

Miyazaki International College  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2022

Course Title ( Credits )	SSI 202: International Social Issues—Global Inequality
Course Designation for TC	N/A
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Prof. Erik Bond
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Office hours	M/W 14.30-16.00

Course Description:
In this course, we will study a variety of issues on inequality and conflicts at global levels beyond borders of nation states in the contemporary world.
Course Objectives:
<p>In this course we will explore the nature of inequality, where it comes from, and how it affects people's lives. Using the institutions related to race/ethnicity, gender/sex/sexuality, economics, crime and deviance, and the lifecycle, we will study the experience of inequality as it exists in a globalized society. As this is a social science course, we will not be concerned with either ethics or morality, but rather the experiences of individuals that endure inequalities, forces of globalization that create or enhance inequality, and the implications of inequality in the modern era.</p> <p>Our challenge will be to connect class activities (i.e. lectures, in-class projects, film viewings) and the reading material with the reality of inequality as a social phenomenon. The class format will consist of brief, structured lectures, group activities, and film viewings. At the beginning of each class period, we will provide a preview (see the scheduled lectures below) and a physical outline of the lecture topic. Each unit will also include a film, a case study and readings that will serve to better illustrate our topic.</p>

Tentative Course Schedule		
Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	<b>Introductions &amp; Syllabus</b> Defining Global Inequality Thinking through Sociological Lenses	Syllabus + Quiz; enroll on Moodle; Inequality icebreaker → → “If it were my home...” activity; What is inequality + How do we measure it? (Life chances); Interpreting data; <b>Inequality Quiz #1</b>
2		
3		
4		
5	<b>Socioeconomic Inequality</b> Dimensions of Class, Privilege and Disadvantage	What is “SES”? How is it measured? WPP vocabulary; Comparing within- and between-country inequality; Causes and consequences of economic inequality; <b>Quiz</b> ; Popular rhetoric on and framings of inequality
6		
7		
8		
9	<b>Racial and Ethnic Divides</b> Racism and Discrimination Ethnocentrism	Racism vocabulary; Eye of the Storm pt.1 + questions; Eye of the Storm pt. 2 + questions; Reflection activity; Report survey results; Racism in Japan videos;
10		
11		
12	Midterm Preparation and Presentation	Introduce Japanese Foreign Residents’ discrimination survey Working Period for Midterm Data Analysis Deliver <b>Midterm Project</b> materials and reports
13		
14		
15		
16	<b>Gendered Inequalities</b> Women’s & Men’s Issues Family Disparities Gender Identity	Job-stereotyping activity + video; Sexism vocabulary; Gender equity in Japan + video; Global gender statistics; Family Inequality; Feminine characteristics survey; Japanese Fertility Crisis Gender Inequality & Birth Rate Toxic masculinity, gender stereotypes, + men’s issues; Gender stereotypes and Dr. Ben Barres; <b>Quiz</b>
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23	<b>LGBTQ Issues</b> Gender + Sexual Identities Queer Experiences	LGBTQ Rights Report LGBTQ Statistics Around the World LGBTQ Statistics packets; <b>Quiz</b> Being LGBTQ in Japan + survey
24		
25		
26		
27	Finals Preparation Period	Preparation time
28	Final Presentations Week	<b>Final Presentations</b>
29		
30	Exam Review	Review Period
Final Period	Final Exam	<b>Final Exam</b>
Notes:		

Required Materials:

Pen/pencil, paper, **tablet\*\*\***, binder, access to Moodle, and assigned readings.

**\*\*\*Important Note\*\*\*:**

- It is *extremely important* that you bring a tablet or laptop to *every class*.
- This class will use mobile devices often, including to type assignments.
- Each class period will begin with a writing prompt that you must answer on Moodle
- If you do not have a device that is charged, connected to the internet, and allows you to type, you may be unable to complete some assignments, affecting your grade.
- If you do not have access to a tablet, please talk to me in the *first week* of class so we can find a solution.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

You should plan to attend ALL class meetings and complete ALL readings and assignments by the due date given. **Students are allowed a maximum of 5 absences before they must withdraw.** I will not accept late assignments, quizzes, and exams except in cases of extraordinary excused absences. I will evaluate exceptions on a case by case basis. When you miss class, you should be sure to check Moodle for new assignments. If you are aware ahead of an upcoming assignment due date that you will be absent, you should submit the assignment early, either in person or by email.

Your professors will not tolerate academic dishonesty (i.e., plagiarism, cheating, etc.) in this course. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Please see pages 9-12 of the College Bulletin for a description of college expectations and pages 203-206 for actions considered unacceptable with reasonable cause.

Your professors retain the right to alter the course schedule as necessary. Students will be given adequate notice of these changes.

Class Preparation and Review

Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time.

Grades and Grading Standards

You will be evaluated upon your performance in (1) Participation, (2) Quizzes and Homework, (3) a Midterm Project, (4) a Final Presentation, and (5) a Final Exam.

Grades		Grading Scheme		
Participation (see Memo)	20%	A	90-100%	Greatly exceeds minimum requirements
Quizzes & Homework	20%	B	80-89%	Exceeds minimum learning requirements
Midterm Project	20%	C	70-79%	Meets minimum learning requirements
Final Presentation	20%	D	60-69%	Almost meets minimum requirements
Final Exam	20%	F	0-59%	Fails to meet minimum requirements
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	*I will provide specific assignment rubrics as assigned.		

Methods of Feedback:

In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback (i.e., grade, comments, etc.). In practice and due to the nature of course material, some feedback will be given via discussion in-class and (where necessary) during office hours.

Diploma Policy Objectives:

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytical thought).
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations.
3. The ability to identify and solve problems.
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English.
5. Proficiency in the use of information technology.

Notes:

