

Contemporary Issues in Migration to Japan

Spring 2021

Instructor: Prof. David Green

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Office Hours: *by appointment*

Meeting day and time:

Goals: As students are either already living in Japan or will soon be (depending on the covid situation), and very likely have some immigration experience, this course should be particularly relevant. This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of contemporary immigration in Japan, including what the situation looks like for various categories of immigrants in Japan, any issues they are contending with, and their future prospects.

Objectives: Because students will all have some first-hand experience living in Japan, it is important to obtain a better understanding of the society and how immigrants fit into it. Whether you have foreign roots yourself or are from Japan originally, you should have some personal relevance in engaging with this topic. Japanese migration is a subject that is not commonly studied, in spite of the fact that the immigrant population is steadily growing as the Japanese population ages. Additionally, the issues surrounding growing migration and social aging are not limited to Japan. Many of the world's developed and developing countries will experience similarly aging populations and changing migratory flows. Japan happens to be on the cusp, and serves as a lesson for other nations, both positive and negative.

Course Materials:

Weekly readings will be assigned and distributed through the NUCT system.

Quite a bit of course lecture material is taken from a Japanese text: 移民政策のフロンティア : 日本の歩みと課題を問い直す (移民政策学会設立 10 周年論集刊行委員会編)。2018 出版 (明石書店)。 [*Imin seisaku no furontia: Nihon no ayumi to kadai o toi naosu*]. You are not expected to read this text, although if you have some Japanese reading ability and are interested in the topic, it is recommended.

Requirements for taking the course: No prerequisites are required. However, students should have a good command of the English language and come to class willing to discuss the week's topic.

Evaluation Methods:

- 30% - Participation (worksheet assignments)
- 30% - Presentation
- 40% - Final paper

Class schedule for the Spring 2021 term

Dates: April 12 – August 6

Class 1 – April 14

Course intro/syllabus

Class 2 – April 21

Japanese immigration background

Reading: “As its population ages, Japan quietly turns to immigration”.

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/its-population-ages-japan-quietly-turns-immigration>

Recommended (but not required): Yamawaki, Keizo. 2000. Foreign Workers in Japan: a Historical Perspective. In *Japan and Global Migration: Foreign Workers and the Advent of a Multicultural Society*, eds. Mike Douglas and Glenda S. Roberts. New York: Routledge.

Class 3 – April 28

Technical interns & trainees

Reading: Tong, Yaqina. 2019. “The Actuality of Accepting Technical Intern Trainees in Japan and the Reconsideration of the Technical Intern Training Program”. *The Bulletin of the Center for Research on Regional Economic Systems*, Graduate School of Social Science, Hiroshima University (30): pp. 33-46.

https://ir.lib.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/files/public/4/48232/20191101094736999977/RegionalEconomicStudies_30_33.pdf

May 5 – Golden week holiday

Class 4 – May 12

Health care workers

Reading: Lan, Pei Chia. 2018. “Bridging Ethnic Differences for Cultural Intimacy: Production of Migrant Care Workers in Japan”. *Critical Sociology* 44 (7-8): pp. 1029-43.
PDF will be uploaded to NUCT

Recommended (but not required): Lopez, Mario. 2012. “Reconstituting the affective labour of Filipinos as care workers in Japan”. *Global Networks* 12 (2): pp. 252-68.

Class 5 – May 19

Students

Reading: Kuwamura, Akira. 2009. “The Challenges of Increasing Capacity and Diversity in Japanese Higher Education Through Proactive Recruitment Strategies”. *Journal of Studies in International Education* 13 (2): pp. 189-202.

PDF will be uploaded to NUCT

Class 6 – May 26

Refugees

Reading: Dean, Meryll & Miki Nagashima. 2007. “Sharing the Burden: the Role of Government and NGOs in Protecting and Providing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Japan”. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 20 (3): pp. 481-508.

PDF will be uploaded to NUCT

Class 7 – June 2

Nikkeijin

Reading: Goto, Junichi. 2016. “Latin Americans of Japanese Origin (Nikkeijin) Working in Japan: A Survey”. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 4302*.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=980821

Class 8 – June 9

Zainichi

Reading: Shipper, Apichai. 2010. “Nationalisms of and against *Zainichi* Koreans in Japan. *Asian Politics and Policy* 2 (1): pp. 55-75.

PDF will be uploaded to NUCT

Class 9 – June 16

Immigrant education

Reading: Burgess, Chris. 2011. “(Mis)managing diversity in non-metropolitan public schools: the lack of state-sponsored support for ‘newcomer’ children. In Tsuneyoshi, Okano & Boocock (eds.) *Minorities and Education in Japan: An interactive perspective*. New York: Routledge.

PDF will be uploaded to NUCT

Class 10 – June 23

Immigrant integration

Reading: Nakamatsu, Tomoko. 2014. “Under the Multicultural Flag: Japan’s Ambiguous Multicultural Framework and its Local Evaluations and Practices”. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 40 (1): pp. 137-54.

PDF will be uploaded to NUCT

Recommended (but not required): Kashiwazaki, Chikako. 2016. “Multicultural Discourse and Policies in Japan: An Assessment of *Tabunka Kyosei*”. *The Gakushuin Journal of International Studies*, 3: 1-15.

Class 11 – June 30

Comparisons with other developed countries part I
Immigrant numbers and trends

Class 12 – July 7

Comparisons with other developed countries part II

Refugee issues, immigrant integration

Class 13 – July 14

Student presentations

Class 14 – July 21

Student presentations

Final papers due