

Sub-course 1: Gender, Globalization and Diversity in Contemporary Japan

Course title	[Code]	(Credits)
Undergraduate students: Summer Program in English II	[23N3049]	(2)
Graduate students: Special Lectures in Humanities and Sciences II	[23S0152]	(2)

1. Description

This course looks at how contemporary Japanese society is changing in the context of globalization and demographic pressures (population aging and shrinking) with a special focus on the consequences of these changes for gender and diversity. From welfare to employment, immigration to gender equity, contemporary Japan is facing a range of policy and social issues that will shape Japanese society in the coming decades. How is Japan adapting to our changing world, and what challenges and hurdles remain going forward?

The format of this course is a series of lectures taught by various lecturers with a range of areas of expertise, giving the course an interdisciplinary dimension. All lectures will be held face-to-face in the classroom, between 9 AM and 12:10 PM each day.

NOTE: While this course is an intensive two-week course, the total number of classroom lectures plus the field trip is equal to 15 periods.

2. Teaching Date, Time and Topic

Date	Time	Lecturer	Topic	Place
July 12 Wed	12:20pm (JST)	Dr. Myles CARROLL	Orientation	Zoom
July 24 Mon	9:00am – 12:10pm	Dr. Myles CARROLL	Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy I: Employment	Plaza 2F, Room B&C
July 25 Tue	9:00am – 12:10pm		Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy II: Welfare	Same as above
July 26 Wed	1:00pm – 5:30pm	Dr. Myles CARROLL	Field trip	TBA
July 27 Thu	9:00am – 12:10pm	Dr. Myles CARROLL	Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy III: Migration	Plaza 2F, Room B&C

July 28 Fri	9:00am – 12:10pm	Dr. Maaya FUKUMOTO	The Roots of Budoh	Same as above
July 31 Mon	9:00am – 12:10pm	Dr. Yukako HATAKEYAMA	Culture and Perception: How are perceptual processes influenced by culture?	Same as above
Aug 1 Mon	9:00am – 12:10pm	Dr. Makoto KOBAYASHI	War and Gender	Same as above

3. Class Contents:

Topic: Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy I: Employment

Dr. Myles CARROLL

In the post-war era, Japan experienced rapid economic growth, near zero unemployment, and relatively low income inequality. Despite these achievements, women faced significant barriers to labor market participation. Moreover, recent decades have witnessed economic stagnation, growing inequality, and economic precariousness, pointing to problems with the old system. What made Japan's employment regime so effective in the post-war era and how is it responding to the challenges posed by globalization and the push for greater gender equality?

Topic: Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy II: Welfare

Dr. Myles CARROLL

Building on the first lecture, this class examines Japan's welfare regime, from the post-war to the present. While Japan was well known for having a small welfare state in the post-war era, recent decades have seen rapid population aging, a chronically low birth rate, and growing economic insecurity for many people, all of which have necessitated a major rethink of Japan's welfare state. How is Japan adapting to the challenges posed by globalization and demographic change and what are the consequences for gender equality and inclusion?

Field Trip: TBA

Dr. Myles CARROLL

Topic: Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy III: Migration

Dr. Myles CARROLL

This lecture looks at the question of immigration and ethno-cultural diversity in Japan. While Japan is often thought of as a monoethnic, monocultural society, this impression hides the reality of various minority groups that have lived in Japan since the pre-war era of Japanese imperialism and before. Moreover, recent years of population decline, labor shortages and economic stagnation have driven a gradual shift towards the acceptance of foreign workers. How will this shift to a more open immigration system impact Japanese society and what challenges and opportunities await?

Topic: The Roots of Budoh

Dr. Maaya FUKUMOTO

This class will introduce Butoh, a Japanese Contemporary Dance. Butoh was developed at the end of 1950s as a revolutionary kind of dance in Japan. This class will introduce how Butoh pioneers inquired and developed this original dance style and why they are now highly evaluated internationally. Through watching the works and sharing our impressions, we might also be aware of the different impressions that Butoh gives each of us.

Topic: Culture and Perception: How are perceptual processes influenced by culture?

Dr. Yukako HATAKEYAMA

In the current world of diversity, people from various cultural backgrounds get together, share ideas, and have discussions. Culture may influence our way of thinking and communication, but do people from different cultures perceive things differently? In this lecture, students will explore how culture may or may not influence perception, through simple experiments, discussions, and group work. The findings reported in research papers and books will be introduced as supplemental materials. The lecture is interactive, involves pair and group work, and welcomes student participation.

Topic: War and Gender

Dr. Makoto KOBAYASHI

The social division between genders appears very clear during wartime. In general, men work as soldiers and women as supporters, and this means that gender divisions (men in the public sphere and women in the private sphere) become deeper than in peacetime. However, today's high technology is changing the gender divisions that emerge during wartime, while the form of international conflicts has also transformed making the difference between war and peace itself vague. In this changing context, what roles will men and women play in future conflicts around the world?

4. Evaluation

Class attendance: (25% of final grade)

Reaction paper submissions: (25% of final grade; students submit seven reaction papers in total, one for each day of class including the field trip)

Final report: (50% of final grade)