

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

## Course title

[Code] (Credits)

Undergraduate students: Summer Program in English I [24N3047] (2)

Graduate students: Special Lectures in Humanities and Sciences I [24S0151] (2)

**1. Description**

This course looks at how contemporary Japanese society is changing in the context of both global and domestic social pressures with a special focus on the consequences of these changes for gender and diversity. From social welfare to employment, immigration, gender equity and inclusion, 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 9:30 AM and 12:40 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 19 Fri	5:00pm-6:00pm	Prof. Myles CARROLL	Orientation	Plaza 2F, Room B&C
July 22 Mon	9:30am – 12:40pm		Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy I: Employment	Plaza 2F, Room B&C
July 23 Tue	9:30am – 12:40pm		Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy II: Welfare	Same as above
July 24 Wed	1:00pm – 5:30pm		Field trip	TBA

July 26 Fri	9:30am – 12:40pm		Globalization, Gender and Diversity in Contemporary Japanese Political Economy III: Migration	Plaza 2F, Room B&C
July 27 Sat	9:30am – 12:40pm	Prof. Fumie OHASHI	Gender and Migration in Japan: Focusing on Economies of Care and Intimacy	Same as above
July 29 Mon	9:30am – 12:40pm	Prof. Naoki OTAWA	Youth culture and cultural diversity in Japan: Japanese culture in globalization	Same as above
July 30 Tue	9:00am – 12:10pm	Prof. Yukako HATAKEYAMA	Culture and Perception: How are perceptual processes influenced by culture?	Same as above

### 3. Class Contents:

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

Prof. 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**

Prof. 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**

Prof. Myles CARROLL

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

Prof. 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: Gender and Migration in Japan: Focusing on Economies of Care and Intimacy**

Prof. Fumie OHASHI

Although Japan is one of the top destination countries for international migrants, many people tend to think of Japan as ethnically and culturally homogeneous compared to other countries. One reason behind such false recognition may be because migrants are likely to be regarded as temporary labor resources, not as people who are deeply involved in every-day social relations in Japan. This class will explore the globalized economy of care and intimacy in Japan, focusing on the experiences of migrant women in this realm. By critically looking into the intersection of gender and migration, we will discuss how globalization affects interpersonal and intergenerational relations at migrant-receiving and migrant-sending countries.

### **Topic: Youth culture and cultural diversity in Japan: Japanese culture in globalization**

Prof. Naoki OTAWA

This class examines the current state of Japanese youth culture and pop culture from a sociological perspective, with a focus on the underground idol scene from the 2010s onward. First, we will examine the situation of "late youth" in the context of the extension of the youth period. Second, we will introduce the underground idol scene, which has been established through the involvement of various fan groups, including the "late youth". We will also examine the possibilities and problems associated with this scene.

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

Prof. 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.

#### **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)