

Course number		U-LAS70 10002 SE50				
Course title (and course title in English)	ILAS Seminar-E2 :Introduction to Economic Sociology ( 経済社会学の導入 )		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Graduate School of Letters Associate Professor,Stephane Heim		
	ILAS Seminar-E2 :Introduction to Economic Sociology					
Group	Seminars in Liberal Arts and Sciences		Number of credits	2	Number of weekly time blocks	1
Class style	seminar (Face-to-face course)	Year/semesters	2025 ・ First semester		Quota (Freshman)	12 (5)
Target year	Mainly 1st year students	Eligible students	For all majors		Days and periods	Tue.5
Classroom	22, Yoshida-South Campus Bldg. No. 1				Language of instruction	English
Keyword	Globalization / Sociopolitical construction of markets / Automotive industry / Toyota Group / Fieldwork methodology					
[Overview and purpose of the course]						
What are economic activities and behaviours? What is the role of firms in capitalism? What about the sociopolitical constructions of markets? Those are some issues this seminar will examine from a sociological perspective. Though the economic activities - production, exchange, and consumption of goods and services - are often thought as being the sole domain of economists, we will explore the contribution of sociologists to our understanding of these activities. During the lectures, diverse specific case studies of the automotive industry will be introduced, and a fieldtrip is organized during two days with interviews and visits of Japanese cars and parts makers' factories. Our aim is both to understand recent trends in economic sociology (with a focal point on the automotive industry), and to be prepared to fieldwork research in economic sociology.						
[Course objectives]						
Economic Sociology is both an old and new subfield of Sociology. The revival of economic sociology in the 1970s is mainly due to the necessity for social scientists to inquire the impacts of globalization and neoliberalism on labour, markets, firms, consumption patterns, economic exchanges from a sociological perspective. The automotive industry, which has been greatly affected by globalization, is a good laboratory of the deep socioeconomic evolutions we have attended for more than 40 years. During this seminar, we will scrutinize this industry from several socioeconomical viewpoints, keeping in mind our three main objectives/targets: 1. to help students acquire the basic and critical knowledge of economic sociology. 2. to offer students an overview of the socioeconomic evolutions caused by globalization. 3. to familiarize students with fieldwork methodologies and tools in economic sociology.						
[Course schedule and contents)]						
Week 1. Introduction: the basics of economic sociology Week 2. The sociology of firm Week 3. Recent production trends in the automobile industry Week 4. Social and political construction of markets of vehicles Week 5. A brief history of the worldwide automotive industry Week 6. Asian and Japanese automotive industries and markets Week 7. Inter-firm relationships in the auto industry: theories						
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Week 8. Inter-firm relationships in the Japanese auto industry  
Week 9. Introduction to the Toyota Group  
Week 10. Introduction to the Toyota Group  
Week 11. Research methodology: preparation of the fieldwork in Aichi Pref.  
Week 12. Research methodology: preparation of the fieldwork in Aichi Pref.  
Week 13. Research methodology: preparation of the fieldwork in Aichi Pref.  
Week 14. Fieldwork: inter-firm relations in Toyota Group, Aichi Pref (August 6-7, intended).

フィードバックについては、別途、連絡します。

**[Course requirements]**

None

**[Evaluation methods and policy]**

Final report.

**[Textbooks]**

Instructed during class

**[References, etc.]**

( References, etc. )

Introduced during class

**[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]**

Instruction is given during class.

**[Other information (office hours, etc.)]**

Students may contact the teacher by Email to set meetings.

**[Essential courses]**