

Osaka Gakuin University 2023-2024 Fall Semester

Labor, Gender, and Society in Japan

Instructor : Ana Maria Takahashi

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Lesson: Wednesday 13:30-15:15 & 15:30-17:15
Office Hours : By appointment
Subject code : 1041

Course Description:

This course focuses on Japan to discuss, from an economics perspective, core topics related to labor, gender, and society. This course aims to discuss topics such as the supply of labor and population aging in Japan, women in the Japanese labor market, human capital, the wage structure and gender wage gap, labor market discrimination, relative poverty, and gender and leadership.

While we focus on gender broadly speaking, I reserve a significant part of our time to focus on women in society. Women still face many constraints in their everyday decisions that men do not encounter. Therefore, we will discuss trends and statistics and we will analyze several policy responses to the observed gender inequalities in Japan and other developed countries. Historical and cross-cultural perspectives are integrated into the course.

By the end of the course, students will have a solid grasp of the ways that various economic outcomes of men and women differ in Japan, and students will be able to use and understand the most used analytical tools applied by economists to discuss the labor market in a society.

Resources

Handouts will be provided for each class. No textbook is required.

Evaluation

Quizzes: 60% (3 quizzes, each 20%)
Assignments: 30% (6 in-class assignments)
Attendance: 10%

Note: Evaluation method may change at the instructor's discretion depending on the class size and other factors.

Notes:

No previous knowledge of economics or Japanese labour market is required for this class.

Course Schedule:

Lecture Plan (13 weeks, 2 sessions per week)

Week 1: Course Introduction, Definitions

Week 2: Labour Supply of Men and Women in the World and Japan

Week 3: Human Capital of Men and Women in the World and Japan

Week 4: Women in the Japanese Labour Market

Week 5: Gender Difference in Wages: An International Comparison &

Quiz 1 (Quiz 1 covers lectures 1-4)

Week 6: Gender Differences in Promotion: An International Comparison

Week 7: Worker Mobility and Types of Labour Contracts in Japan

Week 8: Discrimination in Labour Markets, part 1

Week 9: Discrimination in Labour Markets, part 2 & **Quiz 2 (Quiz 2 covers lectures 5-8)**

Week 10: Labour Market During Expansions and Recessions

Week 11: Gender and Relative Poverty in Developed Countries

Week 12: Gender and Leadership

Week 13: Final Thoughts & **Quiz 3 (Quiz 3 covers lectures 9-12)**

Note: Course contents and schedule are subject to change depending on the class size and the discretion of the teacher.