

Course number		U-LAS70 10001 SJ50				
Course title (and course title in English)	ILASセミナー : 労働社会学入門 ILAS Seminar :Introduction to Sociology of Work		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Letters Associate Professor,Stephane Heim	
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)	8 (8)
Target year	Mainly 1st year students	Eligible students	For all majors		Days and periods	Fri.5
Classroom	Social Studies Joint Research Room, Faculty of Letters Main Bldg (Main Campus)				Language of instruction	Japanese and English
Keyword	Sociology of Work / Automotive Industry / Toyota Motor Corporation / Battery manufacturing / Labor unions					
[Overview and purpose of the course]						
<p>This seminar will focus on the labor conditions in the development and manufacturing of batteries for electric vehicles (EVs) in Japan. Since the Financial Crisis in 2008, the EV industry has been especially expanding in China, and new Chinese car and battery makers dominate this industry. They not only redefine the international division of labor in the automotive industry, but they also create new forms of precarious working and employment conditions. The question of how "traditional car makers" adapt themselves to this "industrial revolution" is a central question for economists and sociologists.</p> <p>This seminar is dedicated to a case study of the EV development and labor conditions of the world largest car maker, Toyota. From the perspective of sociology of work, we will inquire the technical and social division of labor that emerges at Toyota's EV development and manufacturing plants. This case study aims at analyzing the new forms of work, employment conditions, and skills in a traditional industry evolving in an unforeseen manner.</p>						
[Course objectives]						
<p>1. Students will acquire a strong knowledge on the automotive industry, and more specifically the Japanese one. This covers several aspects such as industrial policies, firms' production organization, and division of labor at the industrial, firm, and workplace levels.</p> <p>2. Students will develop skills in the elaboration of fieldwork research related to Sociology of work. A 2-day fieldwork research including interviews with the firm's representatives, workers, and labor unions, and also the factories visits is planned.</p> <p>3. Students will learn about the dynamic processes of industrial and working re-organization during a period of rapid industrial evolution. The current large introduction of electronics and batteries in the automotive industry is a unique chance to observe and analyze such rare "manufacturing and labor revolutions".</p>						
[Course schedule and contents)]						
<p>Week 1. Introduction: Automotive Industries and Labor Relations</p> <p>Week 2. The Development of the Electric Vehicle Industry: new geopolitics</p> <p>Week 3. The Development of the Electric Vehicle Industry: Japanese battery and car makers</p> <p>Week 4. Employment relations in the Japanese Automotive Industry</p> <p>Week 5. Working and Labor conditions at Toyota</p> <p>Week 6. Toyota in Aichi and Shizuoka Prefectures</p>						
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Week 7. The Toyota Group and development of EVs
Week 8. Literature review on labor conditions in the EV industry
Week 9. Preparation of interview guideline on the labor conditions at Toyota and Primearth EV energy
Week 10. Preparation of interviews of firms' representatives, workers and labor unions
Week 11. Preparation of the fieldwork research: technical dimensions of battery manufacturing
Week 12. Preparation of the fieldwork research: labor dimensions of battery manufacturing
Week 13. Preparation of the fieldwork research: Labor unions in Aichi and Shizuoka Prefectures
Week 14. Final Preparation, fieldwork research
Week 16. Feedback class

[Course requirements]

None

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Final Report (100%)

[Textbooks]

Instructed during class

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Introduced during class

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

参考書等に目を通すこと

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

[Essential courses]