

FJ486E Japanese Language and Society AY2015 Spring

Associate Professor Erica Zimmerman
Class Schedule: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd periods, MWF
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Class Website: www.nihongoganbaru.com
Office Hours and EI: By appointment (I will usually be in the office until 15:30 pm, MWF)

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Course description

FJ486E, taught in English, explores various sociolinguistic aspects of the Japanese language and culture. The topics that will be covered are the following: Language policy and society, male/female speech, aizuchi (appropriate strategies for listening), addressee honorifics/plain form, being a foreigner in Japan, and identity construction. For each topic, there will be connections made to appropriate cultural and conversational actions needed for communication in Japanese.

Course materials

Textbook: Gottlieb, N., (2005). Language and Society in Japan, Cambridge University Press.
Articles provided by the professor.

Goals

FJ486E course will enable midshipmen

1. To understand the degree to which languages and cultures can vary and of what is distinctive about the Japanese language and culture from a sociolinguistic perspective.
2. To recognize the complexities of socio-cultural aspects of the Japanese language.

Objectives

Midshipmen will

1. Discuss sociolinguistic topics and make connections between the language and culture.
2. Compare sociolinguistic issues for Japan with English and other languages as introduced and explored in class.
3. Analyze, synthesize and write in a coherent concise manner demonstrating an understanding of the topics discussed.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Class preparation and participation 20%

1. Read the chapter/article and prepared two (or more questions) about the article that you do not understand.
2. Be prepared to discuss the chapter/article and full participate in discussions.
3. Internet search on a relevant area for the day's topic. The link should be shared before class in our **Google Docs** folder. This link should not be Wikipedia or other cites like this. I also caution you not to just pick the first website you find. Be selective. It should further our understanding of the readings. See my handout based on the following internet page to evaluate the website. <http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic32.htm>

Discussion leader**20%**

1. Prepare a short summary of the article (one page or less) to be handed out.
2. Be prepared to answer questions (I will help you when you get stuck)
3. Internet search: Bring one link that provides more information about the reading.

Article Review (2)**20%**

1. Select two articles from either the list (not shaded in gray) or from a search on google scholar to review. If you choose your own, please send me the link to an abstract for my approval.
2. Write a 3-4 page review of the article. This review should include the following:
 - a. Introduction (state the thesis of the article)
 - b. Summarize the research questions
 - c. Summarize the data and methodology
 - d. Analysis of the arguments
 - e. Evaluation of paper
 - f. Conclusions

Websites for examples:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-an-Article-Review>

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/~jewel001/CollegeWriting/WRITEREAD/CritReview/samples.htm>

<http://www2.uncp.edu/home/marson/Personal/Syllabi/3610%20example%20of%20article.htm>

6th and 12th week exams**20%****Final Research Paper and Presentation****20%**

See handout for more details

Late or missed assignments exams

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact the professor to make up the work. If you do not turn in an assignment on time, you will be marked down by at least one letter grade.

Outside documents and source

1. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source to be cited for your paper. It may be a starting point but never an ending point.
2. A guide to documenting sources and the USNA plagiarism statement visit the following website: <http://libguides.usna.edu/content.php?pid=344689&sid=2819857>
3. Google scholar <http://scholar.google.com/>
4. USNA Library Electronic Resources for language and linguistics
<http://libguides.usna.edu/content.php?pid=134849&sid=5321340#19859332>

Extra Instruction

I highly recommend that you make an appointment to see me at least once during the semester to discuss your progress and/or to get tips for effective studying practices for Japanese. If you do make an appointment, I expect you to come at the appointed time. If for some reason, you are unable to make the appointment, I expect you to contact me. I prefer email the night before. However, if there are circumstances beyond your control, a phone call or email **before** you miss the appointment is expected.

Classroom Behavior

1. If you want to bring a drink, that is acceptable. Otherwise, please do not eat during class. If you are eating, it will be distracting to the discussion.
2. We will respect all ideas and opinions of all members. We may not always agree however, we will be open to different interpretations.

Academic Integrity and collaboration

Cheating will **NOT** be tolerated on the papers or tests. If I discover that you have been cheating, I will give you an F on that test or paper. I will let you know if it is okay to collaborate on any homework assignments. A guide to plagiarism can be found here:
<http://libguides.usna.edu/content.php?pid=344689&sid=2819857>

Course is subject to change. If there are changes, this will be documented either via revised syllabus (for major changes) or email (for minor changes)

**Proposed Schedule
AY2015 Spring**

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1		1月7日 Introduction	1月9日 What is the Japanese language?
Week 2	1月12日	1月14日	1月16日
Week 3	1月20日 Tuesday is Monday	1月21日	1月23日
Week 4	1月26日	1月28日	1月30日
Week 5	2月2日	2月4日 6 th Week exam	2月6日 Male/Female Speech
Week 6 Academic Reserve	2月9日	2月11日	2月13日
Week 7	2月16日 No Class President's Day	2月18日	2月20日 Aizuchi
Week 8	2月23日	2月25日	2月27日
Week 9	3月2日 Addressee Honorifics/Plain Form	3月4日	3月6日
Week 10	3月9日	3月11日	3月13日 Video
Spring Break	3月16日 No Class	3月18日 No Class	3月20日 No Class
Week 11	3月23日	3月25日 12 th Week Exam	3月27日 Being a foreigner in Japan
Week 12 Academic Reserve	3月30日	4月1日	4月3日
Week 13	4月6日 Identity Construction	4月8日	4月10日
Week 14	4月13日	4月15日	4月17日
Week 15	4月20日 Meeting with professor about projects	4月22日 Work on Projects	4月24日 Work on Projects
Week 16	4月27日 Preparation for Presentations	4月29日 Practice for presentations Turn in Final Paper	