

Linguistics 176 Spring 2017

History and Pre-history of the Japanese Language

Mondays 3-5 p.m.

Northwest Building B-107

Instructor: Wesley M. Jacobsen

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An introduction to scholarly work on the history and origin of the Japanese language, including

- A survey of the major theories of the genetic origin of Japanese.
- An introduction to the types of evidence available for reconstructing prehistoric stages of the Japanese language using the comparative method, internal reconstruction, and written documents.
- An overview of major developments in the grammar and sound system of Japanese from the Nara period through the present.

Course prerequisite: a knowledge of Japanese equivalent to completion of one semester of second-year Japanese (Japanese 120a) or a familiarity with historical linguistics or permission of instructor.