

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

# 0. Getting oriented with Zoom

- **Welcome to Structure of Japanese!**

While you're waiting for class to start, try these Zoom tools:

- Mute and unmute your microphone
- Raise and lower your "Zoom hand"
- Turn the "Chat" view on and off
- Set your "name" to show what you would like to be called

- **During class:**

- Turning your **camera** on is **optional**
- Please **mute** your **microphone** unless you want to **talk**
- To participate, **raise your Zoom hand** or use the **chat**

**\*\*\* Always join Zoom via SSO \*\*\***

Log in at [unc.zoom.us](https://unc.zoom.us) or click "SSO" in login box

# 0. Today's plan

- Course information
- Introduction to...
  - Japanese
  - Linguistics
- Work groups:
  - Phonetic description of Japanese vowels

# 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 is remote (mostly) synchronous
  - Zoom info & policies [ [Resources/policies for remote learning](#) ]
  - Outline, handouts, data sets posted shortly before class [ [Daily syllabus](#) ]
  - Recording with captions posted within about one day [ [Daily syllabus](#) ] — access requires Sakai login

# 1. Course information

- **Course web site:**

- <https://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling563.html>

- Linked from Sakai “Overview”

- 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

## Getting to know each other a little

- Note: Turning video on for this exercise is optional — you can still use “reactions” with your video off
- Try setting up your display to see everyone at once
  - Click on the top of the talking-head box to select “Gallery view” (looks like 3 stacked bars)
  - Click and drag the window with the Zoom boxes until it fills most of your screen — try to get as many participants visible as possible
- Time for a few quick surveys of the class!



## 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
  - A preview: Using kana charts and viewing Japanese text in your web browser

## 2. Introduction to Japanese and linguistics

- 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?

## 2. Introduction to Japanese and linguistics

- Handout - “Context: Phonetics and phonology”
- We'll start with **phonetics** this week
  - What **vowels** occur in Japanese?
  - What **consonants** occur in Japanese?
  - How can we **describe** these speech sounds?
  - How are they **different** from sounds in English?

### 3. Phonetic description of Japanese vowels

- Many class meetings involve problem solving or discussion in **work groups** (using breakout rooms)
  - Work groups are designed to include a mix of people with backgrounds in linguistics and Japanese language
  - Most activities need contributions from both!
- Today's work group assignments are preliminary (I may adjust when all "background surveys" are in)

### 3. Phonetic description of Japanese vowels

What to do in your work groups:

- **Handout** - “[Phonetics: Vowels of Japanese](#)”
  - Open this handout on your own device  
(also linked from [Daily syllabus](#) page on course web site)
- *Japanese speakers*: Demonstrate the **pronunciation** of the vowels of Japanese for your group
- *Linguistics students*: Guide your group in filling out the **vowel chart** with appropriate IPA symbols
  - Someone should share screen in breakout room
  - Everyone can “annotate” the shared screen

### 3. Phonetic description of Japanese vowels

- **Debriefing:** What did work groups figure out?
  - What are good choices for **IPA symbols** for the vowels of Japanese?
  - How can we describe these vowels in terms of **height, backness, and rounding?**
- Height and backness: See this [X-ray video](#)  
From Peter Ladefoged's *Vowels & Consonants* web site, via YouTube
- Rounding: See this [comparison](#) of French and Japanese high back vowels  
From Vance (2008), *The sounds of Japanese*, figures 3.2 and 3.3

### 3. Phonetic description of Japanese vowels

- **Debriefing:** What did work groups figure out?
  - What are good choices for **IPA symbols** for the vowels of Japanese?
  - How can we describe these vowels in terms of **height, backness, and rounding**?
- What **additional properties** are important for describing the phonetics of Japanese vowels?
- How are Japanese vowels different from similar vowels in English?

To review vowel phonetics: Tsujimura (2014: Ch 2), sec 1.2

## 4. Getting ready for the next class

- Visit the [Daily Syllabus](#) page on the course web site
  - What readings are due?
  - What activities or assignments are due?
- Remember to join Zoom securely!
  - Use Zoom through <https://unc.zoom.us>
  - Or choose “SSO” in the login box