Japanese Syntax and Semantics  
**Syllabus**

**Meeting Time and Location:**
Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-2:45  
Moore 117

**Instructor:**  
Shin Fukuda  
E-mail: fukudash@hawaii.edu  
Office: Moore 421  
Office hours: TBA

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course has five related goals:

(i) Introduce syntactic argumentation  
(ii) Introduce major syntactic (and some syntax-semantics interface) phenomena in Japanese  
(iii) Introduce basic concepts in recent transformational theories of syntax  
(iv) Practice clear expository writing  
(v) Study articles that have played major roles in the development of the transformational approaches to Japanese syntax.

In service of the first two goals, the course will be conducted in a bottom-up, problem set driven manner. Syntactic phenomena will be introduced through problem sets and related class discussions. The analyses of these phenomena will be done largely by you by proposing and defending your solutions. In this way, argumentation will be fundamental component of the course. I will try to push your solutions in a particular direction in subsequent discussions so that what we end up with is a general syntactic theory that resembles what is known as *Principles and Parameters*.

There will be a problem set assigned approximately every two weeks. These should be written up as cogent, stand-alone papers addressing the data and questions in the problem. It should be possible for someone who has not seen the problem set to read and understand the issues, analyses, and arguments. This means that you must include the data in your write-ups (that is, do not simply refer to data in the problem set). Since the goal of the course is to practice this type of expository writing, it is important to present these problem sets in as professional a manner as possible and to be sure to write sufficient prose.

There will be also two take-home exams. These will be just like the problem sets, but a bit longer. I encourage you to discuss your work with other students in your class. However, it is important that you write up your solutions on your own. Since I need to evaluate you individually, I will suggest that you not work together if the work becomes too close.

I will also try to set aside the last couple of weeks of the semester to read and discuss articles that have played important roles in the development of the transformational approaches to Japanese syntax. I will give you a list of articles and asked you to pick one and present it to the rest of class.

**GRADING POLICY:** The course grade will be determined as follows:

1. Both exams must be taken to pass the course.  
2. The two exams will be averaged. This average will be adjusted based on the assignment and presentation scores.  
3. In cases where the final grade is close to a higher grade, classroom participation may push it up.

The assignments will be graded with +, ++, +, -, and -:

+ Nearly perfect analysis, good, professional presentation.  
  Add 2% to final score

++ Good analysis and good presentation; perhaps a few errors, and/or minor problems in presentation.  
  Add 1% to final score

✓ Good effort; perhaps some more severe problems with the analysis, and/or more severe problems in presentation.  
  No effect on final score

- Marginal; incorrect analysis and/or minimal presentation.  
  Subtract 1%

- Minimal effort or incomplete (or not handed in)  
  Subtract 2%

While this course is a bit labor-intensive, it can be very rewarding - the best way to learn about linguistic phenomena is to discover them on your own. I hope you have fun doing so!
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** By successfully completing this course, students will:
(a) become familiar with the fundamental concepts in transformational theories of syntax
(b) be familiar with major syntactic and syntax-semantic interface phenomena in Japanese.
(c) be able to write short papers in syntax with effective argumentation and clear organization.