

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	2026 Spring
Day/Period	Fri.2
Campus	Mita
Classroom	433
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	04477
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
Course Description	A course to aim to learn various socio-cultural issues and debates impacting schools, universities and education systems in East Asian countries from a case study perspective.
K-Number	CIN-CO-00223-212-09

▼ Detail

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

In this course we will explore various socio-cultural issues and debates shaping schools, universities, and education systems in Asia Pacific societies, as the well as the roles education plays in shaping broader society. Taking case study and comparative perspectives, we will examine and discuss a range of issues. These are subject to change but will likely include:

- Exploration of debates about the purposes of formal schooling, including public, private and international schools, as well as the role of shadow education (cram schools/private tutoring) in various Asia Pacific contexts
- Consideration of East Asia's performance on international assessments for academic achievement and well-being (PISA)
- Exploration of the tensions between nationalism, internationalization of education and globalization in Asia Pacific contexts
- Engagement with debates on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), meritocracy, and free speech in comparative perspective
- Exploration of the narratives and policies related to various minoritized social groups (women, people with disabilities, gender/sexual minorities, ethnic minorities/immigrants) in Asia Pacific contexts
- Exploration of language policy and language colonization in Pacific island contexts

Course Taught by Faculty Member with Professional Experience

Not applicable

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 as well as time for individual reflective writing.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Exploring Education and Society - Introduction to Sociology of Education

Lesson 2

Debates and dilemmas about the purpose(s) of education

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, meritocracy, and inequality

Lesson 5

Debates on DEI in comparative perspective

Lesson 6

Women and gender inequality in Japanese higher education

Lesson 7

Gender and sexual diversity in Asian higher education

Lesson 8

Nationalism and education in the Asia Pacific

Lesson 9

Education in multicultural Japan

Lesson 10

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

Lesson 11

Education and technology in the Asia Pacific

Lesson 12

Lesson 13

Comparing contemporary student activism in Japan and the 'West'

Lesson 14

Student-led topics

Other

Optional make-up class

Method of Evaluation

Attendance and participation 50%
Weekly assignments 50%

Generative AI Policy for Classes

Use of AI will be permitted for some tasks, such as preparation of notes for in-class discussions. In other cases, students will be expected to engage in 'tech-free' writing in-class with pencil and paper.

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.