

Japanese Culture and Communication II

Fall 2015 / Mon 10:30–12:00

Instructor

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Office hours: Mon 3:00-5:00 or by appointment

Goal of the course

In this course we will learn the diversity of languages in Japan and its relationship with culture and society. The first half of the course deals with sociolinguistic topics of the Japanese language, such as politeness and gender. The second half of the course will take a wider perspective and discuss regional, social and historical variations of the languages in Japan.

The goal of the course is not to learn the miscellaneous facts about Japan and the Japanese language, nor to learn how to communicate better. Rather, this course aims to better understand how language, culture and society interact through examples from Japan.

Course website

<http://asaokitan.net/courses/culture2015/>

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. Course materials will be uploaded to the website. Useful side readings may be introduced in class.

Schedule (tentative)

The schedule is tentative and subject to minor changes. Changes will be announced in class and posted on the website.

2015

- Oct 5 (no class - opening ceremony)
Oct 12 (no class - Health and Sports Day)
Oct 19 **Introduction**
Oct 26 **Guest talk 1:** Daisuke Yokomori (Kyushu U)
Repetitions and information receiving in conversation
Nov 2 **Language and culture**
Nov 9 **Greetings and address terms**
Nov 16 **Honorifics and politeness**
Nov 23 (class? / Labor Thanksgiving Day)
Nov 30 **Gender and language**
Dec 7 **Minority languages in Japan**
Dec 14 **Guest talk 2:** Yuka Hayashi (Osaka U) (tentative; date may change)
title TBA
Dec 21 **Dialects**
Dec 24 (backup / Labor Thanksgiving Day)
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2016

- Jan 11 (no class - Coming of Age Day)
Jan 18 **Language change and society**
Jan 25 **'Role language' and language in fiction and media**
Feb 1 (class?)
Feb 8 (class?)
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Guest lectures

There will be two guest lectures. active researchers of subfields of language and communication.

Grading**Attendance and participation (30%)**

You will be asked to attend every class and actively participate in class discussions. You need to submit a reaction paper at the end of each class. Typically, you will be asked to write a paragraph or two to present your own opinions and/or questions on the class topic.

Quizzes (30%)

You will be asked to show your understanding of the basic facts and ideas discussed in class. Quiz dates will be announced in advance.

Final project (40%)

In the final project, you will discuss a class topic in more depth. The project must involve some form of your own data collection. Details will be announced later.