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| 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 | | Part-time Lecturer, SAKODA SAYAKA | |
| 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 • Second 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 can be categorized as one of the world's most prosperous nations. However, there are many seemingly intractable challenges that the country and people are facing. Throughout this class, we will cover a wide variety of these issues that Japan is currently facing. During this course, participants will learn about the low birth rate, the aging society, marriage, divorce, gender, economic inequality, labour issues, poverty, Hikikomori, discrimination social exclusion, medical services, and other aspects of the country.</p> <p>The course consists of lecture-based instruction followed by guided discussion and short and final essay. At the end of each class, students are expected to discuss the lecture topics and consider policies.</p> | | | | | | | |
| [Course objectives] | | | | | | | |
| <p>The primary goal of this class is that the students could deepen their understanding as followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on statistical data and official documents, analyzing the social issues in current Japan by using the methods of economics and sociology. 2. Comparing Japanese society's characteristics and social problems in modern Japan with those of other countries. | | | | | | | |
| [Course schedule and contents)] | | | | | | | |
| <p>The tentative Schedule is as follows. However, it may be changed according to the progress of the class and request by students.</p> <p>Population Issues</p> <p>Week 1) Introduction</p> <p>Week 2) The Population Pyramid and its Transition</p> <p>Week 3) Institutional Design for Low Fertility and Aging Society</p> <p>Week 4) Marriage and Non-marriage. (Mid-term essay1)</p> <p>Gender Issues</p> <p>Week 5) History of Women's Empowerment in Society</p> <p>Week 6) Division of Labor in the Household: Comparison with other countries</p> <p>Week 7) Gender Consciousness and Marriage</p> <p>Week 8) Divorce/Sexual Infidelity Behavior Economic Disparities</p> <p>Week 9) Japan's Economic Disparities (1)</p> <p>Week 10) Japan's Economic Disparities (2)</p> <p>Week 11) Economic Efficiency and Income Redistribution Policies</p> | | | | | | | |
| <div style="text-align: right;">Continue to Current Issues in Japan II(2)</div> | | | | | | | |

Current Issues in Japan II(2)

Week 12) Students Presentation (Mid-term essay2)

Labour Issues and Poverty

Week 13) Labour patterns in Japan (non-regular employment, freeters, and NEETs) and its problems

Week 14) Social Exclusion, Hikikomori

Week 15) Discrimination and Social Inclusion

Week 16) Feedback

[Course requirements]

This class is limited to international students. No prerequisites are required. It would be appreciated if you are interested in and committed to learning about Japan's current issues and comparing them with the mother country.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Mid-term essay:30%, Final essay:70%

[Textbooks]

Handouts will be distributed at each class.

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

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

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

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

[Essential courses]