

Introduction to Japanese Linguistics I (言語学)◎

Introduction to Japanese Linguistics I(Linguistics)

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担当教員の所属：学士課程基盤教育院

担当教員の実務経験の有無：無

開講学年：1年,2年,3年,4年 開講学期：前期 単位数：2 開講形態：講義

【授業の目的】

In this class, we will study the basics of linguistics with a focus on the Japanese language.

【授業の到達目標】

The goal of this class is to give you a basic understanding of how the Japanese language functions from a linguistic perspective. Topics include the origin and affiliation of the Japanese language, its phonology, grammar and syntax, writing system, word formation processes, dialects and much more.

【授業概要 (キーワード)】

linguistics, Japanese linguistics, history of the Japanese language

【科目の位置付け】

This class provides a basic introduction to both Japanese linguistics and general linguistics.

【授業計画】

・ 授業の方法

Each week, students will read about various topics related to Japanese linguistics in the textbook (typically around 10 pages per week) and then we will discuss those topics in further detail in class.

・ 日程

Weekly schedule

04/11: Introduction to Japanese and general linguistics

04/18: Origins and typology of the Japanese language (units 1.1-1.2)

04/25: Phonetics and phonology I - vowels, consonants, timing, phonotactics (2.1-2.5)

05/02: Tuesday schedule - No class!

05/9: Phonetics and phonology II - historical overview of phonology (unit 2.9)

05/16: Grammar and syntax I - overview of parts of speech, verbal morphology (units 3.1, 3.3, 3.7-3.8)

05/23: Grammar and syntax II - historical overview of grammar (unit 3.14)

05/30: Writing and orthography I: kanji (units 4.1-4.5)

06/06: Writing and orthography II: hiragana, katakana and Latin alphabet (units 4.6-4.7)

06/13: Lexicon and word formation I: lexical strata, mimetics (units 5.1-5.2)

06/20: Lexicon and word formation I: word formation processes (units 5.3-5.6)

06/27: Language and society I: honorifics and anti-honorifics (units 6.3-6.4)

07/04: Language and society II: registers, role language, language in subculture (units 6.1-6.2, 6.5)

07/11: Language contact and dialects: Sino-Japanese and Western loanwords (units 7.1-7.3)

07/18: Language contact and dialects: major Japanese dialects (units 7.7-7.11)

07.25: Final presentations

*Note: Adjustments may be made to the above schedule to accommodate students' interests. Please let me know if there is a specific topic that you are interested in.

【学習の方法・準備学修に必要な学修時間の目安】

・ 受講のあり方

Students are expected to read the assigned units of the textbook and show up to class prepared to engage in discussions about the topics of the day.

・ 授業時間外学習 (予習・復習) のアドバイス

Students are to read the assigned units from the textbook and answer practice questions provided by the instructor each week for homework. You must submit the answers to the questions by 8:00pm the night before class via Google Classroom. In addition to asking your own questions, I also encourage you to comment on other students' questions. I will spend 15-20 minutes at the beginning of each class responding to your answers and taking any additional questions that you may have.

【成績の評価】

・ 基準

Students will be evaluated based on their participation in class, their weekly homework assignments and a final presentation, in which students will present about one of the topics covered in class.

・ 方法

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Class participation: 30%

Homework assignments: 30%

Final presentation: 40%

【テキスト・参考書】

Irwin, Mark & Zisk, Matthew. 2019. Japanese Linguistics. Tokyo: Asakura Publishing.

https://www.asakura.co.jp/detail.php?book_code=51681

【その他】

・ 学生へのメッセージ

When studying Japanese as a second language (or even your first language!), students often struggle to understand the rules or the reasons behind different phenomena of the language. I hope that through this class you will gain a deeper understanding of how the Japanese language works by analyzing the language from a linguistic perspective.

Japanese students are also welcome to take this class! Don't worry if your English is not too strong. I will do my best to explain everything in simple terms and you can submit your assignments in Japanese too!

日本人学生も大歓迎です！できるだけシンプルな単語で説明しますので、英語が得意でなくても大丈夫です。課題も日本語で出せます！

・ オフィス・アワー

Since I am not a full-time faculty of Yamagata University (my main position is at Tohoku University), I do not hold office hours in Yamagata. However, you can meet with me before or after class, or over Zoom, if you have any questions or concerns about the class.