

Course Number	Course Title History of the Japanese Language I	Credits 2	Instructor (s) Matthew Zisk
Keywords	Japanese language and literature, historical linguistics		
Course Description (including Goal and Objectives)	<p>The goal of this class is to give students a basic understanding of the how the Japanese language has developed and changed over the past 1,500 years. A large variety of topics will covered, such as the origin of the Japanese language, the origin and development of Japanese writing, phonological and grammatical changes, contact with other languages, Japanese dialects and accent, and language policy.</p> <p>Grading will be based primarily on attendance and participation in class. In addition to lecture, students will be assigned short reading assignments several times throughout the semester and asked to submit questions relating to the assignments by email. Students are also required to submit a 4-5 page take home exam at the end of the semester.</p>		
Course Schedule	1	Introduction	
	2	Origins of the Japanese language	
	3	Old Japanese (710-793) I: phonology	
	4	Old Japanese II: grammar, lexicon, dialects	
	5	Old Japanese III: orthography (the adoption of kanji)	
	6	Early Middle Japanese (794-1191) I: phonology	
	7	Early Middle Japanese II: grammar, lexicon, dialects	
	8	Early Middle Japanese III: orthography (kana usage, script types)	
	9	Early Middle Japanese IV: sinification (Chinese influence)	
	10	Late Middle Japanese (1192-1599) I: phonology	
	11	Late Middle Japanese II: grammar, lexicon, dialects	
	12	Early Modern Japanese (1600-1867) I: phonology	
	13	Early Modern Japanese II: grammar, lexicon, dialects	
	14	Modern Japanese dialects and dialect formation	
	15	Japanese language policy of the 20th century	
Textbook (s)	No textbook. Handouts are given in class.		
Reference (s)	Frellesvig, Bjarke. 2011. <i>A History of the Japanese Language</i> . Cambridge.		
Grading Method	Participation	40%	
	Take home examination	40%	
	Homework assignments	20%	
Message to Students	Have you ever wondered where the Japanese language came from, why the Japanese use three different writing systems, or why are there so many different dialects? I hope to answer these questions and many more in this class and raise your interest in the Japanese language!		
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