

Course description and policies

<i>Contact information:</i>	Jennifer Smith, 309 Smith Building jlsmith@email.unc.edu (962-1192 for emergencies only; leave msg with dept office)
<i>Office hours:</i>	W 1:00-3:00 and by appointment
<i>Class meets:</i>	TuTh 2:00-3:15, Dey 304
<i>Course readings:</i>	There is no textbook for this course. Assigned readings will be made available in class or online.
<i>Course web site:</i>	http://www.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling563.html Check the web site for announcements, relevant links, and a detailed course syllabus (updated after every class), as well as information about readings and assignments.

I. Overview

This course has two main goals:

- To examine the Japanese language from the perspective of linguistic analysis
 - What patterns can we find in Japanese language data?
 - How are those patterns similar to, or different from, those of English and other languages?
- To consider the influence of evidence from Japanese on the development of linguistic theory

Coursework includes introductory readings, readings from the primary linguistics research literature, and hands-on problem solving and analysis of Japanese data.

II. Prerequisites

You are welcome to take this course if you satisfy *at least one* of these prerequisites: completion of at least LING 101/Introduction to Language, or Japanese ability equivalent to at least JAPN 102/Elementary Japanese II, or permission of instructor.

III. Course requirements

Final grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and participation	5%	
Homework assignments (approx. 6)	25%	
Midterm exams (2)	40%	
Article summary	5%	
Final paper and presentation	25%	<i>Note: Some presentations held during final exam period</i>

❖ **Attendance and participation:** You are expected to attend class, to complete readings and assignments on time, and to participate in class discussion. (Assume that you will be called on!)

READINGS AND DATA SETS: Most days, a reading and/or a data set will be assigned as preparation for class discussion. Be prepared to discuss these: for a reading, make notes on the important points and understand the examples; for a data set, work through the data on your own before class and make notes about the patterns that you find. (Some data sets may require internet access. See the section on “web-based assignments” below.)

ATTENDANCE: Multiple absences will make it difficult for you to keep up with the course material and will lower your participation grade. If you have to miss class, it is your

responsibility to collect any missed materials or notes from me or from other students in the class. Always check the course web site for news and assignments if you have been absent.

❖ **Homework assignments:**

- There will be approximately 6 homework assignments, which usually involve a combination of data collection or interpretation and linguistic analysis.
- For some assignments, there is an alternative available, usually consisting of a theoretical linguistics paper to read and a set of study questions to answer. The alternative assignments will be mandatory for linguistics graduate students, and optionally available to other students who have completed the appropriate coursework in linguistics.
- Homework is due *at the beginning of class*. Hard copy is required unless prior permission is obtained to submit an assignment by e-mail.
- What happens when a homework assignment is not turned in: The first missing homework will contribute a 0 to your homework average. Each additional missing homework will both contribute a 0 to your homework average *and* lower your homework average by one grade level (e.g., B becomes B-).

EVALUATION:

- Homework assignments are evaluated on a scale from 0 to 4. A homework average of 4 is an A, 3 is a B, 2 is a C, etc.; intermediate values correspond to +/- grades.
- Your work will be scored according to the following criteria. If the assignment is messy, hard to read, or poorly organized, an additional point will be deducted.

4 points (✓+) The assignment has no or few errors and demonstrates that you understand the material well.

3 points (✓) The assignment indicates a good-faith effort, but it has more than a few incorrect answers or shows an incomplete understanding of the material.

2 points (✓-) The assignment is done superficially and/or is mostly incorrect.

0-1 point (0, -) Not turned in, turned in late, or turned in significantly incomplete.

WEB-BASED ASSIGNMENTS:

Some assignments require accessing web sites and/or listening to sound files. You are encouraged to have a pair of headphones, like those used for personal CD or MP3 players, available for when sound files are assigned. If accessing the internet or listening to sound files will be difficult for you for any reason, please contact me soon so that we can talk about your situation and devise special accommodations or alternative assignments if necessary.

COLLABORATION/CITATION POLICY FOR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

- You are encouraged to discuss assignments with other students in the class (the names of any collaborators should be included when an assignment is turned in). However, every student must write up his or her assignment independently.
- If you consult any reference materials other than course readings, handouts, the course web pages, or in-class notes for an assignment, you are required to list such outside references in your write-up. (This will generally not be necessary except for the final project or when otherwise explicitly stated.)
- Remember that the UNC Honor Code is in effect at all times (see end of handout).

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: As a general rule, *no late assignments will be accepted for credit*. Exceptions may sometimes be made in the following circumstances:

- (i) With *advance* permission (before the due date), an extension *may* be granted.

(ii) If a serious illness or other emergency unexpectedly causes you to be away from campus on the day an assignment is due, or otherwise makes you unable to complete an assignment, the assignment should be turned in at the earliest possible opportunity with a *written explanation* of the situation (or, even better, an e-mail to let me know what is going on as early as possible). On a case-by-case basis, such assignments *may* be accepted.

❖ **Midterm examinations:** There will be two in-class midterm examinations (see the “Schedule of Topics” web page for exam dates). If you have a conflict with an exam date, please let me know *in advance* so that we can schedule a make-up exam. If you miss an exam with no advance warning, I cannot guarantee that you will be allowed to make it up.

❖ **Article summary:** This assignment involves writing a critical summary of a linguistics research article focusing on some aspect of Japanese related to your final-paper topic. Details will be provided when the article summary is assigned.

❖ **Final paper and presentation:** Detailed information and due dates will be provided later in the semester, but the requirements are as follows.

- Paper topic proposal, with specific research question and preliminary references
- Written version of paper, at least 10 pages in length
- Class presentation of paper topic:
 - Linguistics graduate students will present during the final week of classes and will be expected to incorporate feedback into the written version of their paper.
 - For other students, there will be two officially scheduled presentation periods. One will be during the officially scheduled final-exam period; the other will be at a time prior to that, agreed upon by the class as a whole.
 - Please note that *attendance is mandatory* at the presentation sessions (and is factored into your final-project grade), because the presentation is the official final exam for this course.

IV. Readings on reserve for this course

For more about Japanese linguistics:

- McClure, W. 2000. *Using Japanese*. Cambridge U. Press. (PL642.M43)
- Tsujimura, N. 2007. *An introduction to Japanese linguistics*, 2ed. Blackwell. (PL523.T74)
- Tsujimura, N. 1999. *The handbook of Japanese linguistics*, 2ed. Blackwell. (PL523.H26)
- Shibatani, M. 1990. *The languages of Japan*. Cambridge U. Press. (PL523.S348)
- Yamaguchi, T. 2007. *Japanese linguistics: An introduction*. Continuum. (PL539.5.E5.Y36)

For more about linguistics in general:

If this is your first linguistics course, you may want to buy or borrow an introductory linguistics book that you can consult when you would like more information about particular terminology or concepts. One useful textbook is *Contemporary Linguistics*, which is on reserve for this course. (*Language Files* is another good alternative.)

- O’Grady, W., et al. 2004. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*, 9ed. Bedford/St. Martin’s. (P121.L3855)

+ Please remember that the Honor Code of the university, which prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid on course work, is in effect in this course.
+ See the full text of the Honor Code online at: <http://instrument.unc.edu/>
+ If you have any questions about what constitutes acceptable collaboration or acceptable use of reference material on assignments, please feel free to talk with me at any time.