

Osaka Gakuin University 2026-2027 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, examining core topics related to labor, gender, and society from an economic perspective. It covers issues such as the supply of labor, 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 the course broadly addresses gender, the main focus is on women in society. Women continue to face constraints in their daily decisions that men do not encounter. As such, we will discuss trends and statistics and analyze various policy responses to gender inequalities observed in Japan and other developed countries. Historical and cross-cultural perspectives will also be integrated into the course. By the end of the course, students will have a solid understanding of the economic disparities between men and women in Japan. They will also be familiar with the key analytical tools economists use to examine labor markets in society.	
Resources	
Handouts will be provided for each class. No textbook is required.	
Evaluation	
Quizzes:	60% (3 quizzes, each 20%)
Assignments:	20% (in-class assignments)

Participation: 20%
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:
Course starts from September 9.
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 pace of the course.