

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.3		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 requests 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.</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) How to write an academic essay: for non-social science students

Labour Issues and Poverty

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

Week 14) Social Exclusion, Hikikomori, Discrimination

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 those of the mother country.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

attendance and participation: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

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

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