

Sub-course : Japan society and people: insights on some selected contemporary challenges

Course title	[Code]	(Credits)
Undergraduate students: Summer Program in English III	[23N3051]	(2)
Graduate students: Special Lectures in Humanities and Sciences III	[23S0153]	(2)

1. Description

The theme of this course is: "Japan society and people: insights on some selected contemporary challenges."

2. Teaching Day and Time

Day	Time	Lecturer	Topic/Contents	Place
July 24 Mon	9:00am -12:10pm	Dr. Shin Ki-young	Women's Political Representation in East Asia	Plaza 3F Seminar room
July 25 Tue	10:40am - 12:10pm	Dr. Ishimaru Keiichiro	LGBTQ+ in Contemporary Japan (1)	Same as above
July 26 Wed	1:20 pm – TBA	Dr. TRIPETTE JULIEN	Field trip (Mori Art Musiam)	Roppongi, Tokyo
July 27 Thu	10:40am - 12:10pm	Dr. Ishimaru Keiichiro	LGBTQ+ in Contemporary Japan (2)	Plaza 3F Seminar room
July 28 Fri	9:00am – 12:10pm	Dr. Akamatsu Rie	Let's talk about SCHOOL LUNCH!	Same as above
July 31 Mon	10:40am - 12:10pm	Dr. Ishimaru Keiichiro	LGBTQ+ in Contemporary Japan (3)	Same as above
Aug 1 Tue	10:40am - 12:10pm	Dr. Ishimaru Keiichiro	LGBTQ+ in Contemporary Japan (4)	Same as above
Aug 2 Thu	10:40am - 12:10pm 1:20pm – 2:50pm	Dr. Morimitsu Yasujiro	WASABI (Japanese horse radish), real smell and taste	Same as above
Aug 3 Wed	10:40am - 12:10pm 1:20pm – 2:50pm	Dr. TRIPETTE JULIEN	Physical activity and health in Japan : contemporary challenges	Same as above

※An orientation video is going to be offered before the course begins.

3. Class Contents:

Topic: Women's Political Representation in East Asia

Dr. Shin Ki-young

Abstract: In this class on gender and politics, students will learn about the basic concepts of political representation and the current status of women/minorities' political representation in Japan and other countries. The class will also introduce some institutional measures such as electoral quotas to promote diversity in political representation and discuss the effects such measures have exerted, as well as challenges the electoral quotas have faced in some countries. Students are expected to examine the short history of women/minority's political representation in her/his own country and whether electoral quotas at any levels are introduced, and how the quotas have been implemented.

Topic: LGBTQ+ in Contemporary Japan

Dr. Ishimaru Keiichiro

Abstract: Japan has a slightly different history and culture regarding LGBTQ from the Western countries or from the other Asian countries. In this class, many topics, events, and important people in contemporary LGBT history of Japan will be described, including legislative systems, mental health care, physical treatments for transgenders, activisms, TV dramas, drag queens, and so on. It is welcomed to share the situations in your own countries and to discuss on the similarities and the differences.

Topic: Let's talk about SCHOOL LUNCH!

Dr. Akamatsu Rie

Abstract: What did you eat for lunch when you were in elementary school? Food and eating habits vary from country to country. School lunches are no exception. In this class, we will discuss school lunches together. First, you will learn about the history and system of school lunches in Japan. After that, you will visit Ochanomizu Elementary School and take a small lecture by a nutrition teacher. Then, you will return to the university and share school lunch in your country and exchange opinions. Please summarize the introduction of school lunches in your country in one PowerPoint slide and prepare to explain it within 3 minutes. It would be understandable if the slide included pictures. Please put your name at the top of the slide. The PowerPoint file should be submitted before the class. Evaluation will be based on the presentation and reaction paper.

Topic: WASABI (Japanese horse radish), real smell and taste

Dr. Morimitsu Yasujiro

Abstract: Wasabi (Japanese horseradish, *Wasabia japonica*) is the food material used for a long time in Japan, and now wasabi is one of famous Asian spices accepted in the world with the popularity of sushi. The wasabi root is utilized as a pungent spice mainly. The pungent component of wasabi is known to contain allyl isothiocyanate (AITC). This pungent component has the same even in the Western wasabi (horseradish, *Armoracia rusticana*).

In this lecture, we are going to have you actually feel difference between smell and taste of wasabi and the Western wasabi. And we are glad if you can realize a flavor of the genuine wasabi.

Topic: Physical activity and health in Japan : contemporary challenges

Dr. Tripette Julien

Abstract: Japan frequently ranks at the top of the life expectancy table and Japanese people are praised for their healthy lifestyle. In the present lecture, we will explore the question of Japanese people physical behaviors. We will examine how Japan-specific factors may (or may not) contribute to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, how the super aging society issues are addressed from the perspective of physical activity. When relevant, comparisons with other countries will be done.

4. Evaluation

63 points will be given for attendance to the lectures. The works performed within the lecture entitled "Let's talk about SCHOOL LUNCH!" will be evaluated on 7 points. The works performed within the lecture entitled "WASABI (Japanese horse radish), real smell and taste" will be evaluated on 7 points. The report related to the lecture entitled "LGBTQ+ in Contemporary Japan" will be evaluated on 7 points. The work related to the field trip will be evaluated on 16 points.