

 シラバス参照

<<Last Updated:2025/01/31>>

Course Schedule Information

Course Code	Z26003
Semester	Spring and Summer Term
Day and Period	Thu2
Course Name (Japanese)	Social Stratification in Japanese Society
Course Name	Social Stratification in Japanese Society
Capacity	0
Room	School of Human Sciences/Main School HouseLecture Room31
Course Numbering Code	01HUSC3A600
Type of Class	Lecture Subject
Credits	2.0
Student Year	2,3,4
Instructor	HUGHES PHILLIP BRIAN
Course of Media Class	Not Applicable

※About Course of Media Class

"Course of Media Class" are classes in which more than half of the classes are held in places other than classrooms by making advanced use of various media.

Undergraduate students can include up to 60 credits in media class course as requirements for graduation.

Even if this is not the case, we may hold classes using the media.

Basic Syllabus Information

Eligibility	
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Detailed Syllabus Information

Course Subtitle	Social Stratification in Japanese Society
Language of the Course	English
Learning Methods	Reading: Reading books and academic papers (e.g., summarizing an academic paper, reading information on a website) Discussion: Learning through question-and-answer interactions and exchanges of opinions among students and between students and the instructor (e.g., pair/group discussion, online chat, one-on-one guidance for writing an academic paper) Collaborative work: Working as a pair or a group (e.g., producing a poster through group work) Research: Collecting information from books and academic papers; gathering and analyzing data by fieldwork (e.g., review of previous research, fieldwork) Presentation: Writing papers, making presentations, and creating works (e.g., report writing, oral/poster presentation, creation of works, portfolio development)
Course Objectives	This course examines social stratification in Japan, exploring how intersecting factors like class, gender, sexuality, education, migration, ethnicity, and race shape societal hierarchies. Social stratification is grounded in foundational sociological theories. While studying these, we will also critically interrogates their Eurocentric legacies, engaging with decolonial and intersectional frameworks that challenge dominant canons. Students will analyze how sociology's knowledge production reflects colonial histories, including Europe's influence and Japan's imperial past, while incorporating perspectives from indigenous and marginalized scholarship. Key topics include the shift from rigid prewar class structures, shaped by Japan's imperial ambitions, to the postwar myth of a "classless" society and the realities of kakusa shakai (stratified society) in modern Japan. The course explores how colonization and the experiences of groups like the Ainu, Okinawans, Zainichi Koreans, and Nikkei migrants challenge monolithic narratives of national identity and social mobility. Students will also study how family, work, and education reproduce inequality, with attention to credentialism (gakureki shakai), gendered labor norms, migration policies, and their intersections with imperialism, settler colonialism, and global capitalism. Using canonical texts, critical theory, indigenous scholarship, and policy debates, students will examine how hierarchies are created, maintained, contested, and reinscribed. Students will also be expected to carry out a small research project into a chosen topic related to social stratification in Japan.

Learning Goals	1	Students will be able to critically evaluate foundational and contemporary sociological theories of stratification in Japan, demonstrating this understanding by actively participating in class discussions, engaging with diverse scholarly perspectives, and contributing thoughtful commentary on readings and lecture materials.
	2	Students will be able to analyze the historical and ongoing impact of Japan's imperial legacies, intersectional inequalities, and indigenous and minority experiences on social hierarchies, showing depth of understanding through frequent contributions in class and a well-structured oral presentation that synthesizes academic scholarship into coherent, evidence-based arguments.
	3	Students will be able to situate Japan's stratification system within a global framework, identifying parallels and contrasts with other regions and critiquing Eurocentric paradigms. They will demonstrate this by participating in comparative discussions, responding thoughtfully to peer feedback, and delivering a presentation that articulates fresh insights and potential directions for future inquiry.
Requirements, Prerequisites	Knowledge of sociological theory is preferred.	
Class Plan	1st	4/10 Period: Day: Title:Introduction Theories of stratification; Functionalist, Post-Marxist, and Weberian
		Kingsley Davis & Wilbert Moore "Some Principles of Stratification" Erik Olin Wright "Class Counts" Max Weber "Class, Status, Party" Karl Marx "Alienation and Social Classes", "Classes in Capitalism and Pre-Capitalism" and "Ideology and Class"
		Independent Study Outside of Class :
	2nd	4/17 Period: Day: Title:Decentering Euro-American frameworks
		Julian Go, "Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4RmaYRt6pM
		Raewyn Connell, "Decolonizing Sociology"
		Reading: Gurminder K. Bhambra, "Sociology and Postcolonialism: Another `Missing' Revolution?"
	Independent Study Outside of Class :	
	3rd	5/8 Period: Day: Title:Historical trajectories and contemporary complexities of racial and ethnic identities in Japan
		Eiji Oguma, "Racial and ethnic identities in Japan"
		Independent Study Outside of Class :
	4th	4/24 Period: Day: Title:Japan's empire and its impact on class and social hierarchies
		Bumsoo Kim, "Bringing class back in: the changing basis of inequality and the Korean minority in Japan".
		Independent Study Outside of Class : Erik Olin Wright "A General Framework for the Analysis of Class Structure"
	5th	5/22 Period: Day: Title:The rise of non-regular employment, increasing class divisions, and social exclusion
		Steffen Heinrich and Jun Imai, "Work and employment: inside, outside and beyond the lifetime employment model".
		Independent Study Outside of Class :
	6th	7/17 Period: Day: Title:Invisible underclass: day labourers and the homeless
		Tom Gill, "Wage Hunting at the Margins of Urban Japan"
		Akihiko Nishizawa, "The changing face of homelessness in Tokyo in the modern era"
		Independent Study Outside of Class :
	7th	5/15 Period: Day: Title:Gendered labor markets, work-family balance, intersection of gender in Japanese workplaces
		Emiko Ochiai, "Leaving the West, Rejoining the East? Gender and Family in Japan's Semi-Compressed Modernity".
		Independent Study Outside of Class : Sawako Shirahase, "Marriage as an association of social classes in a low fertility rate society".
	8th	5/29 Period: Day: Title:Indigenous perspectives (Ainu, Okinawans), challenging settler colonial narratives; Centering indigenous knowledge (1)
		Eleonore Komai, "The Ainu and Indigenous politics in Japan: Negotiating agency, instituional stability, and change".
		Independent Study Outside of Class : Wimmer, Andreas. (2008). The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory. 113: 4: 970-1022.
9th	6/5 Period: Day: Title:Indigenous perspectives (Ainu, Okinawans), challenging settler colonial narratives; Centering indigenous knowledge (2)	
	Ayano Ginoza, "Okinawa: Rooting and routing of Uchinanchu and Shima".	
	Independent Study Outside of Class :	
10th	7/10 Period: Day: Title:Social mobility of ethnic minorities	
	Ayumi Takenaka, "How ethnic minorities experience social mobility in Japan: an ethnographic study of Peruvian migrants".	

		Independent Study Outside of Class :					
	11th	6/12 Period: Day: Title:Marketizing bodies and neoliberal desires					
		Akiko Takeyama, "Possessive Individualism in the age of Postfeminism and Neoliberalism: Self-Ownership, Consent, and Contractual Abuses in Japan's Adult Video Industry".					
		Independent Study Outside of Class : Akiko Takeyama, "Intimacy for Sale: Masculinity, Entrepreneurship, and Commodity Self in Japan's Neoliberal Situation"					
	12th	6/26 Period: Day: Title:Between homeland and diaspora, Neogitating sexuality, belonging and identity					
		Hugo Cordova Quero, "Made in Brazil? Sexuality, Intimacy, and Identity Formation among Japanese Brazillian Queer Immigrants in Japan".					
		Independent Study Outside of Class : Takeyuki Tsuda, "Transnational Migration and the Nationalization of Ethnic Identity among Japanese Brazilian Return Migrants".					
	13th	6/19 Period: Day: Title:Transgender women in the entertainment industry					
		Tricia Okada, "Gender performance and migration experience of Filipino transgender women entertainers in Japan"					
		Independent Study Outside of Class :					
	14th	7/3 Period: Day: Title:Whiteness and Japaneseness, racial boundaries					
		Yuna Sato, Adrijana Miladinovic and Sayaka Osanami Tornrgren, "To be or not to be 'White' in Japan: Japaneseness and racial whiteness through the lens of mixed Japanese people".					
		Independent Study Outside of Class : Film: Hafu: The Mixed-Race Experience in Japan					
	15th	7/31 Period: Day: Title:Wrap-up					
Independent Study Outside of Class :							
Textbooks		There is no textbook. All required and optional readings will be available on CLE. Students are expected to complete reading assignments before class starts.					
Reference							
Grading Policy *Hover the mouse over the number of a learning goal to view the full text of it.		Evaluation Methods	Learning engagement	Presentation			
		Learning Goals1	○	○			
		Learning Goals2	○	○			
		Learning Goals3	○	○			
		Allocation of Marks	50%	50%			
Additional Information on Grading							
Reasonable Accommodation		• If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this class due to disability (including intractable disease and chronic condition), please contact the office for students with disabilities (e.g., Educational Affairs Section, Academic Affairs Section, Student Affairs Section) at your school/faculty or graduate school, or the Disability Advisory and Support Service Office of the Health and Counseling Center. • For more information, please visit the following website or contact the Disability Advisory and Support Service Office of the Health and Counseling Center. Website : https://acs.hacc.osaka-u.ac.jp Tel : 06-6850-6107 E-mail : campuslifekenkou-ac@office.osaka-u.ac.jp					
Special Note		Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of students.					
Office Hours		By appointment					

Instructor(s)

Instructor Name	Name (hiragana)	Affiliation, Title, Course	Office	Extension	E-mail
Phillip Hughes	ヒューズフィリップ	School of Human Sciences			phillip.hus@osaka-u.ac.jp

Cautions for Students

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