

## Course 1. Current Issues in Japan (30 hours)

### Outline of the course

This course aims to understand the current state of "Japan" from various perspectives based on the humanities and social sciences.

"Japan" used to be known as a country with advanced high-tech industries. In recent years, it has grown rapidly as a country that attracts many foreign tourists worldwide, and the number of foreign residents has also increased.

In this course, the current situation of "Japan" will be approached from five perspectives: education, art & culture, business, tourism, and society. The themes of each class are as follows (subject to change):

Japanese English education

Japanese Higher education

Japanese pop culture

Japanese art: traditional to contemporary

Japanese inbound and overseas tourists

Japanese business management

Japanese society from the perspective of settled foreigners

This course operates in an omnibus format, with Tamagawa University's faculty members sharing the responsibility through their expertise. In addition to classroom lectures, this course will also provide fieldwork opportunities to go outside the university and make site visits related to the topics.

This course is conducted in English and is an international co-curricular course in which international and Tamagawa University students study together. In the final session, students will give a presentation on specific topics in mixed groups of international students and Tamagawa students.

### Objectives

- 1) To be able to explain the current situation in Japan based on knowledge gained in classes and what one has seen.
- 2) To be able to explain the similarities and differences between the viewpoints of international students and Japanese people about the current situation in Japan.
- 3) To acquire and improve intercultural understanding and communication skills through discussions and group work among participating students.

### Grading method

- 1) Class participation: In-class assignments, reaction papers, etc. (60%, Individual)
- 2) Presentation (20%, Group)
- 3) Essay (20%, Individual)