

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

EDUCATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIETIES

Subtitle	Education in Asia Pacific Societies
Lecturer(s)	HAMMOND, CHRISTOPHER
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2025 Spring
Day/Period	Fri.2
Campus	Mita
Classroom	514
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	70306
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
K-Number	CIN-CO-00223-212-09

▼ Detail

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

This course will introduce learners to various socio-cultural issues and debates impacting schools, universities and education systems in Asia Pacific societies.

Taking a case study perspective, we will examine a range of issues facing Asia Pacific societies. These are subject to change but will likely include:

- Debate and discussion of the cultural and philosophical ideas that have shaped education in East Asia.
- Exploration of debates about the purposes of formal schooling, and the role of shadow education (cram schools/private tutoring) in various Asia Pacific contexts.
- Consideration of how education is used as a political tool to shape national identities through moral, civic, and history curricula.
- Exploration of the tensions between nationalism, internationalization of education and globalization in Asia Pacific contexts.
- Consideration of issues of diversity and inclusion with regard to ethnic, gender and sexual minorities in Asia Pacific contexts
- Exploration of language policy and language colonization in Pacific island contexts

Active Learning Methods ⓘ [Description](#)

Discussions, Debates
Group work
Flipped classroom

Preparatory Study

Students will be required to engage with the weekly content (e.g. video lectures, readings) and prepare written reflections before class most weeks. Class time will focus on small group and whole class discussions of the weekly content.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Exploring Education and Society - Introduction to Sociology of Education

Lesson 2

Education in Asia Pacific societies: a comparative overview

Lesson 3

International comparisons of academic achievement and East Asia’s ‘success’ on the OECDs PISA test

Lesson 4

The role of shadow education - exploring social class, egalitarianism and inequality

Lesson 5

Narratives of (dis)ability and access to education in China, Japan and the US

Lesson 6

Gender and sexual diversity in Asian higher education

Lesson 7

Nationalism and education in the Asia Pacific

Lesson 8

Comparing contemporary student activism in Japan and the 'West'

Lesson 9

Language, Culture and Colonization in the Pacific

Lesson 10

Education and technology in the Asia Pacific

Lesson 11

Moral education in Japan

Lesson 12

Academic freedom in East Asian education systems

Lesson 13

Final report workshop

Lesson 14

Final report presentations

Other

Optional make-up class

Method of Evaluation

Attendance, Weekly assignments, Participation:	70%
Research-based reports:	30%

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks for this course. Readings will be provided.

Reference Books

Brooks, R. (2019). *Education and Society: Places, Policies, Processes*. Macmillan International Higher Education.

Goodman, R., Kariya, T., & Taylor, J. (Eds.). (2013, May). *Higher education and the state: Changing relationships in Europe and East Asia*. Symposium Books Ltd.

Morris, P., Shimazu, N., & Vickers, E. (Eds.). (2014). *Imagining Japan in post-war East Asia: identity politics, schooling and popular culture*. Routledge.

Tobin, J., Hsueh, Y., & Karasawa, M. (2009). *Preschool in three cultures revisited: China, Japan, and the United States*. University of Chicago Press.

Vickers, E., & Kumar, K. (Eds.). (2014). *Constructing modern Asian citizenship*. Routledge.

Lecturer's Comments to Students

Adequate preparation and active participation are expected for this course.

For any graded assignments students will be provided grading rubrics in advance, showing what will be measured in determining grades.