JPL355 Higher intermediate Japanese (Online): Issues in Contemporary Japan
Syllabus, Winter 2021


2. Course code: JPL 355

3. Instructor: JPL faculty member

4. Year: Winter semester in 2021 (academic year 2020)

5. Credit: 6 AIU credits

6. Semester: Winter

7. Class time/day: 6-week course
(90 min x 5 synchronous classes and 60 x 5 asynchronous classes per week)

8. Faculty: Japanese Language Program

9. Field: JPL

10. Capacity: 10

11. Course description:
This course is an online Project-Based Learning (PBL) course with AIU students and is designed for students at higher-intermediate level. Students engage in a joint project on a social issue in contemporary Japan (such as work-life balance and aging population) with AIU students. Class activities include comparing their own values with those of others, understanding how the same issue(s) is perceived and treated in other countries and regions, interviewing to Japanese/non-Japanese people residing in Japan (especially Akita) via a video conferencing system, and discussing and presenting the findings to a wider international audience. They also learn practical Japanese language skills (such as how to interview using keigo, how to give their opinions in class discussion, and how to write formal emails) necessary for conducting the project. Through in-depth discussion with AIU students, they can deepen their understanding and awareness of the issue and develop Japanese language skills which enable them to navigate their communicative needs in the range of contexts.

At the end of the course, successful students should:

- Gain knowledge and awareness of a social issue in contemporary Japan, and reflect upon their own cultural values and norms
12. Objectives:
- To develop an ability to communicate skillfully and confidently with a variety of people in the range of contexts in Japanese
- To develop an ability to use Japanese especially in formal contexts (e.g. interview and presentation)
- To develop an ability to communicate skillfully and confidently in Japanese by using a variety of communication strategies to achieve mutual understanding

13. Textbook(s):
- N/A

14. Assessment:
- Evaluation will be made on the basis of attendance and class participation (30%), assignment (Reading materials and answering questions, writing summaries, brainstorming ideas, etc.) (30%), and final products and group presentations (40%)

15. Reference books/ other study materials:
- Distributed as needed

16. Expected academic background:
- JPL307 or above

17. Policies and remarks:
- Students are required to participate all classes and activities

18. Class schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Joint project class (2, 3 times per week)</th>
<th>Language class (2, 3 times per week)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[Stage 1: Understanding an issue from an academic perspective]</td>
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| Week 1 | ● Self introduction and course introduction  
|        | ● Read articles and/or watch lectures on the topic (work-life balance in 2021) and class discussion | ● How to make friends in Japanese  
|        | | ● How to discuss and make questions in Japanese  
|        | | ● How to use Google search |
| Week 2 | ● Lecture on the in-depth interview methodology  
|        | ● Prepare for the interview | ● How to write formal emails  
|        | | ● How to conduct an interview  
|        | | ● How to make interview questions  
|        | | ● How to use keigo |
| Week 3 | ● Interview Japanese/non-Japanese people living in Japan (especially Akita) | ● How to conduct an interview  
|        | | ● How to use keigo  
<p>|        | | ● How to manage conversation breakdowns or any unpredictable events |
| Week 4 | ● Share the findings in class | ● How to summarize/report interviews |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>● Prepare a final product/presentation</th>
<th>● How to appeal to audience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>● Make a presentation and publish a</td>
<td>● How to make a formal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>final product</td>
<td>presentation</td>
</tr>
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19. AIU Academic Dishonesty Policy:
Acts of Academic Dishonesty: In accord with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, forgery (on a paper, examination, test, or other assignment) will result in the failure of the course at a minimum. An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term. Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.