Teaching of Japanese Culture from the Perspective of Japanese Language in University General Education
Dr. HO Chi Ming (Associate Professor, Department of Japanese Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Course Code and Title: UGEC1281 Understanding Japanese Language and Culture

Course Description
The course explores the relationship between Japanese language and culture. Everyday communication strategies adopted by people in Japan are examined in terms of Japanese language expression, styles and structures. Linguistic approaches will be the principal analytical tools employed in the course but interdisciplinary approaches will also be adopted. This course is designed for students who are interested in knowing more about Japan and who have studied some knowledge of the Japanese language. Students will gain an understanding of the basic features of the Japanese language, learn how usage of the language reflects Japanese culture and behavior, and explore how communication patterns of Japanese speakers differ from speakers of other languages.

Learning Outcomes
1. Students should have the basic knowledge of Japanese language systems. Setting system, standard language, and dialect.
2. Students should be able to describe characteristics of the linguistic features in Japanese language.
3. Students should be able to grasp the difference of the linguistic patterns between Japanese and Chinese languages.
4. Students should be able to grasp the use cases of Japanese language in the interactions between Japanese people and the culture of Japan.
5. Students should be able to recognize the relationship between Japanese language and culture through the language perspective.

Assessment Methods
Class Essay X 1 (select best 2): 5% X 2 = 10%
Quiz X 1: 25% X 2 = 50%
Term Paper X 1: 50%

Medium of Instruction: Cantonese
Number of Credits: 3 Credits

Selected Topics:

Introduction to the Historical Change of Kani and Kana in Japanese Language
This lecture explains the historical change of Kani and Kana in Japanese language. Focus will be on the meaning of the Kana characters and their writing systems and the process of how Chinese characters were converted to the written form (Hiragana and Katakana).

Teaching Materials:
2 Book Publications of the Course Teacher

Teaching Materials:
Multi-media Materials

Strategies used in Making Requests and Refusal in Japanese
This lecture introduces how Japanese makes requests and refusal the requests of others. Basic expressions are often used. Helpfully, the materials are not overly examined by language. Special attention will be given to how this Halition reflects characteristics of Japanese culture.

Strategies used in Making Apologies and Taking Responsibility
This lecture explains how Japanese apologizes and takes responsibility for mistakes that is not considered as accidents. For example, we often see the use management of Japanese apologies by the public to apologize for their misconduct with respect to public behavior and international relations. We will discuss the mechanisms of how Japanese make up something and the effect of the Japanese way of apologizing on social situations. Special attention will be given to the comparison of the style of apology to Japanese and Chinese cultures.

Japanese Language in a Sociolinguistic Perspective
In this lecture, we discuss the following topics of importance in sociolinguistic as they appear in the Japanese language:
1. the comparison between written and colloquial forms
2. the comparison of language range between men and women
3. the comparison of language range between standard and dialect
4. the comparison between written language and spoken language
5. the comparison between written and colloquial expressions
6. the comparison between written and spoken language

Interesting Japanese Words and "Mistakes" in the Usage of Japanese Words in Hong Kong
- "Wana o hajimeru" (The Chinese character of this part)
- "Nihon no koto" (The Chinese character of this part)

Students' Work

Feedbacks from Students
Recent Course and Teaching Evaluation Results (Raw Score)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Q17</th>
<th>Q18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>UGEC1281A</td>
<td>5.28</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>UGEC1281B</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>5.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>UGEC1281A</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>5.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: Full mark = 6.0
Note 2: Q17 = Satisfaction with Course, Q18 = Satisfaction with Teacher