

JAPANESE 631

HISTORY OF JAPANESE

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office hours T 3:00-3:50 pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

JPN 631 is a brief introduction into the history of the Japanese language up to approximately 1830s. It covers all language levels, although we will focus more on phonology, morphology, and lexicon, as these levels underwent most significant changes starting from the Heian period. We will discuss both history of the written language and prehistory, where we will center on comparative method and internal reconstruction as tools to reconstruct pre-written stages of the language. Some time will be also dedicated to the genetic affiliation of Japanese and its external relationship to other languages.

TEXTBOOKS:

(required)

Campbell, Lyle. *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Oxford U Press, 1994.
沖森卓也 1996. *日本語史*. 東京：おうふう。

As part of your assignments will include readings of various passages with linguistic analysis from the texts representative for certain periods of historical development of Japanese, I highly recommend to you to obtain some kind of a portable affordable-priced dictionary, which will be quite useful. This is not required, and you always have an option to go to the library. I especially recommend the following two:

大野晋 1990. *岩波古語辞典*. 東京：岩波。

This one is the biggest and most detailed of all portable dictionaries, and it has also a sketch of Old Japanese and Classical Japanese grammar. Its disadvantage is that it does not have as many useful appendices as other dictionaries of the kind.

佐伯梅友、馬淵和夫 1975. *古語辞典*. 東京：講談社。

This one indicates in what texts a particular word is attested in chronological order, the feature not found in other dictionaries of this type. It also has much more appendices than Iwanami, although it does not include as many words.

GRADING

Your grading will be mostly based on the term final paper (50%), although your participation in class discussion and text analysis is also important (40%). Attendance is required (10%). You are entitled to miss 4 class meetings without a good reason (sickness, family matters, job interviews, etc.), after that every missed class will result in 1% grade penalty. This is not a measure to police this class, but rather to insure that you don't miss anything: the class is sequential, and unless you are familiar with the subject, missed classes will interfere with your ability to perform and to present me a successful paper. You are welcome to consult with me as much as you need in the process of your work on your paper, as well as to show me your draft before turning the final version in order to ensure the good quality of your paper.

PAPER DEADLINES

You have to choose the topic of your paper (and let me know) before the spring break.

Deadline for the paper is normally the last day of classes, but extensions (up to 3 days before grades are due) are always granted.

EXAMS

There are no midterm and final exams for this course.