

LING 412 / JAPAN 442 Autumn 2025

TTh 3:30 - 5:20 SMI 115

Japanese Syntax and Semantics

Instructor: Toshiyuki Ogihara, Professor of Linguistics (email: ogihara “at” uw.edu)
Office: GUG 415J **Phone:** 685-4282 (direct) 543-2046 (department of linguistics)

Office hours: T 10:45 – 11:45: in person in GUG 415J
F TBA: via Zoom <https://washington.zoom.us/j/92901796902>

Course website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1831092>

PollEverywhere:  Respond at [PollEv.com/ogihara](https://poll-ev.com/ogihara)  Text **OGIHARA** to **22333** once to join, then **1, 2, 3, or 4**

Course description: This course introduces students to essential issues in Japanese syntax and semantics. No previous course in formal semantics is required. The approach is that of generative syntax and semantics.

Prerequisite: an introductory linguistics course (Ling 200, Ling 400, or equivalent). Recommended but not required; further coursework in linguistics, especially LING 461 or a comparable syntax course. Knowledge of Japanese is strongly recommended (at least two years of Japanese). No previous course in formal semantics (such as Ling 478) is required, but previous work in semantics (as well as in syntax) is beneficial.

Textbook: Tsujimura, Natsuko: *Introduction to Japanese Linguistics* (3rd edition) available from the Ebook library (online via the UW library). (Used copies may be available from online booksellers such as Amazon.com)

How different components are weighted and count toward your course grade):

- (i) **18 Review/Preview Quizzes** (due before each class period; done through the course website) 15%. An assignment with the lowest score will be dropped.
- (ii) Three online exams: **Midterm 1** (20%), **Midterm 2** (22.5%), and **Final** (27.5%)
- (iii) **Participation** 15% (a) Participating in PollEverywhere surveys during each class period 7.5%. **You need a cellphone (smart or not), tablet, or computer for this purpose.**

Grading scale:

Percent = Grade

≥ 95% = 4.0	88 = 3.3	81 = 2.6	74 = 1.9	67 = 1.2
94 = 3.9	87 = 3.2	80 = 2.5	73 = 1.8	66 = 1.1
93 = 3.8	86 = 3.1	79 = 2.4	72 = 1.7	65 = 1.0
92 = 3.7	85 = 3.0	78 = 2.3	71 = 1.6	64 = 0.9
91 = 3.6	84 = 2.9	77 = 2.2	70 = 1.5	63 = 0.8
90 = 3.5	83 = 2.8	76 = 2.1	69 = 1.4	62 = 0.7
89 = 3.4	82 = 2.7	75 = 2.0	68 = 1.3	< 60 = 0.0

No rounding up is implied here. For example, if your percentile score is 92.9, then your course grade will be 3.7.

The structure of each class period:

1. First 60 minutes: lecture by the instructor
(The lecture will be interspersed with some PollEverywhere survey questions.)
2. 10-minute intermission
3. Second half: I will try to address your questions. Time permitting, I will follow with the discussion of some problem sets. This part may change depending upon how well this strategy works.

Requirements, Classroom Rules of Conduct, etc.

1. Regular attendance of lectures and participation in class discussion.
2. Reading assignments (to be read by the time they are discussed in class) and ask questions (in class, by email, or through the discussion board)
3. All the work you submit must be yours. When you work on online assignments, you must not seek help from a friend or a tutor. Please refer to links such as the following regarding your responsibility as a student:

<https://www.washington.edu/cssc/facultystaff/grading-and-academic-misconduct/>

Religious Accommodations Policy: Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Faculty Syllabus Guidelines and Resources (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/syllabi-guidelines/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Special Needs: If you have a letter from DSS indicating that you have a disability that requires special academic accommodations, please present the letter to your instructor as soon as possible so the proper accommodations can be discussed and met. For help with accommodations, contact Disabled Student Services: 448 Schmitz, (206) 543-8924

<http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>

Some important links for the tools we use in this class:

<https://itconnect.uw.edu/learn/tools/poll Everywhere/>

<https://canvas.uw.edu/>

 HUMANITIES ACADEMIC SERVICES UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON College of Arts & Sciences	For advising questions, please reach out to Humanities Academic Services. • Email: has-center@uw.edu • Website: https://hasc.washington.edu/
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Class Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Class #	Topics to be covered	Required Reading	Optional Reading / Due dates
Introduction (Chapter 1) Morphology (Chapter 4)					
1	9/25 Th	1	introduction and morphology 1	Ch 4 Sec 1-2	
2	9/30 T	2	morphology 2	Ch 4 Sec 3	Ch 4 Sec 4-6
Japanese Syntax (Chapter 5)					
2	10/2 Th	3	syntactic structures	Ch 5 Sec 1	
3	10/7 T	4	word order and scrambling	Ch 5 Sec 2	
	10/9 Th	5	reflexive and non-reflexive pronouns	Ch 5 Sec 3	
4	10/14 T	6	passives (1)	Ch 5 Sec 4	
	10/16 Th	7	passives 2 and review for Midterm 1	Ch 5 Sec 4	Midterm 1 due 10/20
5	10/21 T	8	causatives	Ch 5 Sec 5	
	10/23 Th	9	relative clauses	Ch 5 Sec 6	
Japanese Semantics (Chapter 6)					
6	10/28 T	10	the light-verb construction and basic semantic concepts (first lecture on semantics)	Ch 5 Sec 7 Ch 6 Sec 1.1, 1.2	
	10/30 Th	11	deixis, mimetics	Ch 6 Sec 1.3, 1.4	
7	11/4 T	12	modality and evidentiality	My own slides (to be provided)	
	11/6 Th	13	tense	Ch 6 Sec 2.1	Midterm 2 due 11/10
8	11/11 T		Veterans Day (no class)		
	11/13 Th	14	aspect 1	Ch 6 Sec 2.2	
9	11/18 T	15	aspect 2 and pragmatics 1 (Grice's maxims)	Ch 6 Sec 4.1	
	11/20 Th	16	pragmatics 2 (wa vs. ga) and dialectal variations	Ch 6 Sec 4.2-3 Ch 7 Sec 1,2	
10	11/25 T	17	socio-semantics	Ch 7 Sec 3 and my own slides (to be provided)	
	11/27 Th		Thanksgiving Day (no class)		
11	12/2 T				
	12/4 Th		Review		
12	12/8-12		Final Exam (online)		

Note: The schedule is subject to change.