Instructor: Tomoko Iwai
Office hours: MWF: 2:30-3:00 or by appointment
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Prerequisite: JPN402 or instructor’s permission.

Course Description: This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop their skills for spoken communication in Japanese in a range of formal and semi-formal situations. Specifically, students will receive training in the use of appropriate social protocols and communicative practices for meeting and working with people in settings beyond those typically associated with undergraduate language learning (e.g., classroom instruction, home-stay and study abroad experiences, and casual interactions with peers and others in one’s social circle). These settings will include talk with potential employers, community experts, and near-peers with domain-specific expertise, especially for the purpose of gathering and/or sharing information (discussions, interviews, surveys, and formal observations, as well as extended self-introductions and presentations related to one’s own domain-specific areas of expertise). The goal is to provide instruction that will enable learners to develop their speaking skills to a level where they can present themselves as responsible, socially-mature individuals and express their ideas in “paragraph-level” discourse that is coherent, complex, and engaging. In sum, this course provides an introduction to the speaking skills and social awareness required for mature, socially-adept interaction, especially as these skills are applied in interactions with Japanese speakers outside of Japan and/or in Japan in conjunction with employment, academic projects, or avocational interests.

Focal points of the course include raising student awareness of the social-relational dimensions of speech settings, pragmatically-appropriate speech, and effective discourse organization. Students are expected to take an active role in all class discussions and other speaking activities in class. Assignments involving Japanese-speaking members of the local community outside of class will also require a high level of student involvement, and must also be completed in Japanese.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1) The student will develop a repertoire of communicative practices and linguistic resources for spoken interaction in a range of activities where formal and semi-formal speech registers are culturally expected.
2) The student will assess the social and cultural expectations that pertain to his/her interaction with a given non-familiar interlocutor and organize his/her interaction with that interlocutor using communicative practices and linguistic resources that reflect this assessment accurately and effectively.
3) The student will make effective use of communicative practices associated with self-presentation, grounding, elicitation, and engagement with the goal of a) establishing rapport with a given non-familiar interlocutor and b) obtaining domain-specific information (uniquely) available from that interlocutor or c) sharing his/her own domain-specific expertise with that interlocutor.
4) The student will evaluate his/her own oral production for communicative effectiveness and pragmatic appropriateness.

Course Requirements:

a) come to class prepared for active participation in pair and group classroom activities, and with a handheld digital recording device for regular recording of one’s oral participation;
b) regular transcription of a one-minute segment of one’s talk during class, to be
submitted as a homework assignment through uploading on Laulima;
c) preparation and uploading to Laulima of two Learner Feedback Journal (LFBJ) entries – one Work-in-progress and one Success! – each comprised of a transcribed digital clip of one’s production from the preceding week and a journal entry (MSWord file) discussing the strengths and weaknesses of this production;
c) completion of three oral assessments in interactional settings
   • Mock job/scholarship interview with instructor
   • Introductory call with instructor
   • Interview with a community expert (recorded)
d) formal presentation (data-sharing) on interview with a community expert

Course grade:

Attendance and class participation……………………………………..10%
Homework (e.g., transcription of talk) ........................................10%
Learner Feedback Journal ..........................................................15%
Oral assessments ........................................................................50%
   Mock job/scholarship interview — 6th week (Sept. 28 – Oct. 2)…20%
   Introductory call — 10th week (Oct. 26 and 28)…10%
   Community interview — completed by Nov. 20…20%
In-class presentation .................................................................15%
   Presentations will be given from during the last week of classes.

Required course materials:

All students must come to class every day with a reliable, handheld digital recording device and a reliable power source.

**The instructor reserves the right to alter the content of this syllabus during the course of the semester.

*If you feel you need reasonable accommodations because of the impact of a disability, please 1) contact the KOKUA Program (V/T) at 956-7511 or 956-7612 in room 013 of the QLCSS; 2) speak with me privately to discuss your specific needs. I will be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs related to your documented disability.*