

41010 JAPANESE LINGUISTICS I

INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE SYNTAX

INSTRUCTOR: Yasuaki Abe

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, some fundamental aspects of modern linguistic theory and its application to the study of Japanese syntax are examined. Frequent comparison of Japanese and other languages (mostly English) is made in order to highlight similarities and differences among languages. Some knowledge of linguistics at the beginner level is helpful, but not essential. Familiarity with Internet web-browsing is required, and lecture notes and homework assignments are to be submitted to the course website. CJS students and undergraduate students are divided into small mixed groups, each of which is required to present its analysis on several selected topics. The main language of instruction for this course is English, with some Japanese used. Please note that auditing is permitted for this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Introduction 1; syntactic theory
2. Introduction 2; morphemes and syntactic categories
3. Structural ambiguity
4. Simple-sentence structure
5. Case markers and postpositions
6. Case marking rules
7. Potential and desiderative constructions
8. Causative constructions
9. Passive constructions
10. Pronouns and reflexive pronouns
11. Scrambling; c-command
12. Relative clause constructions
13. Unaccusativity

TEXTS

Textbook: None

Printed materials are provided.

Supplementary Reading

Victoria Fromkin and Robert Rodman, *An Introduction to Language*, 4th ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1988. (also 7th ed. 2003)

Natsuko Tsujimura, *An Introduction to Japanese Linguistics*. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 1996. (also 2nd ed. 2007)

ASSESSMENT

Attendance and class participation 10%; Assignments 20%; Final examination (take-home examination) 70%