

Course number		U-LAS07 10004 LE31					
Course title (and course title in English)		Current Issues in Japan II Current Issues in Japan II		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability 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		2025 • 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]							
The primary goal of this class is that the students could deepen their understanding of a variety of social issues in contemporary Japan. Students are expected to consider countermeasures to address these issues.							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
<p>Tentative Schedule are as follows;</p> <p>Week 1) Japan in the world</p> <p>Week 2 and 3) Low birth rate/Gender issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the birthrate of Japan declining, and countermeasures/solutions to address issues raised? <p>Week 4) 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 5) Agricultural issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is the self-sufficiency ratio of foods 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 changes to the agricultural industry in Japan? <p>Week 6) Medical issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aging of society will further accelerate in the future - how should Japanese hospital management address the increasing burden of medical expenses? 							

Continue to Current Issues in Japan II(2)							

Current Issues in Japan II(2)

• What is the problem of Japan ' s medical industry? How are these issues different from that of your home country?

• Propose countermeasures to achieve equal distribution of medical doctors in Japan.

1) between large cities and rural areas

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

Week 7) Short midterm test and comprehensive review of the week 1 to 6.

Week 8) Japanese Industry and Economy/ Death from overworking or Karoushi

• Global vs International

• Industry & trade in Japan-Basic knowledge

• Why is Japan ' s labor productivity low compared with other OECD countries?

• How can death from overworking be reduced?

Week 9) Ijime and LGBT issues in Japan

• What is the current situation of LGBT rights in Japan?

Week 10) Hikikomori , Ijime and LGBT issues in Japan

• What is the difference between Hikikomori and NEET?

• What are ' missing workers ' ?

Week 11) Weak Immigration policy

• Refugee issue

• How can we address the labor force shortage in Japan ?

• What are the major issues of immigration in Japan?

• What would be an ideal policy for accepting more foreign labor workers in Japan?

Week 12) Educational issues

• What are the major issues facing education in Japan today? Identify the problem 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 and or Switzerland?

• How can you compare three types of tuition support for university students? Which kind of support do you think is most effective in Japan?

1) Make tuition free of charge at all of the universities

2) Scholarship and tuition exemption for students with low incomes and good grades

3) Loans

Week 13) 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 14)AI and SDG, Wrap up discussion in Japanese Society

• How will AI have an impact on industry in Japan (Such as in the Medical Industry?)

In considering current labor shortage situation in Japan, and government decision to increase immigrants to be worked for less cognitive works, in what ways should AI and robots be introduced most effectively in Japan?

Week 15) Short final test

Week 16) Feedback

Continue to Current Issues in Japan II(3)

Current Issues in Japan II(3)

[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]

Grading policy are determined by the number of registered students.

Case1: If the number of registered students become more than 40, the grades are determined based on the following:

Short midterm test: 35%

Short final test: 35%

Quizzes during the class: 10%

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

Class participation to discussion, attendance, and attitude: 20%

(Optional Presentation) +10% as a bonus

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 grades are determined 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 to discussion, attendance, 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.

[Essential courses]