

Syllabus format 2025

Semester	2025Summer			
Course	Sustainable Development in Japan: A Focus on SDGs			
Instructor				
Instructed only by foreign language				
Instruction Language	English			
Active Learning included				
Active Learning Type	Discussion, Debates		Group work	Presentation
	Flipped Class	Practicum/Fieldwork		Experience
	Investigation	Mock classes	PBL	Others
Course Description	This course provides an exploration of Japan's efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. Students will examine how Japan has integrated the SDGs into its national policies, economic strategies, and social initiatives. Through case studies, discussions, site visits and guest speakers, participants will gain insights into Japan's unique approach to sustainable development, including its emphasis on environmental conservation, disaster resilience, innovation, and social inclusion. By the end of the course, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of Japan's progress towards the SDGs and analyze the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in the country. The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours in the two-week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits with a minimum grade of a D.			
Course Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand the background and significance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.- Examine Japan's national policies and initiatives in alignment with the SDGs.- Analyze Japan's progress towards achieving the SDGs, specifically focusing on environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and economic development.- Identify the key challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Japan.- Evaluate the role of innovation, technology, and partnerships in advancing the SDGs in Japan.- Critically assess the impact of Japan's sustainable development efforts on local communities and the global context.			
Course Schedule ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.				
	Date	Details		
1st	3-Jun	Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Japan: Lecture: Overview of the SDGs and their relevance to Japan Discussion: Japan's commitment to sustainable development Activity: Introduction to course projects and assignments		
2nd	4-Jun	Environmental Sustainability Initiatives in Japan: Lecture: Japan's approaches to environmental conservation and renewable energy Case Study Analysis: Success stories and challenges in environmental sustainability Group Discussion: Solutions for promoting environmental sustainability in Japan		
3rd	5-Jun	Social Inclusion, Gender, and Diversity in Japanese Society: Lecture: Japan's efforts towards promoting social inclusion, gender and diversity Guest Speaker Session: Perspectives from a local community leader Workshop: Promoting social cohesion, diversity, gender and inclusivity in Japan		
4th	6-Jun	Healthcare and Well-being Initiatives in Japan: Lecture: Japan's healthcare system and initiatives for promoting well-being Panel Discussion: Stakeholder perspectives on health and well-being in Japan Group Activity: Developing recommendations for improving healthcare access in Japan		
5th	9-Jun	Disaster Resilience and Preparedness in Japan: Lecture: Japan's disaster risk reduction strategies and practices Simulation Exercise: Disaster response and management scenario Reflection: Lessons learned from Japan's disaster resilience efforts		
6th	10-Jun	Economic Development and Innovation in Japan: Lecture: Innovation-driven economic growth in Japan Site Visit: Tour of a sustainable business or technology hub Group Project: Analyzing the role of innovation in achieving the SDGs in Japan		
7th	11-Jun	Cultural Preservation and Sustainable Tourism in Japan: Lecture: Balancing cultural preservation and tourism development in Japan Case Study Analysis: Impact of tourism on local communities in Japan Group Project: Creating a sustainable tourism plan for a Japanese destination		
8th	12-Jun	Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Japan: Lecture: Importance of partnerships and collaborations in achieving the SDGs Workshop: Stakeholder mapping and engagement strategies Group Discussion: Building effective partnerships for sustainable development in Japan		
9th	13-Jun	Presentations and Reflection: Group Presentations: Sharing project findings and recommendations Reflection: Personal insights and key takeaways from the course Course Evaluation and Wrap-Up: Reviewing course objectives and outcomes		
Supplementary Activities ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.				
	Date	Details		
1st				

2nd		
3rd		
Textbook	Course materials will be provided in class	
Supplementary Reading		
Homework	Daily homework will focus on study and fieldwork for development of the final presentation/project/test.	
Grading	<p>100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59 and below = F</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participation: 1/3% ● Attendance: 1/3% ● Final Exam & Presentation: 1/3% 	