



## ***Japanese Linguistics (The History and Structure of Japanese)***

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig, Professor of Japanese Linguistics, The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

*Tuesdays 4.00 - 5.00 pm Michaelmas and Hilary Terms.*

**Prerequisites:** Modern Japanese at level 2 or higher.

### **Objectives:**

The primary objectives of this course are for students: (1) to get a comprehensive overview over the main features of and approaches to the study of the Japanese language; (2) to get a working knowledge of the relevant research tools and literature; and (3) to identify topics and subjects areas for independent research. The teaching for this course will take place in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms (under the titles *Japanese Linguistics (MT)* and *The history of the Japanese language (HT)*), with one lecture a week. Core readings will be assigned for each meeting.

Lectures will address topics such as the following: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, vocabulary and loanwords, dialects, writing.

### **Course Assessment:**

Assessment will be through a three-hour examination in Trinity Term.

Students will be invited to submit an essay on an assigned topic for assessment by the end of week 4 in either of the two terms in which the classes are taught. Details will be given during the first class of the term.

### **Recommended introductory reading:**

Frellesvig, Bjarke. 2010. *A history of the Japanese Language*, Cambridge University Press.

Kuno, Susumu. 1973. *The structure of the Japanese Language*, MIT Press.

Miller, Roy A. 1967. *The Japanese Language*, University of Chicago Press.

Shibatani, Masayoshi. 1990. *The Languages of Japan*, Cambridge University Press.

Tsujimura, Natsuko. 2007. *An introduction to Japanese linguistics*, Blackwell Publishers.

Unger, J. Marshall. 1996. *Literacy and script reform in occupation Japan: Reading between the lines*, Oxford University Press.

### **Statement of Coverage**

This document applies to students starting the MSc and/or MPhil in Japanese Studies in Michaelmas Term 2024. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

### **Disclaimer**

The information in this document is accurate as at 19 September 2024, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the

department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.