

COURSE DETAIL

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Country

Japan

Host Institution

International Christian University

Program(s)

International Christian University

UCEAP Course Level

Graduate

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Sociology

UCEAP Course Number

201

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

UCEAP Transcript Title

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

UCEAP Quarter Units

2.50

UCEAP Semester Units

1.70

Course Description

This course addresses various dimensions of social problems both theoretically and empirically using a social constructionist perspective. The course begins with brainstorming social problems, categorizing them by its nature, extracting common features of these various problems, as well as discussing key concepts of social problem construction such as "claims-maker," "audiences," "constructing victims/villains," "objectivism vs constructivism" by the text book. The class then engages in a "social problems game," addressing their own topics, or following big issues: Anthropocene, Domestication, Zoonosis, Climate change, One health approach, SDGs (contradiction or compromise), Sufficiency economy, Green new deal, etc.

The second half of the term focuses on problem solving, particularly poverty alleviation. Students are invited to one mountain village in an Asian country, virtually, where they analyze the problems in that village and formulate the development project using PCM (Project Cycle Management) tools. After this practical exercise, the class further studies the theoretical base of social deviation, or the formation of social order, reading Adam Smith on moral philosophy and Amartya Sen's capability approach.

Throughout the course, participants are expected to consider: i) whose social problems we address; ii) causes and consequences of them; and iii) what changes needed. The contents of the course are subject to change according to participants' interests and progress.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

QPSC508

Host Institution Course Title

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Host Institution Campus

International Christian University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Social and Cultural Analysis

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