

Course 1. Current Issues in Japan (30 hours)

Outline of the course

This course aims to understand the current state of "Japan" from different angles through the lens of the humanities and social sciences. "Japan" used to be known as a country with advanced high-tech and manufacturing industries. In recent years, it has grown rapidly as a country that attracts many tourists from around the world, and the number of foreign residents has also increased. It seems that Japan's situation is at a turning point.

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

Teacher training in Japan

English education in Japan

Gender equality in STEM in Japanese higher education

Japanese pop culture

Japanese art: traditional to contemporary

Overview of tourism in Japan

Japanese business management

Japan and Japanese diaspora

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 criteria

- 1) Class participation: In-class assignments, reaction papers, etc. (52%, Individual)
- 2) Presentation (24%, Group)
- 3) Essay (24%, Individual)