

Course number		U-LAS07 10004 LE31					
Course title (and course title in English)	Current Issues in Japan II			Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability		
	Current Issues in Japan II				Professor,NAGAYAMA HIROAKI		
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences		Field(Classification)		Understanding Japan		
Language of instruction	English		Old group	Group A		Number of credits	2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)		Year/semesters	2024・First semester	
Days and periods	Thu.5		Target year	All students		Eligible students	International students
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
<p>The primary purpose of this class is to deepen our understanding of a variety of issues in Japan. Japan is the world's third largest economy and one of the most prosperous nations in the world. However, there are many seemingly intractable challenges that the country and people are facing. Over the course of this class, we will cover a wide variety of these issues that Japan is currently facing.</p> <p>During this course, participants will learn about and discuss Japanese society, issues of the low birth rate, the aging society, poverty, LGBT, Hikikomori, Ijime, industries/the economy, medical services, energy policies, the environment, education and other aspects of the country.</p> <p>The course consists of lecture-based instruction followed by guided discussion, student presentations and short midterm and final tests.</p> <p>At the end of each class, students are expected to engage in discussions regarding the lecture topics and consider solutions. Selected groups will be appointed to present in the class.</p>							
[Course objectives]							
<p>The primary goal of this class is to deepen our understanding of a variety of social issues in contemporary Japan. Students are expected to consider countermeasures to address these issues.</p>							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
<p>Tentative Schedule is as follows:</p> <p>Week 1) Japan in the world//Taboos in Japan</p> <p>Week 2) Low birth rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">・ Why is the birthrate of Japan declining, and what are countermeasures/solutions to address the issues raised? <p>Week 3) Economy of differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">・ What policies should the government introduce in order to tackle the problems brought about by increasing economic differences? <p>Week 4) Agricultural issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">・ Why is the self-sufficiency ratio of food in Japan declining? Will the Japanese agricultural industry gain international competitiveness by joining TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership)? Identify the merits and demerits associated with globalization (Pursuing TPP, FTA and EPA).・ How should Japan address the aging problems of farmers? How will AI bring about changes to the agricultural industry in Japan? <p>Week 5) Medical issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">・ The aging of the society will further accelerate in the future - how should the Japanese hospital							

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management address the increasing burden of medical expenses?

- What are the problems with Japan ' s medical industry? How are these issues different from that of your home country?

- Propose countermeasures to achieve an equal distribution of medical doctors in Japan:

- 1) between large cities and rural areas

- 2) among those specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics and others

- How will IBM Watson bring about changes to the hospital industry in Japan in terms of the industry structure and life of medical doctors?

Week 6) Short midterm test

Week 7) Japanese Industry and Economy

- What does Japan's manufacturing industry need in order to remain competitive in the future (especially in light of increasing global competition)?

- How should Japan increase productivity in industry?

Week 8) Weak Immigration policy

- How can we address labor shortage issues in Japan? Will increasing migration become a solution to address this issue?

Week 9) Hikikomori , Ijime and LGBT issues in Japan

- What are the Hikikomori, Ijime and LGBT issues in Japan? How are these issues addressed?

Week 10 and 11) Educational issues

- What are the major issues facing education in Japan today? Identify the problems and discuss what kinds of government policies could be implemented to address the issues.

- How is Japan ' s education system different from that of other countries such as Switzerland?

- How can you compare the three types of tuition support for university students, and which kind of support do you think is most effective in Japan?:

- 1) Make tuition free of charge for all universities

- 2) Establish scholarship and tuition exemptions for students with low incomes and good grades

- 3) Offer loans

Week 12) Energy and Environment

- What should Japan do to address global warming issues (while also taking into consideration national security issues regarding access to vital economic resources)?

- Should Japan continue to rely on nuclear power? What are pros and cons of the current policy?

Week 13) Why do Japanese like Kokoyakyu (High School baseball)? Wrap up discussion of Japanese Society

VIDEO: High School Baseball (KOKOYAKYU)

Week 14) Short final test

[Course requirements]

This class is limited to international students. No prerequisites required. You should be interested and committed to learning about current issues in Japan.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

The grading policy is determined by the number of registered students.

Case1: If the number of registered students becomes more than 40, the grading will be based on the following:

Short midterm test: 35%

Short final test: 35%

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Quizzes during the class: 10%

(*)There will be no prior notification for the dates of the quizzes

Class participation, discussion and attitude: 20%

(Optional Presentation) +10% bonus points

Bonus points will be awarded to the students who make a presentation in the class.

Case 2: If the number of registered students is less than 40, the grading will be based on the following:

Short midterm test: 30%

Short final test: 30%

Quizzes during the class: 10%

(*)There will be no prior notification for the dates of the quizzes

Presentation 20%

Class participation, discussion and attitude: 10%

[Textbooks]

Instructed during class

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Introduced during class

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Review the contents of the lectures and prepare for the tests (a short mid-term test and a short final test)

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

No specific date and time. Please make an appointment by e-mail.