Language in Japanese Society (3 Credit Hours)

Day & Time: MWF #1 (2:30 – 3:20), Webster 115
#2 (11:30 – 12:20), Moore 423

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A. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

Language and culture are so inextricably related to each other that one cannot use a language without learning about the culture of the society where the language is spoken. This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to become aware of the language-culture relationship by focusing on the Japanese language and society.

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course content consists of three components: (1) General knowledge of Japanese language/culture/society and its historical background; (2) Salient characteristics of the Japanese culture as it is manifested in the structure and/or the use of their language, such as, *amae* (dependence), vertical principle of interpersonal relationships, *uchi* and *soto* (in-group and out-group) distinction, women’s and men’s talk, and “wakamono kotoba”; and (3) Comparison of Japanese culture with other cultures (e.g., American culture).

The course also observes the contacts with other cultures (e.g., with Korean, Chinese, and other Asian cultures as well as with European cultures) and various social and linguistic changes at various points in the history and considers the future of the Japanese language and culture. Some varieties of the Japanese language outside of Japan, especially those in Hawaii, are considered.

C. BOOKS AND READINGS:


D. GRADING:

Final exam : 40%
Midterm exam : 30%
Quizzes : 20%
Class participation and assignments: 10%
E. READINGS


7. K.A. Reynolds, Newspaper