COURSE DETAIL

VIETNAM FIELDWORK
Country Japan
Host Institution Keio University
Program(s) Keio University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Health Sciences
UCEAP Course Number 109
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title VIETNAM FIELDWORK
UCEAP Transcript Title VIETNAM FIELDWORK
UCEAP Quarter Units 3.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.00

Course Description

This course is a ASEAN fieldwork course jointly organized by ASEAN partner universities and Keio University. Students who participate in the fieldwork in Japan and aim to obtain an "EBA Perspectives" certificate will take this course in the semester following their participation in the fieldwork. SFC offers four fieldwork courses, two in ASEAN and two in Japan, so that up to four fieldwork courses in total can be included as credit-bearing courses.

Vietnam Fieldwork is a Field-based Project. The primary purpose of the project is to investigate how families live with their disabled children against the backdrop of poverty and limited medical infrastructure. Note that the fieldwork is conducted in Phu Cat District, Binh Dinh Province in central Vietnam, where the US heavily sprayed the toxic defoliant known as Agent Orange during the Vietnam War (1963-1971). That background explains the high number of disabled people in this District alone, 4298 (as of 2018), accounting for 2% of the District population (not including mild cases of disabilities).

The issue that the fieldwork aims to address lies in a complex context of risk and risk management: Environmental risk, Public Health risk, and risks that these two have generated. An equally important concern of our examination includes the basic infrastructure and policies designed to cope with these risks.

For that purpose, our examinations incorporate the Vietnam War, Vietnam’s recent Socioeconomic Development, and Vietnam’s welfare policies (public health policies and safety net, among others).

Participants are asked to explore the following questions: 1) How do these families (primarily farmers) perceive the environmental problem (as signified by the disabled child), the source of the problem, and the risks? 2) How do they live with the problem in the absence/presence of external support, such as health clinics and other facilities? Moreover, 3) how their narratives reveal a larger picture of which their living is part. The students are asked to call attention to people’s narratives through intimate interaction while observing their facial expressions, bodily expressions, and

languages.

The fieldwork also takes us to the “weekend class” for the disabled children, their families, the volunteer teachers of the class, and the local residents. The classes are valuable sites for us to observe how the disabled children, their families, and the teachers interact with each other openly. Over the past 10 years, we have established four such classes, which they call “Dream Class.”

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
N/A

Host Institution Course Title
ASEAN FIELDWORK A

Host Institution Course Details
https://syllabus.sfc.keio.ac.jp/courses/2024_39779?locale=en

Host Institution Campus
Keio University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Policy Management / Environment and Information Studies

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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