

ICS250 Project Based Learning II

3rd and 4th 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, the aim of this course is to develop a clearer idea of concrete issues and specific problems for companies and local government bodies, by engaging in experiential learning through ongoing survey research, work experience, and participation in events and activities. Off-campus activities are punctuated by on-campus lectures and group discussions to support these activities, with students analyzing their research findings and reflecting on their experiences, leading to the development of provisional proposals and activity reports.

Students selecting the Global Track pursue experiential learning and related survey-based learning through participation in teams in the planning and management of events and activities organized by commerce and tourism organizations and related groups, and of local government bodies' lifelong learning activities, mainly pertaining to cross-cultural exchange and diversity. Through these activities, students gain an appreciation of the difference in awareness of problems locally and internationally and the importance of communicating Fukui's culture and information beyond Japan, in preparation for study abroad.

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 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.

Prerequisites

Project Based Learning Introduction A, Project Based Learning Introduction B, Introduction to Global and Community Studies, Project Based Learning I, two or more Research Literacy courses, two or more Modern Society (Basic) courses, two or more Modern Society (Global) courses, General Education and Major courses in English language at freshman-year level.

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 work experience, activities, and survey research off campus. In weeks when classes are not held, and in their free time, students need to get together in their groups for discussion and work in order to prepare for their activities and surveys, confer with each other along the way, and summarize their findings afterwards.

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 every other 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 for preparation and post-implementation discussion. 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 project introduction

Students form small groups of 3-6 in line with the capacity of the company, local government body, or other organization that will host them, and formulate plans for activities at their host organization

Class 2 and thereafter:

Projects organized at specific companies / local government departments:

(1) Work experience (approx. 3 days)

Work experience prior to the start of classes (during the summer vacation period) or in semester (during the winter vacation period).

(2) Surveys at companies/local government bodies (2-3 times)

In teams, and in connection with your work experience, conduct interviews or data-based surveys on the activities of companies and local government bodies, their attractions, and the issues they face.

(3) Lectures (2 times)

Instructors provide guidance on knowledge related to management and local government functions and concrete data processing methods, in order for students to design their surveys.

Projects organized around local community issues (regional revitalization, gender equality, etc.)

(1) Activity experience (3 days)

Participate in the relevant events held by local government bodies; formulate and implement your own plans.

(2) Interview-based surveys of community and activities (2-3 times)

Plan, design, and implement surveys of local community members, activity groups, etc.

(3) Lectures (2 times)

Instructors and guest speakers give lectures related to local community and its activities and provide guidance on surveys and concrete data processing methods, in order for students to design their surveys.

Final class: Project reports

Each team gives a presentation to its host company, local government body, or other organization on the organization's attractions and the issues it faces, as well as proposals based on survey data and activity experience. The organization provides feedback on the presentation.

(Global Track)

Class 1: Orientation and project introduction

Students are provided with related information in order to form teams to undertake research on concrete situation related to gender in multicultural society and to disseminate information internationally.

Classes 2-3: Lectures

Students are divided into teams for global information dissemination or for gender problems. Lectures are given to the former team on the history, culture, and characteristics of Fukui, and to the latter on approaches to thinking about gender problems. Students engage in discussion among themselves.

Class 4: Surveys through event participation

Participate in international exchange events in the local community, and conduct interview surveys among event participants on ways of disseminating local information internationally and gender problems.

Class 5: Design of interview surveys for governmental institutions, etc.

Based on the interview surveys conducted during event participation, design surveys for governmental institutions, etc., on methods for disseminating information internationally and ways of thinking about gender equality.

Class 6: Implementation of interview surveys

Implement interview surveys for governmental institutions, etc.

Class 7: Analysis of survey findings, and preparation for presentations

Analyze the findings of interview surveys and discuss proposals to be made in presentations.

Class 8: Final report on 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).