**JPN 475  Introduction to Japanese Sociolinguistics**

**Course Syllabus**

Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Haruko M. Cook  
Office: Moore 362  
Phone no.: (808) 956-2057, email: hkcook@hawaii.edu  
Office hours: Tuesday, 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment

**Prerequisites:** JPN302/350, and JPN370; or consent

**Course description:**  
This sociolinguistics course explores topics such as intercultural communication, language and emotion, language and identity, language and ideology, and language borrowing, using Japanese language as an example. In each class, we will discuss book chapters and articles written in English on these subject matters.  

The course will provide students with ample opportunities to address questions concerning language and gender, honorifics, dialects, use of English in Japan, and so on, which they might have encountered in Japanese language classrooms or elsewhere, but might not have had a chance to study in depth. Students will be encouraged to share their own observations of Japanese language and its speakers in class. The course requirements also include two small research projects. The goal of this course is to enhance students’ knowledge of, and sensitivity towards, intercultural and sociolinguistic factors that contribute to the construction of everyday interaction, and mass media discourse. Such understanding is believed to enrich students’ appreciation of nuances expressed in various types of discourse, as well as to assist their development of Japanese language proficiency and their socialization into a Japanese speaking community. Although the class discussion will be in English, basic knowledge of Japanese is required.

**Student learning outcomes:**  
Students are able to i) develop knowledge of and sensitivity towards intercultural and sociolinguistic factors related to Japanese language and society, and ii) identify different types of discourse in Japanese.

**Textbooks:**  
Reading Packet – purchased at Marketing and Publications Services (1776 Univ. Ave. CMA101, 956-4969, www.hawaii.edu/crdg)

**Requirements and grading:**  

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<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class summary</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>2 course projects (25% +30%)</td>
<td>55%</td>
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Class participation: It is essential that you read the assigned articles before each class. You will be given reading guide questions. Make sure you answer the questions so you can discuss articles in class.

Class summary: At the end of each class, you are asked to write a short summary of the class, comments and questions.

Project 1: Style and variety 25%
In this project, you will analyze in detail types of words, expressions found in different genres. You need to analyze one type of genre. You should select a short segment of written material (between 5-10 pages) to focus on. Your analysis should refer to relevant literature discussed in the course. How to analyze the data will be discussed in the class.

Step 1: Identify candidate materials by Week 4 (September 16).

Step 2: On September 19, you meet the instructor to discuss your collected data. Analyze the selected segment in depth and prepare a presentation (approximately 15 minutes per student) to be delivered during Weeks 6 & 7 (Sept. 30, Oct. 2, and Oct. 8). In addition, a written report (approximate 5-7 pages, double space, excluding the materials examined) due Thursday, October 9. In your presentation and report, you must link what is observed in the segment and what was discussed in the course. Make sure to refer to relevant literature, highlighting key concepts and theories. You should also include your own reflection on the issue(s) raised in the presentation/report. Attach the materials you examined to the paper.

Project 2: Ethnographic interview 30%
During the first half of the course, you are expected to conduct an ethnographic interview with either a native speaker of Japanese or a non-native speaker of Japanese who has extensive experience (more than 3 years) in living and working in Japan. The topics to be addressed in the interview should be related to those covered in the first half of the class (i.e., cultural stereotype, intercultural communication, honorifics, dialects, and gender). The purpose of this interview project is to consider if your informant’s experiences and perspectives can be explained by information provided in the assigned readings, or if his/her experiences and perspectives may add new insights to the understanding of the issues discussed in these readings.

Step 1: Identify candidate interviewees by Week 9 (October 23).

Step 2: Submit your plan for the interview, including a brief profile of your interviewee, a list of questions, the scheduled date of your interview by the end of Week 10 (October 28, or prior to the scheduled interview) and receive the instructor’s feedback.

Step 3: Conduct an interview for approximately 30-60 minutes before Nov. 19. In addition to the questions prepared in advance, you should make sure to ask appropriate
follow-up questions to learn more details about your interviewee’s experiences and perspectives. In order to analyze the interviewee’s answers in depth, it is best to audio or video record the interview session. Ask the informant’s permission in advance before you start recording.

**Step 4:** Analyze the results of the interview and prepare a presentation (approximately 10-15) to be delivered during **Weeks 14 & 15 (November 25, December 2 & 4).** A written report (approximate 5-7 pages, double space) is due on December 10. In your presentation and report, you must link what you learned from the interviewee and what was discussed in the course. Make sure to refer to relevant literature, highlighting key concepts and theories. You should also include your own reflection on the issue(s) raised in the presentation/report.

*For both projects, only a paper version of your paper is accepted. Do not send an electric copy of your paper.*

**Final exam:** Tuesday, December 16 (12:00-2:00PM)

**Attendance and participation:** Full attendance and participation are expected. Students are expected to come to class, fully prepared, and participate fully in class discussions and/or activities.

The following scale will be used in calculating grades:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 - 98%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 - 88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79 - 78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69 - 68%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 - 0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97 - 93%</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>92 - 90%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>87 - 83%</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72 - 70%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>67 - 63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62 - 60%</td>
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**Tentative course schedule**

**Week 1 (8/26) Introduction**
Overview of the course

**Week 1 (8/28) Styles and variations**

**Week 2 (9/2 & 9/4) Styles and variations: Sentence-final particles**

**Week 3 (9/9 & 9/11) Styles and variations: Sentence-final particles, Style shift**


**Week 4 (9/16) Style shift**  
(Identify material for Project 1)


**Week 4 (9/18) Project 1 Consultation**

**Week 5 (9/23 & 9/25) Honorifics**


**Weeks 6-7 (9/30, 10/2, and 10/7) Project 1 student presentations**

**Week 7 (10/9) “Japanese” communication styles**  
(Project 1 paper due on 10/10)


**Week 8 (10/14 & 10/16) “Japanese” communication styles**


**Week 9 (10/21 & 10/23) Cultural stereotype**


**Week 10 (10/28 & 10/30) Intercultural Communication**

(Identify interviewee for Project 2)


**Week 11 (11/4) Election Day holiday**
**Week 12 (11/11) Veteran’s Day holiday**

**Week 11-12 (11/6 & 11/13) Gender**
Guest lecturer: Dr. Momoko Nakamura (Kansai Gakuin University)

**Weeks 13 (11/18) Honorifics**

**Week 13-14 (11/20) Dialects and “Standard”**

**Weeks 14-15 (11/25, 12/2, 12/4) Project 2 student presentations**

**Week 14 (11/27) Thanks Giving Holiday**

**Week 16 (12/9 & 12/11) Review for the final exam (Project 2 paper due on 12/9)**

**Policy on missed quizzes and tests, late assignments:** No special arrangements will be made for makeup exams. Every assignment must be turned in on the due date.

**Cheating and plagiarism:** The university policies regarding academic dishonesty will be followed strictly in this course. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the university policies, which can be found in the Catalog and the Schedule of Courses.

**No eating/drinking and no texting in the class.**