科目ナンバリング	U-LAS07 10003 LE31						
授業科目名 <英訳>	Current Issues in Japan I Current Issues in Japan I			担当者所属 職名・氏名	国際高等教育院 教授　　河合　淳子		
群	人文・社会科学科目群	分野(分類)	日本理解			使用言語	英語
旧群	A群	単位数	2単位	週コマ数	1コマ	授業形態	講義（対面授業科目）
開講年度・開講期	2026・前期	曜時限	木5	配当学年	全回生	対象学生	留学生

[授業の概要・目的]

This course introduces current conditions and issues in Japanese society, examining the effects of social changes on everyday practices in the family, schools, and the workplace. While“Current Issues in Japan II”covers industries, economy, and management, this course“Current Issues in Japan I”spends time to look into daily practices in Japanese society.

Key concepts will be introduced within the main topics of households, education, technology, sports and leisure, and media and communication. We will investigate the background of these aspects of Japanese society by using texts taken from such fields as sociology, anthropology, literature, and history, as well as various media in order to understand the complexity of current issues in Japan.

Each class includes a lecture and discussions led by students. Each student, as a group, is required to facilitate discussion of at least one assigned reading over the course of the semester.

[到達目標]

To deepen your understanding of a variety of social issues in contemporary Japan.

[授業計画と内容]

Week 1) Introduction: What do you know about Japan?

Week 2) Approaches to Japanese Society: Exploring traditional views on Japan

Weeks 3-4)　Current Issues 1: Family
What issues do Japanese families face today?
How do social changes contribute to emerging issues in the family?
Key concepts: M-shaped curve in labor force participation rate, growth of single-person households, diverse regional characteristics and regional disparities.
(女性の就業率M字カーブ、単独世帯の増加、地域的多様性と地域間格差)

Weeks 5-7)　Current Issues 2: School
What issues do Japanese schools face today?
How do social changes contribute to emerging problems in schools?
Key concepts: truancy, hikikomori, bullying, reform of entrance examinations, decline in academic performance, English proficiency and language education.
（不登校、ひきこもり、いじめ、入試改革、学力低下問題、日本人学生の英語力と言語教育）

Weeks 8-9)　Current Issues 3: Technology and Sciences
How do technology and science affect social issues, and vice versa?
Key concepts: Development of technology in Japan,
artisans in Japanese industry, rise of the machines: merits and demerits of robots and AI（Artificial

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Current Issues in Japan I(2)

Intelligence)
（日本の技術革新、職人、ロボット・人工知能の発達の功罪）

Weeks 10-11) Current Issues 4: Work, leisure, and sports
What are the characteristics of work life and leisure in Japanese society?
How do social changes reflect the characteristics of current conditions?
Key concepts: Working hours of Japanese workers and time for leisure, multicultural aspects in Japanese sports
（日本人の労働時間と余暇、スポーツに見る文化的多様性）

Weeks 12-13) Current Issues 5: Media and communication
What issues do Japanese media and communication face today?
How do social changes reflect the characteristics of current conditions?
Key concepts: Internet Addiction Disorder
（ネット依存）

Week 14) Conclusion: What do we know about Japan now?

Week 16) Feedback

[履修要件]

This class is limited to international students. However, any local students who wish to attend this class, there is an opportunity to attend. Please see **その他** below.

[成績評価の方法・観点]

Participation in class activities (30%), a group discussion facilitation (30%)*, a midterm exam (20%)**, and a final report (20%).

* About a group discussion facilitation:
- Each student will be assigned to one reading and facilitate small group discussion during weeks 3-13.
- The facilitator will prepare a handout (A4x 1page) including a summary of the reading and 3-5 discussion questions and submit it to the instructor by one day before your presentation date.
- The facilitator will give 10 minutes presentation to the small group and lead a group discussion in 10-15 minutes.
- The discussion group will be decided randomly each week.
- After facilitating the group discussion, each facilitator of the week will give a short summary orally to the whole class.

** The midterm exam will be a take-home exam. You will receive the exam questions on week 7, and will be due in class of week 8. It will cover the material assigned for the first half of the course.

[教科書]

Handouts will be distributed.
プリント配布

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Current Issues in Japan I(3)

[参考書等]

（参考書）

Benedict, Ruth 『The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: Patterns of Japanese Culture.』（Houghton Mifflin, 1946）

Nakane, Chie 『Criteria of Group Formation, in Japanese Culture and Behavior, Selected Readings』（1986, University of Hawaii Press）

Doi,Takeo 『Understanding amae : the Japanese concept of need-love : collected papers of Takeo Doi』（Folkestone, Kent : Global Oriental,2005）（**初出**1974）

Asahi Shinbun 『Selected volumes, ASAHI Keywords』（Asahi Shinbun shuppan）（Abridged translations in English will be provided.）

The Japan Times 『Selected volumes, The Japan Times NEWS DIGEST』（The Japan Times）

[授業外学修（予習・復習）等]

・Students are expected to complete the reading assignments and actively participate in class discussion every week.

・Students are expected to prepare for facilitating a discussion on one of the assigned readings.

[その他（オフィスアワー等）]

Please make an appointment in advance by e-mail.

To local students (non-international students):

当クラスは、人社群科目「日本観照：多文化環境で学ぶ現代日本社会の諸相」と合同で行われます。日本在住学生（local students)**は「日本観照～」の方を履修してください。**

[主要授業科目（学部・学科名）]