

Course Number	Course Title Introduction to Japanese Linguistics	Credits 2	Instructor Matthew Zisk
Keywords	Japanese language, Japanese linguistics, history of the Japanese language		
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 linguistic perspective. Topics include the origin of the language, phonology, orthography and writing, grammar, lexicon, sociolinguistics, language contact, dialects and government language policy.</p> <p>Each week, you will be asked to read and answer questions about a portion of the textbook (usually 5-10 pages). We will then cover the topics introduced in the textbook in further detail in class the following week. Grades will be based on a combination of participation, homework questions and a final presentation in which you will create a PowerPoint summarizing and expanding upon one of the topics we covered in class.</p> <p>This class will be taught online using Google Classroom and Zoom initially and then in-person once all students have arrived in Japan.</p>		
Course Schedule	1	Introduction	
	2	Origins and typology of the Japanese language	
	3	Phonetics and phonology I: vowels, consonants, timing, phonotactics	
	4	Phonetics and phonology II: historical overview	
	5	Grammar and syntax I: overview of parts of speech, verbal morphology	
	6	Grammar and syntax II: historical overview	
	7	Writing and orthography I: kanji	
	8	Writing and orthography II: hiragana and katakana	
	9	Lexicon and word formation I: derivation, compounding, rendaku	
	10	Lexicon and word formation II: onomatopoeia and mimetics	
	11	Language and society I: honorifics and anti-honorifics	
	12	Language and society II: language in subculture	
	13	Language contact and dialects I: Sino-Japanese and Western loanwords	
	14	Language contact and dialects II: Major Japanese dialects	
	15	Final presentations	
	*Note: The order and content of each individual lesson is subject to change		
Textbook	Irwin, Mark & Zisk, Matthew. 2019. <i>Japanese Linguistics</i> . Asakura Shoten.		
Reference(s)	https://zaonotes.com/students/		
Grading Method	Participation	25%	
	Homework questions	25%	
	Final presentation	50%	
Message to Students	Have you ever wondered where the Japanese language comes from, why the Japanese use three different writing systems or what are the differences between the major Japanese dialects? I hope to answer all of these questions and many more that you may have about the Japanese language in this class.		
Contacts	Instructor: Matthew Zisk Email: zisk@tohoku.ac.jp		