

EDUCATION IN EAST ASIAN SOCIETIES 2 credits (Spring)  
東アジア社会の教育 2 単位 (春学期)

Education in East Asian Societies

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**Course Description/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 East Asian countries.

Taking a case study perspective, we will examine a range of issues facing East Asian societies. Learners will:

- Debate and discuss the cultural and philosophical ideas that have shaped education in East Asia.
- Explore debates about the purposes of formal schooling, and the role of shadow education (juku) in various East Asian contexts.
- Consider how education is used as a political tool to shape national identities through moral, civic, and history curricula.
- Explore the tensions between nationalism and the internationalization of education in East Asian contexts.
- Compare cultural approaches to early childhood education in Eastern and Western cultures.
- Look at developments in higher education in the region, including participation rates, rising research outputs, regional collaboration, and the possibilities for study abroad to contribute to peace and stability among East Asian countries

**Course Plan:**

- 1 Exploring Education and Society - Introduction to Sociology of Education
  - 2 Education in East Asian societies: a comparative overview
  - 3 International comparisons of academic achievement and East Asia's 'success' on the OECDs PISA test
  - 4 Investigating East Asia's low 'student well-being' scores on PISA
  - 5 The purposes of formal schooling and the role of shadow education - exploring social class, egalitarianism and inequality
  - 6 Comparing cultural approaches to early childhood education in Eastern and Western cultures
  - 7 Education as a political tool - constructing national identities through moral, civic and history curricula
  - 8 Nationalism and education in East Asia
  - 9 Higher education in Asia - historical developments and 21st Century dynamism
  - 10 Regional cooperation in East Asian higher education
  - 11 Comparing contemporary student activism in East Asian contexts, including the role of universities in supporting, tolerating, or discouraging student involvement in social movements
  - 12 Final report workshop
  - 13 Final report presentations
- Other Final report feedback

**Method of Evaluation:**

Attendance, Participation: 50%

Research-based reports: 50%

**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 rubric in advance, showing what will be measured in determining grades.