

SOC320 Urban and Rural Geography

1st and 2nd quarters, Junior

Instructor	TSUKIHARA TOSHIHIKO
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

In this course we study the viewpoints and methods necessary for understanding the basic units of group living for humans: urban areas and rural areas (so-called rural communities or farming/mountain/fishing villages). Based on knowledge in the fields of urban geography and rural geography, we examine the formation, functions, locations, and land use distribution patterns of urban and rural areas and develop a grasp of the actual conditions and challenges in each of those areas. In addition, we aim to develop an integrated understanding of the two areas by examining the way they interact with one another.

Course Objectives

The objective is for students to acquire the basic knowledge in urban and rural geography necessary to understand the nature of contemporary urban systems and rural areas, and the changes within them.

Prerequisites

None in particular.

Class Materials

No specific textbook is used, and lectures are conducted using handouts produced by the instructor, but students are recommended to consult the following major reference works.

- Knox, Paul et al., *Toshi shakai chirigaku* (Urban Social Geography), Kokon Shoin, 2013 (New revised edition).
- Morikawa Hiroshi, *Nihon no toshika to toshi shisutemu* (Urbanization and Urban Systems in Japan), Taimeido, 1998.
- (Edited by) Ukita Tsuneyoshi, *Nihon no nosanson to sono hen'yo* (Japanese Rural Villages and their Transformation), Taimeido, 1989.

Course Method

Classes are conducted in a lecture format. The instructor delivers lectures and periodically assigns report topics. Opportunities may be provided for discussion of the topics in class.

Evaluation/Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on two broad criteria. The first one is attitude in class and the degree of enthusiasm displayed in class participation. The second one is an evaluation of assignments given to students in accordance with class progress. The latter consists of two aspects, namely, the submission of reports on the assigned topics, and participation in class discussions related to those topics.

Grading

50%	Attitude to class and degree of participation
30%	Submitted reports on assigned topics
20%	Discussion on assigned topics

Course Schedule

Week 1

Course Overview; Basic Knowledge on Urban and Rural Geography (1) What are Settlements?

Week 2

Basic Knowledge on Urban and Rural Geography (2) Formation of Settlements

Week 3

Basic Knowledge on Urban and Rural Geography (3) Functions of Settlements

Week 4

Central Place Theory and Urban Systems (1)

Week 5

Central Place Theory and Urban Systems (2)

Week 6

Central Place Theory and Urban Systems (3)

Week 7

Locational Theory and Traffic/Transportation Systems (1)

Week 8

Locational Theory and Traffic/Transportation Systems (2)

Week 9

Locational Theory and Traffic/Transportation Systems (3)

Week 10

Interrelation between Urban and Rural Areas (1)

Week 11

Interrelation between Urban and Rural Areas (2)

Week 12

Interrelation between Urban and Rural Areas (3)

Week 13

Functions carried out by Farmers and Rural Areas of Fukui (1)

Week 14

Functions carried out by Farmers and Rural Areas of Fukui (2)

Week 15

Functions carried by Farmers and Rural Area of Fukui (3)

Preparation and Follow-up

- Preparation: Investigate specialist terms and concepts provided in the previous class using reference books and online sources. (Time required: approximately one hour).
- Follow-up: First, complete the tasks set in the previous class (which will sometimes be written reports). This activity also functions as revision of class content. Submit your work on the task by the next class. (Time required: approximately one hour in most weeks, but when working on reports, from a few hours to approximately five hours over the course of several weeks.)