

# Sociolinguistics through Manga

## JAPN 4813/8803

3 credits

M and W 14:00-15:15@ 3 credits

### Instructor Information

**Instructor**                      **Email**  
Kyoko Masuda                      Km210@gatech.edu

**Office Hours**  
MW 12:30-1:45 pm  
and by appointment

### General Information

**Description:** This course introduces students to Japanese sociolinguistics through manga (Japanese comics). The course is conducted in Japanese. The influence of Japanese popular culture, including manga, is significant not only among young people but also as a form of cultural diplomacy (e.g., see the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ([MoFA site](#))). For example, some politicians reference phrases from popular anime and manga in their public remarks (see [sample news](#) from the *Asahi Shimbun*). As in real life, characters in Japanese popular culture use vocabulary and grammar that vary widely depending on their attributes, such as gender, age, social status, occupation, region of residence or origin, appearance, and personality. An emerging area of linguistic research examines the relationship between character types and their linguistic features in popular culture and media. Sets of linguistic and phonetic features that are psychologically associated with particular character types are known as “**role language**” (**yakuwarigo**) (Kinsui, 2003). These fictional speech patterns often make character types easily recognizable within Japanese culture, even though such language use may not occur in real-life communication. In this course, students will explore the sociolinguistic theories and cultural significance of manga. They will also develop their Japanese language proficiency, critical cultural awareness, and research skills through engagement with academic articles as well as a variety of manga texts.

**Course Materials:** All materials are provided to you on Canvas.

- To appreciate and enjoy a wide variety of manga in Japanese
- To learn about the history of manga in Japanese society
- To develop familiarity with linguistic variation, including gendered language, dialects, youth language, style, and role language; and to understand that these variations share common features and form a complex system
- To understand Japanese perspectives on sound symbolism, the use of ruby (furigana), and onomatopoeia in manga; and to examine how linguistic forms are linked to social meanings such as prestige and stigma
- To develop critical language awareness of language use in media and popular culture; and to consider why we perceive and use language and dialects in particular ways

This course satisfies the requirements for the certificate in Linguistics and for the Japanese major, minor, and certificate programs.

### Course Homework, Assignments, and Papers

All course assignments must be submitted electronically via Canvas.

### Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Homework	throughout	18%
Presentations	TBD	10% (8+2)

Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Manga Reading Log	throughout	5%
Kanji/Voc Quizzes	TBD	10%
Exams	TBD	20% (10+10)
Final Project + Presentation	TBD	15% (10+5)
Attendance & Participating	throughout	22%

### Graded Components Overview

#### A. Homework (18%)

- Weekly assignments submitted via Canvas
- Deadlines are strict (no late submissions)

Includes:

- Linguistics readings (mostly in English)
- Japanese readings with pre-task sheets
- Vocabulary/Kanji quizzes
- Occasional linguistics surveys

#### B. Presentations (10%)

You will complete two presentations:

##### Academic Presentation

- Based on an assigned reading
- Include slides + 4–5 discussion questions
- Undergraduate: pairs (English)
- Graduate: individual

##### 3-Minute Speech (in Japanese)

Topic: 「私とまんが」 or 「私の好きなマンガ」

- 2 slides with visuals + key vocabulary
- Use formal Japanese

#### C. Manga Reading Log (5%)

- In-class manga reading + short reflection/log

#### D. Kanji/Voc Quizzes (10%)

#### E. Exams (20%)

- Two unit exams during the semester, Japanese reading skills
- Review sheets and sample questions provided

#### F. Final Paper & Presentation (15%)

Topic: Choose a manga or sociolinguistic topic (not covered in depth in class)

Undergraduate Students: English: ~6–8 pages or Japanese: ~8–10 pages

Graduate Students: Japanese: ~10 pages

Requirements: Include a short summary + linguistic analysis; Use 4 academic sources; Participate in peer review; Give a final presentation

Timeline: (TBA) Topic → Outline → Draft → Final

## G. Participation & Attendance (22%)

- Active participation is expected
- Come prepared and engaged
- Unrelated activities (texting, other homework, etc.) will drastically reduce your attendance point
- COIL (collaborative online international learning) will count toward your attendance. Dates are TBA.

### Attendance Policy:

- Follows Georgia Tech guidelines
- For absences: notify instructor + submit required documentation (if applicable)

## H. Graduate Students Only (Included in Participation 5%)

- Lead class discussions
- Teaching method/topic will be provided
- Share PPTs with instructor in advance

### Use of AI Policy

- All work submitted for this course must be your own original work, ideas, and thoughts. You may not submit any work generated by AI as your own.
- If you use AI tools or receive outside assistance in any capacity, you must clearly and transparently document this use. Failure to disclose such assistance may result in a grade of 0% for the assignment.
- If you have any questions about appropriate use of AI, please consult the instructor in advance.

### Classroom Conduct

- Students are expected to remain engaged and prepared during class. Activities such as sleeping, texting, doing unrelated homework, or reading irrelevant materials will result in reduced participation credit.
- The use of computers and cell phones is not permitted unless explicitly authorized by the instructor. Failure to comply may result in a reduction of participation and/or performance grades.

### Attendance Policy

- Georgia Tech rules and regulations will be followed (see: <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>).
- Approved absences include institute activities, family emergencies, religious observances, jury duty, etc.
- Students who miss class due to illness or emergency should notify the instructor as soon as possible and submit an IAA form through the Registrar's Office. The instructor will be notified if the absence is approved.

**Extra Credit** 😊 may be used to offset missed or late homework.

### CIOS Participation (1 point):

All students will receive 1 extra point if at least 80% of the class completes the CIOS course evaluations at the end of the semester. Please do not inform the instructor if you have completed the evaluation, as responses must remain anonymous.

**Additional Opportunity:** TBA

**Course Materials** All required course materials—including class announcements, the syllabus, schedule, video files, and homework links—are available on **Canvas**.

### References

*Language Through The Looking Glass*. Marina Yaguello

Language Files. Ohio State University (2014)

*An Introduction to Japanese Linguistics*. Natsuko Tsujimura (2014)

*The Cambridge Handbook of Japanese Linguistics*. ed. Yoko Hasegawa (2018)

*Virtual Japanese: Enigma of Role Language*. Satoshi Kinsui Oskaka University Archive. (2017)  
 Role Languages (Yakuwarigo) fictionalized orality in Japanese literature and popular culture.  
 Teshigawara, Mihoko & Satoshi, Kinsui (2011) in *Sociolinguistic Studies*. Vol. 5. 1.

参考資料

- 「ポップカルチャー Pop Culture New&Old」花井善朗
- 「ヴァーチャル日本語役割語の謎」金水敏
- 「役割語の研究の地平」金水敏（編）
- 「ライトノベル表現論」泉子 K メイナード
- 「マンガ学からの言語研究：視点をめぐって」出原健一
- 「方言キャラ」田中ゆかり
- 「翻訳がつくる日本語」中村桃子
- 「新敬語マジやばいっす」中村桃子
- 「日本語社会のぞき、キャラくり」定延利之
- 「日本語を分析するレッスン」野田尚史・野田春美

まんが

- 「ゴールドカムイ」「ホリミヤ」「ヲタクに恋はむずかしい」「鬼滅の刃」「僕のヒーローアカデミア」「深夜食堂」「火の鳥」「サザエさん」「極主夫道」「ベルサイユの薔薇」
- 「沖縄で好きになった子が方言すぎてツラすぎる」「名探偵コナン」「ダンジョン飯」「ヤンキー君と白杖ガール」「裸足のげん」など

**Course Schedule (tentative)**

Week	In class	Assignments
1	Orientation/self-introduction, Overview of SLA theoretical framework	Self-introduction video HW1, Reading Johson Chap 1.
2	<b>Guest speaker 1</b> , Linguistics and L2 learning/teaching	Reading & Worksheet HW2
3	Psychology and L2 learning/teaching	Reading & Worksheet HW3
4	Social Context and L2 learning/teaching	Reading & Worksheet HW4
5	L2 Teaching Methods	Reading & Worksheet HW5
6	Graduate Student Presentation, Review	HW6: exam questions prep.
7	<b>Exam 1</b> , Guidance for Lab (observation)	Exam 1, Guidance for Lab
8	Bilinguism, teacher's role	Reading & Worksheet HW7
9	Lab Check-in	Lab report
10	<b>Guest speaker 2</b>	Reading & Worksheet HW8
11	Lab Check-in, technology & corpus for L2 teaching	Lab report
12	Language, identity	Reading & Worksheet HW9
13	Graduate Student Presentation, Review	HW10: exam questions prep.
14	<b>Exam 2/ Demonstration Day 1</b>	HW 11: Peer review for Lesson Plan, Exam 2 & Demonstration
15	<b>Demonstration Day 2</b>	Demonstration Day 2, HW12 Peer review for Teaching philosophy

**Course Expectations & Guidelines**  
**Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

### **Diversity Statement**

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

### **Attendance and/or Participation**

Because this is a seminar, Your presence in class is imperative. **Your first two absences**, whether excused or unexcused, **will not be penalized**. Any additional absences will result in a 1/2 point drop of your final grade Unless you provide a medical excuse (signed by a physician) upon your return. So try not to use your allowed absences unless you have to. If you must miss a class session, it is your responsibility to learn what took place in class and to obtain any materials distributed that day. Students who are absent because of participation in a particular religious observance we will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absence with no late penalty, provided the student informs the course instructor of the upcoming absence, in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and provided the student makes up the missed materials within the time frame established by the course instructor. Exercising one's rights under this policy is subject to the Georgia Tech honor code. The course instructor is responsible for establishing the reasonable deadlines and/or make up materials for the missed work and for clearly communicating their information to the student. Students may choose to appeal to the students academic and financial affairs committees of academic Senate for former approval of this type of absence. <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/> If you know that you cannot come to the class, e-mail the instructor before the class convenes. If you are sick please bring a note from the doctor or GT health services and you won't lose points on either assignment or presence in class. No work can be made-up unless in the case of serious medical condition please coordinate your activities with the syllabus ahead of time. If you are going to have to miss a class due to a college sanctioned activity you are responsible for telling the instructor in advance completing assignments and taking exam ahead of time.

**Collaboration & Group Work:** Students should complete all homework assignments and projects by themselves unless otherwise notified by the instructor.

**Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement:** At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideas of Georgia Tech while in this class.

### **Extensions, Late Assignments & Re-scheduled Missed Exams**

Students who are absent because of participation in approved institute activities (such as field trips professional conferences and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absences may be obtained from the Office of Registrar. Course instructors are responsible for establishing reasonable deadlines and/or make-up materials for the missed work, and for clarity communicating this information to the relevant student(s) when absences for the institute activities are approved. <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>

**Campus Resources:** Georgia Tech offers many resources for students in need including counseling services, personalized research assistance, tutoring, and academic support. Please check out [http://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/campus\\_resources\\_students.pdf](http://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/campus_resources_students.pdf) for more details, and feel free to ask me if you need any assistance in finding these resources.

**Modern Languages website** <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/languages/japanese>

**Information on Japanese minor** <http://catalog.gatech.edu/programs/minor-japanese/#requirementstext>

**Language for Business and Technology Programs in Japan** <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/lbat/japan>

*My work as a teacher is a crucial part of my contribution to my profession, to Georgia Tech, and to Japanese communities. As such, the privilege to teach continues to be an enormous source of personal reward and inspiration for me over 22 years at Georgia Tech.*

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.” — Nelson Mandela