interactional sociolinguistics (you may pick your favorite).
4. Midterm exam
5. Final exam

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

1. What Is Sociolinguistics?
2. Collecting and Transcribing Data
3. Conversational Analysis
2. Ethnography of Communication
3. Interactional Sociolinguistics
4. Language and Social Interaction
5. Questionnaire Studies
6. Variation Analysis

## GRADING

Grades in this course will be based on two exams, a midterm (20%) and a final (20%); on the various homework assignments (30%); and on class preparation and in-class participation (30%). The grading scale is:

90-100:	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
<60	F

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Year-in-Japan program has adopted a uniform attendance policy for the afternoon Japan Studies courses. 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 in an automatic failing grade for the course. Legitimate excuses for absence are normally limited to illnesses or accidents. Please consult with me **in advance** if you believe that you have some other legitimate reason for absence.

## A few final notes:

1. This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class or via email.
2. Please let me know as soon as possible if you need any special accommodations to help you do well in this class.
3. In general, I do not give grades of "incomplete", so please plan on completing all work for the course during this semester.
4. All work you submit must be your own, and must be written for this class (i.e., not recycled from another class or turned in for another class this semester). If you include ideas or words from someone else, they must be properly cited. If you are unclear about what needs to be cited or how to cite it, come and talk to me about it. Work not your own will be given a failing grade and may result in a failing grade for the course.