JPN 461 – Introduction to Classical Japanese Grammar; Fall 2015

Instructor: Robert Huey
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Office Hours: Mondays, 10:30-11:30 AM, and Wednesdays 2:30-4:00 PM or by appt.

JPN 461 will introduce the basic structure of classical Japanese, focusing primarily on the literary language of the Heian period. While JPN 407 is a prerequisite for this course, students should be aware that classical Japanese is in many ways as far removed from modern Japanese as it is from modern English.

In the first half of the semester we will systematically explore orthography, verb forms, adjectival forms, auxiliary verbs, keigo, and particle usage. All points will be illustrated with examples from classical texts, mostly from the Heian period.

Since another goal of this course is to begin developing reading proficiency, we will spend the second part of the semester reading and translating longer passages, beginning with selections from Ise Monogatari, Genji Monogatari, Makura no Sōshi (The Pillow Book), and Kokinshū. We will also try to read some of Hōjōki, and will take a look at other post-Heian works as time permits.

Course Goals:

These goals will be used both by the instructor to assess the students, and by the students to assess the instructor.

1. To learn pre-modern Japanese orthography.
2. To learn the basic grammar of Classical Japanese.
3. To learn some of the socio-linguistics aspects of Classical Japanese.
4. To learn the literary discourse of Heian and Kamakura period Japan.
5. To learn the relationship between Classical Japanese (古語) and bungo (文語).

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will be able to read pre-modern orthography.
2. The student will be able to recognize and distinguish between the basic verb classifications in Classical Japanese.
3. The student will be able to recognize and distinguish between the basic verb forms of Classical Japanese.
4. The student will be able to recognize and distinguish between the basic adjectival forms of Classical Japanese.
5. The student will be able to recognize by grammatical and lexical cues, various levels of keigo in Classical Japanese.
6. The student will be able to read out loud and parse, as well as roughly translate, poems and short prose passages written in Classical Japanese.
In addition, the following EALL departmental SLOs apply, at least in part, to this course:

1. [SLO5: RESEARCH] Conduct independent research on topics in Japanese literature and/or linguistics, and effectively communicate the results.
2. [SLO6: LINGUISTICS] Demonstrate an understanding of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics through analysis of words, phrases, and clauses from authentic Japanese samples.
3. [SLO7: LITERATURE] Identify and describe major authors, works, features, forms, and styles of Japanese literature, both pre-modern and modern.
4. [SLO9: LITERATURE] Situate and evaluate Japanese literature in its social, historical, intellectual, and religious contexts.

Tentative schedule:

Week 1 – Basic introduction; classical orthography
Week 2 – Verb types and bases; adjectival forms
Weeks 3-5 – Auxiliary verbs
Week 6 – Keigo
Week 7 – Particles; miscellaneous points
Week 8 – Readings from Ise Monogatari and Makura no Sōshi
Week 9 – Readings from Genji Monogatari
Weeks 10-11 – Readings from Kokinshū and other waka
Weeks 12-14 – Readings from Hōjōki

Grading:

(1) In-class performance .................. 20%
(2) Homework ................................ 30%
(3) Quizzes .................................... 30%
(4) Mid-term and Final Exams ........... 20%

Attendance policy:

This class is very intensive. Any missed class time will set you back considerably. Missing class or being frequently late may result in a lower grade.

Texts:

- Ikeda Tadashi, Classical Japanese Grammar Illustrated with Texts (optional)
- Iwanami’s Kogo Jiten (or comparable work)
- various supplementary materials posted on Laulima