

# LINGUISTIC DESCRIPTION OF JAPANESE 2019 COURSE OUTLINE

## ❖ COURSE INSTRUCTOR

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## ❖ COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to introduce students to some fundamental linguistic features of Japanese. In this semester discussion will cover topics related to Japanese verbs and particles, and cultural aspects of the language. A series of analytical exercises on each topic will be presented so as to examine the characteristic of Japanese in comparison with English and other languages where applicable.

N.B.: This course is one of the JTW core courses and not directly related to any Japanese language courses (JACs and/or JTCs) offered at the International Student Center.

## ❖ COURSE GOALS

This course trains students to: (1) develop an understanding of the fundamental characteristics of the Japanese language; (2) become more familiar with how the Japanese conceptualize the world and how that conceptualization is structured and maintained in the language; (3) develop a comparative framework through which the difference between Japanese and other languages will be seen more clearly; and (4) sharpen analytical skills needed when interpreting/translating the Japanese language.

## ❖ TOPICS OF STUDY

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| ➤ Orientation & Overview of the Japanese Language   | Class 1          |
| ➤ Particles in Japanese                             | Classes 1, 2 & 3 |
| ➤ Japanese Verbs                                    | Classes 4 & 5    |
| ➤ Japanese Passive, Causative and Causative-Passive | Classes 6, 7 & 8 |
| ➤ Japanese Conditional                              | Classes 9 & 10   |
| ➤ Seeming Expressions in Japanese                   | Class 11         |
| ➤ Honorific Language System in Japanese             | Classes 12 & 13  |
| ➤ Giving & Receiving Expressions in Japanese        | Classes 14 & 15  |

## ❖ ASSESSMENT

- |                             |  |     |
|-----------------------------|--|-----|
| ■ For <b>two</b> credits:   | (1) Attendance and class participation                                 | 15% |
|                             | (2) One presentation (as in a group)                                   | 15% |
|                             | (3) Seven quizzes (out of eight)                                       | 70% |
| ■ For <b>three</b> credits: | (1) through (3) as described above PLUS <u>two</u> Written Assignment. |     |

- \* It will be difficult for you to pass this course if you fail to do/submit any one of the assessment requirements listed above.

## ❖ ORGANIZATION, ATTENDANCE & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- ❖ **Attendance** is checked at the beginning of each class. If you come late to class or leave before it is finished, you won't earn full attendance. Note that you lose entire 15 points allocated for the attendance part of your assessment if you miss **four** or more classes regardless of reason.
- ❖ You must choose and sign up for your **Presentation** topic before the third class meeting. Singing-up will be done a first-come-first-served basis.
- ❖ **Quizzes** are given and to be done on the course website. Any quizzes not submitted by the indicated time & date will not receive marks.
- ❖ Those who need to earn three credits must submit two **Written Assignment** through the course website by the indicated time & date. Emailed assignment will receive **no** marks.
- ❖ Each student must be prepared to contribute to class discussion. To that end, it will be expected that each student complete the **Assigned Readings** shown on the course website prior to each class session.

👉 **Web site:** <https://moodle.s.kyushu-u.ac.jp>

Please make sure to visit the course-website regularly, at least once a week, to check what is required to do and when. You are responsible for knowing and doing what is expected of you, and for asking the instructor without any delay if you have any questions or doubts.

- ❖ No mobile phone and no video recording in class.

## ❖ TEXTBOOKS & READINGS

There is no set textbook for this course. A bundle of required readings which are taken from the following books and others will be distributed. Most of the the books listed here are also available for borrowing from the University Library.

Backhouse, A. E. (1993) *The Japanese Language: An Introduction*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press.

Bleiler, E. F. (1963) *Basic Japanese Grammar*, Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc.

Bowring, R. J. and Laurie, H.U. (1992) *An Introduction to Modern Japanese*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

The Japan Foundation. (1989) *Invitation to the Japanese Language*. Tokyo: Bonjinsha.

The Japan Foundation (1986) *Basic Japanese-English Dictionary*, Tokyo: Bonjinsha, Co., Ltd.

Kindaichi, H. (1978) *The Japanese Language*, Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle Co., Inc.

Makino, S. & Tsutsui, M. (1986) *A Dictionary of Basic Japanese Grammar*. Tokyo: The Japan Times.

Maynard, S. K. (1990) *An Introduction to Japanese Grammar and Communication Strategies*. Tokyo:

The Japan Times.

McGloin, N. H. (1989) *A Student's Guide to Japanese Grammar*. Tokyo: Taishukan.

Mizutani, O. & Mizutani, N. (1987) *How to be Polite in Japanese*. Tokyo: The Japan Times.

Niyekawa, A. M. (1991) *Minimum essential politeness: a guide to the Japanese honorific language*, Tokyo: Kodansha International Ltd.

Obana, Y. (2000) *Understanding Japanese - a handbook for learners and teachers*, Tokyo: Kuroshio Publishers

Shibatani, M. (1990) *The Languages of Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tsujimura, N. (1996) *An Introduction to Japanese Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.

### ❖ RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

It is recommended that for those whose 1<sup>st</sup> language is not Japanese their Japanese should have already reached at least **J4** or an equivalent level, and for those whose 1<sup>st</sup> language is not English, **TOEFL (IBT) 83** or an equivalent level, to take this course since all the example sentences are shown in original Japanese and lectures/discussions/quizzes are done all in English. Those who lack the above mentioned prerequisites may take this course at their own risk.

### ❖ IMPORTANT NOTES

- ★ In this course you will be requested to do preparation and take a quiz for each topic on a very regular basis.
- ★ You are strongly recommended to attend the 1st class if you are to take this course for credit.
- ★ The maximum number of students to be admitted is twenty one (21) excluding those who wish to audit this course without earning credits.
- ★ Registration will be handled at the JTW office on a first-come-first-served basis.