

COURSE DETAIL

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Country

Japan

Host Institution

Keio University

Program(s)

Keio University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

South & SE Asian Studies Asian Studies

UCEAP Course Number

136

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UCEAP Transcript Title

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UCEAP Quarter Units

3.00

UCEAP Semester Units

2.00

Course Description

This course examines the intersection of involuntary labor, transnational migration, and sexual exchange, broadly categorized under “human trafficking.” While this issue has gained urgency with the adoption of the United Nations’ Palermo Protocol (2000), historical inquiries reveal that commercial sexual labor has existed in various forms and under different guises throughout history. This course situates contemporary human trafficking within a continuum with historically similar practices, some of which were considered “indigenous” to Asia. This course looks at traditional forms of servitude and sexual exchange in east and southeast Asia, as well as the contemporary transnational migration of women for the sex industry. It engages with historiographic and ethnographic accounts on slavery, dependency, and other forms of servitude in Asia as a necessary background to the examination of modern practices of using women for sexual services.

The course delves into the social and economic conditions that have historically facilitated the growth of the sex industry, including colonial establishments, and military mobilization, and the so-called “white slave” trade that spurred abolitionist movements by feminist and religious groups in the early 20th century. For contemporary cases, it examines practices that have been associated with human trafficking, such as prostitution and international brokered marriages. The course investigates the possibility of agency among exploited women, potentially challenging the predominant victimhood narrative. It concludes with a discussion on the social norms surrounding payment for intimate relations.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

N/A

Host Institution Course Title

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: PAST AND PRESENT

Host Institution Course Details

<https://gslbs.keio.jp/pub-syllabus/detail?ttblyr=2025&entno=43997&lang=en>

Host Institution Campus

Keio University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

International Center

Course Last Reviewed

2024-2025

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