

# KC3023 Contemporary Global Issues A (\*set with B)

- Gender, Sexuality, and Biopolitics in Contemporary Japan -

Yokohama  
TAKESHITA Chikako  
Tue 3

## 【Course Description】

This course explores the intersections between Japan's biopolitical challenges and contemporary expressions of gender and sexuality in the nation. We will investigate the transformation of feminine and masculine ideals, commodification of sex, status of sexual minorities, and imported reproductive labor in the context of Japan's economic downfall, declining fertility rate, and aging society. We will engage feminist debates on women's status, labor, and sexual freedom as well as draw comparisons between Japan and the West in order to highlight the divergent forces that shape social relations.

## 【Class Goals】

The objective of this course is to develop a critical understanding of Japan's demographic challenges and attempted solutions, including transnational migration of reproductive labor, by utilizing gender, sexuality, and feminism as the central analytical lenses and Michel Foucault's biopower as the main theoretical framework.

## 【Course Schedule】

- 【第1回】 Course introduction: explanation of course outline and grading criteria
- 【第2回】 Lecture: Gender 101
- 【第3回】 Lecture: Changing Expectations of Marriage
- 【第4回】 Lecture: Japan's Gender-Free Feminism
- 【第5回】 Lecture: Japan's Demographic Challenge in Global Context
- 【第6回】 Lecture: Migrant Brides
- 【第7回】 Class Presentation/Student-Led Discussion #2: Demographic Futures
- 【第8回】 Lecture: Disciplining the Female Body
- 【第9回】 Lecture: Feminist Debate on Sexuality
- 【第10回】 Class Presentation/Student-Led Discussion #4: Commodification of Sex
- 【第11回】 Lecture: Japanese Masculinities
- 【第12回】 Lecture: Minority Sexual Practices
- 【第13回】 Lecture: LGBT in the Japanese Context
- 【第14回】 Final Presentation
- 【第15回】 Review Session

## 【Preparation for Class】

Students are required to read the assigned text including 30 peer-reviewed scholarly articles and several news articles and be prepared to discuss its contents in class (2 hours a week)

## 【Review of Class】

Students must write 3 reflection papers and prepare class presentations and discussion questions for assigned topics (once during the semester). They also must write a research paper that reflects their understanding of the subjects covered in class.(2 hours a week)

## 【Remarks for Class】

You must take this course (Tuesday 3rd Period) together with KC3024 Contemporary Global Issues B (Friday 3rd period).

## 【Texts】

All texts will be posted on the password-protected online site.

## 【Reference Books】

none

## 【Evaluation Criteria】

Midterm exam 25%; Final Presentation 25%; Class participation & presentation 25%; Written Assignments 25%

## 【Notes】

## KC3024 Contemporary Global Issues B (\*set with A)

- Gender, Sexuality, and Biopolitics in Contemporary Japan -

Yokohama  
TAKESHITA Chikako  
Fri 3

### 【Course Description】

This course explores the intersections between Japan's biopolitical challenges and contemporary expressions of gender and sexuality in the nation. We will investigate the transformation of feminine and masculine ideals, commodification of sex, status of sexual minorities, and imported reproductive labor in the context of Japan's economic downfall, declining fertility rate, and aging society. We will engage feminist debates on women's status, labor, and sexual freedom as well as draw comparisons between Japan and the West in order to highlight the divergent forces that shape social relations.

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### 【Course Schedule】

- 【第1回】 Lecture: Biopower 101
- 【第2回】 Lecture: Patriarchy & Heteronormativity 101
- 【第3回】 Lecture: Womenomics
- 【第4回】 Class Presentation/Student-Led Discussion #1: Gendered Labor
- 【第5回】 Lecture: Gender, Race, and Aging Population Care
- 【第6回】 Lecture: Feminist Debate on Sexuality
- 【第7回】 Midterm
- 【第8回】 Class Presentation/Student-Led Discussion #3: Performing Appropriate Femininity
- 【第9回】 Video Screening: Love, Sex, and Marriage
- 【第10回】 Lecture: Social Construction of Masculinity
- 【第11回】 Class Presentation/Student-Led Discussion #5: Reconstructing Masculinity
- 【第12回】 Lecture: "Gay" Identity in Japan
- 【第13回】 Class Presentation/Student-Led Discussion #6: Negotiating Sexual Orientation and Transgender identities
- 【第14回】 Final Presentation
- 【第15回】 Review Session

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