Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION POLICY IN A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Subtitle	Japanese Immigration Policy in a Comparative Perspective
Lecturer(s)	KASHIWAZAKI, CHIKAKO
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2025 Fall
Day/Period	Tue.5
Campus	Mita
Classroom	532
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	45033
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
K-Number ▼ Detail	CIN-CO-00233-212-08

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

The purpose of this course is to learn about and better understand the nature of immigration policy and politics in Japan. In comparative immigration literature, Japanese policy is characterized as highly restrictive, reflecting a preference for an ethnically homogeneous society. Historically, however, large-scale migration flows to and from the Japanese archipelago occurred under the Japanese empire. In addition, immigration of 'newcomers' since the 1980s has increased ethnic and cultural diversity in some local communities. More recently, the government has implemented a series of policies to combat shortage of workers. As Japan faces the demographic challenge common to advanced industrial societies of a shrinking labor force, management of immigration and the social integration of foreign residents/ immigrants assumes great importance for public policy. While retaining the comparative perspective, we will discuss immigration in Japan in terms of the legal framework, policy making, public discourse, and views of immigrant communities themselves.

Active Learning Methods ⓘ *Description*

Presentations
Discussions, Debates

Preparatory Study

Students are expected to read the assigned materials beforehand and to work on a Study Question sheet.
In the latter half of the semester, students are required to make a steady progress in their research project as instructed, starting with choosing a topic, turning in a research proposal, producing an outline, writing up, and then giving a short presentation in class.
An estimated time for class preparation varies from approximately 45 minutes (on a week focusing on reading) to two hours (when turning in a Study Question sheet). Students should also set aside another hour per week for working on their research project.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Introduction to the course

Lesson 2

Theories of migration / Migration under imperial Japan

Lesson 3

Postwar immigration control system and Zainichi Koreans

Lesson 4

Arrival of "newcomers" and the 1990 immigration control law

Lesson 5

Approaches to labor shortage / Technical interns and Specified Skilled Workers

Lesson 6

Global competition for highly-skilled workers

Lesson 7

Refugee policies

Lesson 8

Development of social integration policy

Lesson 9

Approaches to social integration / the second generation

Lesson 10

Demographic trend and the politics of immigration

Lesson 11

Immigration and nationalism

Lesson 12

Immigration and transnationalism

Lesson 13

Presentations on research papers

Lesson 14

Summary and review

Other

Consultation on research project / Advice on fieldwork

Method of Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the following: attendance / participation in classroom discussion (20%); weekly study questions (30%); in-class short essay writing (15%); a term paper of 1,200-1,800 words (25%); and an oral presentation on the term paper (10%).

Textbooks

Reading materials consist of excerpts from a variety of sources such as books, journal articles and reports. They will be made available through Canvas (K-LMS).

Lecturer's Comments to Students

- About the course: As an International Center course, the class is conducted entirely in English. Students are expected to read the assigned materials beforehand and to participate actively in group discussion. Anyone interested in immigration issues and/or East Asian studies are welcome.
- Class format: This course will be offered in person.
- Attendance policy: Students who have missed more than four classes without a legitimate reason will not be able to earn course credits. Please notify the instructor beforehand when you have to miss a class.
- Method of feedback on assignments: We use K-LMS (Canvas) for class management. Feedback on assignments will also be provided through the system.
- AI policy: You should complete course homework and assignments by yourself. The use of AI is prohibited. If AI use is detected, the work may be excluded from evaluation or treated as academic misconduct and subject to disciplinary measures.

Question/Comments

In the classroom or via K-LMS inbox messages.