



WLLC 4980: Introduction to Japanese Linguistics

Department of World Languages,
Literatures & Cultures
LANG 101, 940-565-2404

Instructor Information

Ryan Redmond
LANG 405
(940) 565-2404
Ryan.redmond@unt.edu

Office Hours:

Wednesdays, 12pm – 2pm
and by appointment

Introduction/Course Objectives:

This course will introduce the basic foundations of Japanese linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics. In addition to covering both theoretical and applied aspects of Japanese linguistics, this course also focuses on some of the more unique aspects of Japanese grammar that will help Japanese learners become more competent speakers.

Although this course is conducted in English and no prior Japanese experience is required for enrollment, students at lower communicative levels may have difficulty with more advanced topics. For this reason, group collaboration is highly encouraged on in-class assignments and tests will include all necessary language information included.

At the end of this course students should be able to analyze and discuss

- (a) the phonetic/phonological properties of sounds in Japanese using IPA
- (b) the word formation processes in Japanese
- (c) the syntactic properties of Japanese clauses/sentences
- (d) semantic vs. pragmatic meaning in Japanese
- (e) the social factors that interplay with language use
- (f) the history of writing and the characteristics of Japanese writing system

Required Texts:

Tsujimura, Natsuko. *An Introduction to Japanese Linguistics*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2013 (3rd edition).
Vance, Timothy J. *The Sounds of Japanese*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following percentage breakdown:

Attendance and participation	20%
In-class assignments	20%
Homework assignments	20% (4% x 5 assignments)
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Attendance and participation:

Attendance will be taken every day. Each student is permitted one unexcused absence per semester. For each subsequent absence, you will receive a score of zero for that day's attendance and participation. Decisions regarding authorized absences are made in accordance with UNT Policy 06.039 Student Attendance and Authorized Absences. <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039> Furthermore, all absences pre-approved by the UNT Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will also be honored.

Participation is expected every day. Required readings will be uploaded to Canvas and will be included on the schedule. Readings listed on a certain date should be read *before* class that day. Please have the readings printed out, highlighted/notated, and in front of you when we are discussing them. Although this course will often contain a lecture, group discussion will be frequent in the class. This is not only an excellent way to receive feedback about the course material, but to better opine on the assigned topics in a collaborative manner.

In-class assignments:

There will be in-class assignments on designated days. These serve to reinforce material and may be completed in groups.

Homework assignments:

There will be five homework assignments over the span of this course. These are not intended to be overly-difficult and will serve as activities and practice for topics we cover in class.

Midterm:

The midterm exam will contain a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and essay questions. The exam will include content covered.

Final Exam:

The final exam for this course is the end of the semester. The questions will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and essay format. Although said questions will cover topics from the entire session, the focus will be on the final ½ of the course material.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault:

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (and/or someone you know) have experienced or experienced any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/>

The UNT Survivor Advocates can be reached by emailing SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or calling 940-565-2648. The UNT Survivor Advocates connect students who have been impacted by violence to resources (counseling, health, safety, academics, legal, etc.), and act as their advocate. They can assist a student by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change (if needed), and connecting students to the many other resources that are available, both on and off campus. They are here to help! For more information see <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/>

Resources, Extra Help & Disability Accommodation:

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To

learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go to <https://www.unt.edu/success>.

Honor Society:

UNT has a chapter of the Japanese National Honor Society (JNHS). The mission of the society is to recognize our outstanding students and encourage their scholastic achievement and excellence in the study of Japanese language. In addition, we aim to promote ways for students to use Japanese on campus and in the community. Networking during college years and in post-graduation is one of the important aspects of JNHS-College Chapter at UNT.

Certificates of Excellence and red-and-white cords to wear at graduation will be given to students who are granted membership in the society. The following is the criteria for the membership of JNHS in addition to the active participation in Japanese Scholars' Society, a student organization for activities and individual projects. For information, email: yayoi.takeuchi@unt.edu

- ❑ Completion of five Japanese language semester courses
- ❑ Japanese language course GPA: 3.5
- ❑ Overall GPA: 3.0

Office Hours:

Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. I encourage you to contact your instructor for support. Your success is our goal. Visit your instructor during office hours for individual help or study suggestions. If the scheduled times don't work for you, email for an appointment.

Canvas Site:

You can download the PowerPoint from each lesson from our class site on Canvas. You will also find helpful links, activities, etc. Log in at: <https://unt.instructure.com>.

Tutors:

The Department of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures provides free tutoring. See Canvas for times and starting date. Tutoring goes through pre-finals week.

Also, the Learning Center has volunteer tutors that will work with you individually at no charge. Request a tutor at: <https://learningcenter.unt.edu/tutoring/index.html>.

Lab:

For student printing services, computers to use, etc.

- GAB 330 or GAB 550 (Check the website for the GAB lab hours): https://itservices.cas.unt.edu/services/lab/student-view?field_building_target_id=256&lab_type=All&macs=All
- Willis Library (Check the hours on the library website): <https://library.unt.edu/willis/>

Willis Library:

The Willis Library has quite a few resources for additional study. The "Japanese Graded Readers" are particularly recommended. Browse through the area on the third floor around PL539!

Disability Accommodation:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the student will request their letter of accommodation. ODA will provide faculty with a reasonable accommodation letter via email to begin a private discussion regarding a student's specific needs in a course. Students may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding their accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Support:

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to <https://unt.edu/success> and explore <https://unt.edu/wellness>. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to <https://scrappysays.unt.edu>.

Academic Honesty:

Students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of guidelines for your academic success (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email your instructor or come discuss.

Homework assignments and tests should be true representations of your effort and learning. Plagiarism (i.e., copying another person's work and presenting it as your own work) or cheating (i.e., providing answers for someone else or getting answers from someone else) are prohibited. In addition, we ask that no online translation tools are used when completing writing assignments. Consequences of any breach of academic integrity may include lowering of grade and/or failure of the assignment and/or the course.

Teachers Prohibiting the Use of Generative AI:

The use of generative AI is strictly prohibited in this course. For all assignments, any use of AI tools is NOT permitted.

- **Generative AI Use Is Prohibited:** The use of generative AI is strictly prohibited in this course.
- **Closed Book Exam/Quiz:** The use of AI tools is not permitted.
- **Writing Assignments:** The use of generative AI tools is not permitted on writing assignments in this course. By submitting a writing assignment, you attest that you are the only and original author.

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT):

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available

November 11 – December 4 to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the Fall 2025 semester, you will receive an email on November 11 (12:01 a.m.) from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey, you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at <https://vpaa.unt.edu/spot> or email spot@unt.edu. We work to continually improve our courses, so we appreciate your feedback!

Emergency Class Cancellation:

In the event of a class cancellation due to the weather, illness, or other emergency, you should follow the instructions announced on Canvas by your instructor and/or the coordinator. Since our course schedule is so packed, we will deviate as little as possible from the schedule. You should look through the PowerPoint online and complete your homework following the schedule in the syllabus. Any quiz or test would be postponed until the next class meeting unless otherwise announced. We will communicate any schedule changes on Canvas, so check for announcements there.

Contents of this syllabus, with the exception of grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Date	Topic	Homework	Readings
8/18	Course Introduction & History of Japanese		
8/20	What is linguistics?		Language Files 1.0 – 1.3
8/22	Phonetics		Language Files 2.0 – 2.1
8/25	Phonetics – Sounds of Japanese – Vowels		Vance 3.1 – 3.4
8/27	Phonetics – Sounds of Japanese – Consonants		Vance 4.1 – 4.6
8/29	Phonetics – Sounds of Japanese – Consonants		Vance 5.1 – 5.6
9/1	Phonetics – Formants & Acoustics		Language Files 2.6
9/3	Phonetics – Formants & Acoustics 2		Language Files 2.6
9/5	Phonology	Phonetics HW	Language Files 3.0, 3.2
9/8	Phonology – Contrastivity		Language Files 3.3 – 3.5
9/10	Phonology – Rules		Vance 2.1 – 2.7
9/12	Phonology – Suprasegmentals & pitch accent		Vance 7.1 – 7.3, 7.7 – 7.8
9/15	Phonology – Syllables, morae, & other topics		Vance 6.1 – 6.7
9/17	Morphology	Phonology HW	Language Files 4.0 Tsujimura 4.1
9/19	Morphology – Bound vs. Free morphemes		Tsujimura 4.2
9/22	Morphology – Word formation & derivation		Tsujimura 4.3
9/24	Morphology – Verb pairs & compounding		Tsujimura 4.4 – 4.6
9/26	Morphology – Problem sets		Language Files 4.5
9/29	Syntax		Language Files 5.0 – 5.1
10/1	Syntax – Constituency		Tsujimura 5.1
10/3	Syntax – Phrase Structure & Trees		Tsujimura 5.2
10/6	Syntax – Trees		Language Files 5.0
10/8	Midterm Review	Syntax HW	
10/10	Midterm		
10/13	Semantics		Language Files 6.0
10/15	Semantics – Polysemy		Irwin & Zisk 5.9
10/17	Semantics –Tense & Aspect		Iwasaki 7.1 & 7.2
10/20	Pragmatics		Language Files 5.0
10/22	Pragmatics – Speech Acts, Maxims		Tsujimura 6.4
10/24	Pragmatics – Particles, <i>Aizuchi</i>		Iwasaki 14.3 – 14.4
10/27	Writing System		Irwin & Zisk 4.1 – 4.5
10/29	Writing System		Irwin & Zisk 4.6 – 4.9, 4.12 – 4.14
10/31	Sociolinguistics	Writing HW	Language Files 10.1 & 10.5
11/3	Sociolinguistics – Dialect		Tsujimura 7.1
11/5	Sociolinguistics – Personal Indexical Terms		Iwasaki 15.1
11/7	Sociolinguistics – Politeness & Honorifics		Iwasaki 15.2 – 15.4 Irwin & Zisk 6.4
11/10	Sociolinguistics – Gender & Register		Iwasaki 15.5 – 15.6
11/12	Sociolinguistics – Sociophonetics		Ohara (1999)
11/14	Language & Media – Role Language		Hiramoto (2010)

11/17	Language & Media – Gender		Redmond (in review) Ueno (2004)
11/19	Language & Media – Language in Translation		Hiramoto (2009)
11/21	Language Acquisition & Applied Linguistics		Language Files 8.0 Irwin & Zisk 8.8 – 8.11
12/1	Non-verbal Communication		Irwin & Zisk 6.7 Redmond (2020)
12/3	Final Exam Prep		