

Today's topics:

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

0. Today's objectives

After today's class, you should be able to:

- Describe the goals, structure, and requirements of this course
 - And know where to go to find the details
- Develop a very basic familiarity with Japanese geography and demographics
- Develop a very basic familiarity with key terms and fundamental goals in linguistics
- Begin asking questions about Japanese in a linguistics context

1. Course information

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

- I am Jen Smith [[my website](#)]
 - You can call me Jen or use a title, as you prefer
 - If you use a title, please use Dr. Smith or Prof. Smith

1. Course information

- Course website:
<https://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling563.html>
 - Linked from Canvas “Home” and main “Page”
- Check the “[Daily information](#)” 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 webpage**

1. Course information

Some key course policies

- See the “[Course info and policies](#)” handout
 - Components of the course grade
 - Collaboration policy
 - AI policy
 - Weather cancellations

...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.*
- *For linguistics students:* What issues does Japanese pose for “classic” approaches to linguistic analysis?
- *For language students:* How does applying concepts from linguistics provide new perspectives?

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

2. Introduction to Japanese and linguistics

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

- Let's try a couple of concrete examples:
 - *Language students*: What is something about Japanese that you found surprising or difficult?
 - *Linguistics students*: What subfield of linguistics is the example from?

3. Getting ready for the next class

- Check the [Daily Information](#) page (course website)
 - What readings are due?
 - What activities or assignments are due?
- Preview (time permitting):
 - Class [kana charts](#)
 - Handout - "[Context: Phonetics and phonology](#)"