

ICS200 Project Based Learning I

1st and 2nd quarters, Sophomore

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Style of Class	Seminar
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	Wednesday, Periods 3-5

Course Description

For students selecting the Regional Revitalization Track, this course is the starting point for undertaking project work in earnest, so emphasis is placed on learning about the origins of a wide range of issues. With the aim of understanding the actual state and background to problems arising in settings such as local communities and companies, students attend explanatory lectures by faculty members and guest speakers, engage in group discussions, and also experience activities and conduct interview-based research in field sites and report on their findings, thereby raising their awareness of problems.

For students selecting the Global Track, a period of study abroad is envisaged in the second semester of sophomore year, and this course therefore deals with topics such as models of education for cross-cultural understanding, problems related to foreign nationals in the local community, and global advancement of companies based within the prefecture. Students participate in visits and observation at locations including schools and local government bodies, and participate in special events.

Course Objectives

- (1) To understand in general terms the organization and aims of companies, government bodies, and other groups in the local community, as well as the problems they face, and acquire grounded knowledge and information in order to engage in deeper learning subsequently.
- (2) To understand problems emerging in actual local contexts and the awareness and ideas of people active in the local community, and expand one's own perspective and awareness of problems.

Expected Outcomes

- (1) To acquire the ability to concretely understand a variety of issues in the local community and the organizations and groups active within it.
- (2) To acquire the ability to formulate a plan for future learning informed by actual social conditions.
- (3) Through accumulated experience of group work, to develop a rudimentary capacity to engage in things in a self-directed manner and proactively influence others, and to make plans for surveys and interview-based field research.

Prerequisites

Project Based Learning Introduction A
Project Based Learning Introduction B
Introduction to Global and Community Studies

Class Materials

There is no textbook covering the entire course.
Readings will be introduced as necessary in line with research sites.

Course Method

The course mainly comprises group work and lectures in the classroom and field interviews off campus. It is necessary to accumulate knowledge and information consciously in order to conduct field interviews effectively, so in weeks when classes are not held, and in their free time, students need to get together in their groups and prepare adequately.

Evaluation/Assessment

Reports submitted during activities and after the final presentations, as well as peer review and instructor's observational evaluation of attitude toward course activities.

Grading

Reports: 80%

Peer review and observational evaluation of attitude toward course activities: 20%

Course Schedule

(Each Class will in principle be held over two successive periods once a week, but may sometimes be held over the course of an entire day or on Saturday/Sunday. In weeks when no Classes are scheduled, students will conduct group work and post-implementation discussions concerning their field interviews, etc. Class days will be altered flexibly from topic to topic, in light of factors such as the convenience of the other parties involved.)

(Regional Revitalization Track)

Class 1: Orientation and introduction to projects

Students are provided with information related to companies, local government bodies, and community development in order for them to form teams under these three general topics.

Students work in groups to summarize their interests and make plans for information-gathering before the next Class.

Class 2: Preparation of group action plans

Students are divided into groups and draw up plans for group activities and preparatory studies.

Class 3: Common lecture (1)

Lectures by instructors and guest speakers on the mechanisms of local public administration and finance, and topics confronting prefectural and municipal governments; interactive discussion

Class 4: Field interviews, participant observation (1)

Based on their preparatory studies and the common lecture, each team conducts field interviews with companies and local government bodies, and/or participant observation in field sites.

Class 5: Common lecture (2)

Lectures by instructors and guest speakers on the current conditions and challenges in community development; interactive discussion

Class 6: Field interviews, participant observation (2)

Based on their preparatory studies and the common lecture, each team conducts field interviews with companies and local government bodies, and/or participant observation in field sites.

Class 7: Common lecture (3)

Lectures by instructors and guest speakers on the fundamentals of management structure and behavior, and the problems facing locally-based companies; interactive discussion

Class 8: Preparation for presentations

Students reflect on the insights and experiences gained through field interviews, etc., discuss directions in future research and practical activities, and summarize their findings.

Class 9: Final report by each group

(Global Track)

Class 1: Orientation and introduction to projects

Students are provided with information related to actual status in cross-cultural understanding and foreign nationals in the local community, in order for them to form teams to investigate these topics.

Class 2: Common lecture

Lectures by instructors and guest speakers on issues emerging both within and beyond Japan in relation to the residence of foreign nationals; interactive discussion.

Class 3: Field trip

Visit schools, etc. and experience actual sites of foreign language and cross-cultural understanding education.

Class 4: Interview survey design

Based on surveys of essential literature, etc., design interview surveys related to foreign residents and cross-cultural understanding in the local community.

Class 5: Interview survey implementation

Implement interview surveys related to foreign residents and cross-cultural understanding in the local community.

Class 6: Analysis of survey results and formulation of proposals

Analyze the results of interview surveys and formulate proposals for what can be done to advance cross-cultural understanding in the local community.

Class 7: Participation in exchange event

Consider the feasibility of proposals by participating in an international exchange event held locally.

Class 8: Preparation for presentations

Prepare to report on findings.

Class 9: Final report of findings**Preparation and Follow-up**

- (1) Individually and in groups, investigate and discuss the content covered in each class, and prepare for the next class (preparation).
- (2) Reflect individually on each class and activity in preparation for writing the final report (follow-up).