- **Course overview**
- **Introduction to Japanese**
- **Introduction to linguistics**

0. Today's plan

- Course information

- Introduction to…
  - Japanese
  - Linguistics

- Writing vs. language

1. Course information

This is **LING/JAPN 563, Structure of Japanese**
Welcome!

- I am **Jen Smith** [my web site]

  - You may call me Jen or use a title, as you prefer
  - If you use a title: please use Dr. Smith or Prof. Smith

- This course includes both lecture/discussion and in-class group discussion and problem-solving

1. Course information

- **Course web site**: https://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling563.html

  - Linked from Canvas "Home" and main "Page"

- Check the "**Daily syllabus**" page after every class to find out about new readings and assignments

  - Today's entry has the "Course info and policies" handout — ***download and keep in a safe place***

  Remember to REFRESH your web browser
  to get the latest version of a web page

1. Course information

Some key course policies

- See the "[Course info and policies]" handout

    - Grading information

    - What to expect for assignments

    - Exam dates

    - Final project information

        ...and more

1. Course information

Who is this course for?

- **Linguistics students** — to learn about Japanese
  - A non-Indo-European language; typologically pretty different from English
  - Influential in the development of linguistic theory

- **Students of Japanese** — to learn how to analyze its structure systematically
  - One major goal of linguistics is to find and explain patterns in language structure
  - We will often compare Japanese with English
    → A useful perspective for language learning, teaching

1. Course information

FC: "Ways of Knowing"

- How this course will address Learning Outcomes:

(a) Learning about and applying linguistic analysis

- Recognize and use one or more approach(es) to developing and validating knowledge of the unfamiliar world.
- Evaluate ways that temporal, spatial, scientific, and philosophical categories structure knowledge.

1. Course information

(b) Applying linguistic analysis to Japanese data

- Interrogate assumptions that underlie our own perceptions of the world.
- Employ strategies to mitigate or adjust for preconceptions and biases.
- Apply critical insights to understand patterns of experience and belief.

- Linguistics students: What problems does Japanese pose for "classic" approaches to linguistic analysis?

- Language students: How can applying linguistics concepts provide new perspectives on Japanese?

1. Course information

Getting to know each other

- A few quick surveys! (raise hand)

- Introductions:

  - Your **name** (as you would like to be called in class)
  - Anything else you would like the class to know in order for us to interact with you respectfully
  - Your connection to Japanese or Japan, if any, *and/or* a fun fact about you

2. Introduction to Japanese and linguistics

- Handout - "[Basic background: Japanese and linguistics](#)"

  - Basic facts on Japan and Japanese

  - Key research questions and subfields of the discipline of linguistics

  - Digital tech: Using kana charts and viewing Japanese text in your web browser

- Handout - "[Basic background: Japanese and linguistics]"

- Let's try a couple of concrete examples:

  - *Language students* (with no linguistics background): What is something about Japanese that you found surprising and/or hard to learn?

  - *Linguistics students* (with no Japanese background): What subfield of linguistics is the example from?

3. A bit about writing and transliteration

- Linguistics students: What are some differences between *writing* and *language*?

3. A bit about writing and transliteration

- **Language**
    - Developed via evolution; has a biological aspect
    - Is acquired by children naturalistically, from the language environment

- **Writing** (and reading)
    - Records language — but not all details!
    - Is cultural / a technology — invented by humans
    - Must be taught explicitly, at least for many

- Be careful not to **equate** *writing* with *language*

3. A bit about writing and transliteration

- Japanese language students: What is the Japanese writing system like? (Explain it to the students who don't know Japanese.)

- **Handout** -
  "Writing Japanese: Kanji, kana and transliteration"

- Class kana charts

4. Getting ready for the next class

- Visit the <u>Daily Syllabus</u> page on the course web site

  - What readings are due?
  - What activities or assignments are due?

- Preview (time permitting):

  Handout - "<u>Context: Phonetics and phonology</u>"