

Course Number	Course Title Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	Credits 2	Instructor(s) Matthew Zisk
Keywords	Japanese language and linguistics, history of the Japanese language, Modern Japanese		
Course Description (including Goal and Objectives)	<p>The goal of this class is to give you a basic understanding of how the Japanese language functions from a linguistics perspective as well as presenting you with a background of the history of the language and dialects. Topics include the origin of the Japanese language, Japanese phonology, the origin and development of the Japanese writing system, grammar, language contact, Japanese dialects, language policy and the history of research on the Japanese language.</p> <p>In addition to the content covered in class, you will be given reading assignments on Japanese linguistics each week for homework, for which you are required to send me questions about by email. Grades will be based on a combination of class participation, homework questions and a take-home final exam.</p>		
Course Schedule	1	Introduction to Japanese linguistics	
	2	Origins of the Japanese language	
	3	Prehistory and Old Japanese (up until 8th century)	
	4	Early Middle Japanese (9th–12th century)	
	5	Late Middle Japanese (13th–16th century)	
	6	Early Modern Japanese (17th–19th century)	
	7	Modern Japanese phonology and phonetics	
	8	Modern Japanese grammar and syntax	
	9	Modern Japanese orthography and writing	
	10	Modern Japanese lexicon and word formation	
	11	Japanese sociolinguistics	
	12	Language contact between Japanese and other languages	
	13	Japanese dialects and dialect formation	
	14	Japanese language policy of the late 19th–20th century	
	15	History of research on the Japanese language	
Textbook(s)	Irwin & Zisk. 2019. <i>Japanese Linguistics</i> . Asakura Shoten. + handouts		
Reference(s)	Textbook will be published in May 2019. Until then, handouts will be used.		
Grading Method	Attendance and participation	40%	
	Take home examination	30%	
	Homework assignments	30%	
Message to Students	Have you ever wondered where the Japanese language came from, why the Japanese use three different writing systems or why certain words are spelled differently than they are pronounced? I hope to answer all of these questions and more about the Japanese language in this class!		
Contacts	Instructor: Matthew Zisk Tel: 0238-26-3340 Email: zisk@yz.yamagata-u.ac.jp		