

Spring 2023

EALC-J 421/520 (13315/14069) Introduction to Japanese Linguistics

Syllabus

(Updated Jan 20, 2022)

About the Instructor

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Communication Policy

You may send me a message through Canvas (my preferred mode of communication). I have multiple roles within the university and receiving messages through Canvas helps me stay organized. I will get back to you within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays when it might take longer to respond). Please be clear in the subject line as to what the message is concerning. If you do not hear back from me in a couple of days, please assume that I need to be reminded and email me again.

Office Hours: By appointment on Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM

I may be occasionally available on other days. Please check my availability at <https://calendly.com/nozomitanaka/meeting> and sign up for a 20-minute slot to meet with me in my office or on Zoom up to 24 hours in advance. Office hours are a good opportunity to ask me questions about the Japanese language, linguistics, or the class.

About the Course

Class meeting days and times:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:45-6:00 PM

Class location:

Cedar Hall (AC) C102

Course prerequisites:

EALC-J 102 or consent of instructor.

Required text:

Tsujimura, N. (2013). An introduction to Japanese linguistics (3rd ed.). Wiley Blackwell. (ISBN 978-1444337730) (physical or electronic copy).

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Course description:

This course offers a descriptive survey of issues in Japanese linguistics, familiarizes you with the formal analysis of language, and introduces you to the tools and methodologies to objectively observe and analyze language as a natural phenomenon. Topics will include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics/pragmatics of spoken Japanese. If we have time, other topics might also be discussed. No prior course work in linguistics is assumed.

This course is for both undergraduate and graduate students. For undergraduate students, this course counts as a Natural and Mathematical Science (**CASE N&M**) course.

Course goals:

In this course, you will learn the following:

1. How human beings articulate the sounds in a language, with Japanese and English as the primary examples (Phonetics);
2. How sounds are put together in Japanese (Phonology);
3. How to identify morphemes and how words are formed in Japanese (Morphology);
4. How words are put together to form a phrase or a sentence in Japanese (Syntax); and
5. How meanings are conveyed at the word, sentence, and utterance levels in Japanese (Semantics & Pragmatics).

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the class, students should be able to do the following:

1. Identify the acoustic and articulatory characteristics of Japanese sounds and compare them with English sounds (Phonetics);
2. Identify phonetic alphabets and transcribe Japanese using phonetic alphabets (Phonetics);

3. Identify the changes Japanese sounds go through when they are put together (Phonology);
4. Identify words and morphemes in Japanese (Morphology);
5. Explain how words are formed in Japanese (Morphology);
6. Explain how words are put together to form a phrase or a sentence in Japanese (Syntax);
7. Identify the syntactic characteristics of Japanese (Syntax); and
8. Explain how meanings are conveyed at the word, sentence, and utterance levels in Japanese (Semantics & Pragmatics).

Grading

Course Expectations

This course takes a “learning by doing” approach. You are expected to come to class having read the assigned portion of the textbook. In-class time will be used to address your questions, supplement the textbook contents, and practice problem solving. If you do not read the textbook prior to class, you will be completely lost.

In addition, this course involves the accumulation of knowledge and problem-solving skills in the same way a math course does. It is not a course where you cram a lot of information into your head at the last minute. To be successful in this course, you should come to class regularly and ask questions, do the problem sets and get feedback, and come to office hours for additional assistance.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class to comply with accreditation requirements, but it will not be a factor in the final grade. However, to be successful in this course, you should come to class regularly and ask questions.

If you are late for class or miss class for any reasons, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor or classmates to find out what you have missed and what you need to do for the following class.

Assignments for all students (J421/520)

Assigned Readings: Readings are due on the date listed on the syllabus. You must complete assigned readings before class so you can ask any questions during class.

Homework Assignments: There will be a total of 11 problem sets, about one per week. You may use textbooks and your notes to complete problem sets. You must submit your solutions (electronically or physically, typed or hand-written) at the beginning of the class on the due date. Students in J421 will have an additional

in-class assignment on April 25, during which they attend and evaluate graduate students' presentations. *One lowest assignment grade will be dropped.*

Exams: There will be two midterms and one final exam for this course. The final exam is cumulative.

Assignments for students in J520

Canvas Posts: Students are required to contribute to online discussion on each chapter by providing at least one post responding to the prompt and one reply to one of your classmates' posts. There are three requirements: (1) the post & reply are completed on time, (2) the post & reply must be *at least three sentences*; (3) the post should be responsive to the prompt; and (4) the post & reply should be always respectful of others. You will receive full credit for the given post & reply if they meet these criteria; otherwise, no credit is given.

Term Project: The term project can be on any topic but must include an analysis or a description of a linguistic phenomenon of your choice. You will have an in-class poster presentation during the last week of class and a full written paper due during the final exam week. See the separate handouts for more information.

Assignment	Due Date	J421 %	J520 %
Problem Sets	Varies	40	24
Midterm Exam #1	Tue, Feb 14, 4:45-6:00 PM	15	9
Midterm Exam #2	Tue, April 4, 4:45-6:00 PM	15	9
Final Exam	Fri, May 5, 10:20 AM - 12:20 PM	30	18
Canva Posts	Varies	-	5
Term Project	Wed, May 3, 11:59 PM	-	35

Final Grade

The grade is based entirely on how well the course requirements and expectations are fulfilled. No second chances or alternative work can be given. I do not grade on a curve. Grades are not negotiable.

Grade Dissemination

Grades will be posted in Canvas within **a week** of the due date. Since Canvas keeps track of all of your grades, you should always be able to calculate your current grade in the course. If you need assistance, please contact me.

Grading Scale

% of points	Grade
Above 97	A+
93–97	A
90–93	A-
87–90	B+
83–87	B
80–83	B-
77–80	C+
73–77	C
70–73	C-
67–70	D+
63–67	D
60–63	D-
60-0	F

Late work/extension

Late work will be accepted until the associated contents have been discussed or until 7 days past due, whichever is sooner. Five percent will be deducted for each day (24-hour period) past the original due date unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor and a new due date is established.

Make-up exams

Make-up exams should be completed within 7 days of the original date and will be only given if you cite unavoidable reasons (e.g., COVID-related absences, illness, religious or civic observances, threats to personal safety or security, and university-approved activities) or if you are scheduled to have three or more midterm/final exams on the same day. Please inform the instructor before the exam date or as early as possible.

Classroom Manners

Diversity is welcome in this class, and you are encouraged to bring in your own unique perspective coming from your background and to lend an ear to what others' have to say with an open mind. Disparaging or otherwise disrespectful language is strictly not tolerated. Any behavior that is disruptive to yourself (gaming, watching YouTube, online shopping, texting, working on homework) and others in class will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct at all times. Any inappropriate behavior, disruptive conduct (e.g., engaging in hostile or disrespectful commentary on the site, or discussing irrelevant evidence) or non-compliance with faculty directions can result in a charge of Academic and/or Personal Misconduct, the consequence of which could be a variety of sanctions either from the instructor or the Dean of Students. For more information see [The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct](#).

Syllabus Revision

The instructor reserves the right to revise or adjust the course syllabus and schedule to best accommodate the pace and needs of the students.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Sections	HW
1	1/10	Introduction		
	1/12	Phonetics Consonants	Ch2: 1, 1.1	
2	1/17	Vowels	Ch2: 1.2	
	1/19	Suprasegmentals	Ch2: 2	#1
3	1/24	Phonology Phonological Rules	Ch3: 1	
	1/26	Rendaku	Ch3: 2	#2
4	1/31	Mora, Syllable, Length	Ch3: 3, 4	
	2/2	Loanwords, Accentuation	Ch3: 5-6.1	#3
5	2/7	Accentuation, Mimetics	Ch3: 6.2-7	

	2/9	<i>Review</i>		#4
6	2/14	<i>Midterm #1</i>		
	2/16	Morphology		
		Parts of Speech	Ch4: 1	
7	2/21	Morphemes, Word Formation	Ch4: 2, 3	
	2/23	Transitive/Intransitive, Nominalization	Ch4: 4, 5	#5
8	2/28	Compounding	Ch4: 6, 6.1–6.3.1	
	3/2	Compounding	Ch4: 6.3.2–6.3.5	#6
9	3/7	Syntax		
		Phrase Structures	Ch5: 1	
	3/9	Word Order, Scrambling	Ch5: 2	#7
10	3/12-19	<i>Spring Break</i>		
11	3/21	Reflexives	Ch5: 3	#8
	3/23	Passives, Causatives	Ch5: 4, 5	
12	3/28	Relative Clauses, Light Verbs	Ch5: 6, 7	#9
	3/30	<i>Review</i>		
13	4/4	<i>Midterm #2</i>		
	4/6	Semantics		
		Word and Sentence Meaning	Ch6: 1–1.3	
14	4/11	Deixis, Mimetics	Ch6: 1.4, 1.5	
	4/13	Tense, Grammatical Aspect	Ch6: 2–2.2.1	
15	4/18	Lexical Aspect, Aspectual Verbs	Ch6: 2.2.2, 2.2.3	#10
	4/20	Pragmatics	Ch6: 4	
16	4/25	Graduate Student Project Showcase		#11
	4/27	<i>Review</i>		

Canvas Post deadlines (J520 only): Jan 19, Feb 9, Mar 2, Mar 30, Apr 20 at 11:59 PM

Term Paper deadline (J520 only): Wednesday, May 3 at 11:59 PM

Final Exam (J421 & 520): Friday, May 5, 10:20 AM – 12:20 PM