

Course Title	LAI508 Regional Issues Seminar LAI503 Regional Culture of Japan	Instructor(s)	Aya Kasai PhD, MFT, CPP, RCC
		E-mail	akasai@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Project-based learning/Field work	Office Hours	To be announced
Track	All tracks	Mode of Instruction	Solo with guest lectures
Credits	1	Allocated Year	All
Active Learning	4-(1) Interactive Lecture 4-(9) Group Work on Questions 5-(1) Cooperative Student Projects 5-(4) Community Based Projects	Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	Students will conduct fieldwork in the target region, plan and implement regional projects that will lead to problem-solving. [As this is an intensive course, details (location, dates and cost) will be announced separately.]		
Course Objectives	<p>Through this course, students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analyze the content and background of issues in the region (DP1: Scientific thinking skills).</li> <li>implement measures to resolve regional issues (DP2: Overhead view / conceptualization skills).</li> <li>promote solutions to local issues together with the local community (DP3: Ability to connect/realize concepts).</li> <li>present the results of practical efforts to solve regional issues.</li> </ol>		
Prerequisite	None		
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Orientation	Read background information of area
	2	Planning and discussion	Plan and prepare for fieldwork
	3	Fieldwork - participate in practicum activities at designated locations	Collect data, propose and implement a project
	4		
	5		
	6	Reflection and Integration	Write a reflection on experience
	7	Presentation/Discussion	Provide feedback to others
8	Final written assignment	Hand in final written assignment	
Grading	<p>Reading, homework, practicum activities: 50%, Final presentation/written work: 50%</p> <p>The final grade will be determined as below. A: 90-100 points, B: 80-89 points, C: 70-79 points, D: 60-69 points, F: Less than 60 points</p> <p>Plagiarism: Plagiarism is not acceptable at MIU. Students must submit their own work and not copy from other sources, unless they credit their sources with appropriate referencing. Students caught copying information from other sources and pretending that it is their own work will automatically result in a grade of 'F' or withdrawal from the course.</p>		
Textbooks	Handouts will be provided in class.		
References	Suggested readings will be provided in class.		
NOTES	<p><b>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</b></p> <p>Information for 2026 course participants: This year, the course will take place on April 25 and April 26 (P1, 2, 3, 4 on both days) in collaboration with</p>		

Aoshima 24 district (Uchiumi). Students will participate in the 2-day workshop with sub-surface environment specialists to revitalize the eco-system of the forest and residential areas for the purpose of natural disaster recovery and prevention. Please take the class only if you can participate on both days. (You are also welcome to participate in the afternoon of April 24th for the planning meeting and preparation) Orientation session will be provided on April 16 P4. (Recording of the explanation session will be available to those who cannot attend.) The guest speakers will use Japanese for their lectures and the instructor will provide English translations and supplemental materials.

Information about the project (In Japanese):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bHX3QfChW-MaXY7pXe7OyyFZq67L2Gf0u/view?usp=sharing>

- There will be class communication e-mails and explanation session for preparation purposes. If you do not attend/respond during add/drop week, your place may be given to a waitlisted student.
- Students are responsible for the cost of the fieldwork as well as for transportation to/from the fieldwork site.
- You are expected to inform the instructor in advance if you must miss a class.
- There will be no make-up session available for the fieldwork. If you miss more than 20 percent of the class/fieldwork time, you will be asked to withdraw.
- Assignments completion: It is your responsibility to attend all classes, to participate actively as a member of the class, and to complete and hand in all assigned work as required to pass this course.

**LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:**

- I will make efforts to address the different learning styles of students in the class. There will be a combination of whole-class activities, individually based activities, small group work, and lecture.
- Students and instructors will work together to create safe learning environment for everyone. Harassment or bullying will not be tolerated.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:**

- It is our goal that all students have an effective learning environment. Please let me know all necessary accommodations needed to make the class fully accessible.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time.**