

Course Name	Ageing Japan: Challenges of Demographic Change		
Semester, Year	Second Semester, 2018	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	3000	Course Number	27078
Instructor(s) (Institution)	HOMMERICH CAROLA (大学院文学研究科)		
Course Objectives	<p>Social ageing is a phenomenon that can be witnessed in many societies in the wake of industrialization, urbanization and social modernization. It brings about changes in values, institutions, social structures, economic activity, technology and culture, and poses many challenges for the countries affected. Japan is experiencing this most rapidly, having grown old the fastest and facing stark population decline. By 2065, its population is expected to shrink by one third.</p> <p>In this course, we will focus on Japan's experience, analyzing processes and implications of demographic change from various angles: We will look at structural changes and will try to understand the complex causes driving it. Considering the implications for family structures and other social networks, gender roles and employment patterns, health care and welfare provision, pension systems, immigration policy, civil society and voting behavior and the cultural reactions and ramifications of social ageing, we will try to paint a full picture of Japan's demographic challenge.</p>		
Course Goals	<p>At the end of the semester you will be familiar with the implications of the most pressing challenge Japan is facing today. You will have learned about various aspects of demographic ageing and understood the complexity of problems that come with it. You will have read, understand and discussed about this topic in English. You will have given a class presentation about one aspect of demographic ageing and will have led a class discussion about it.</p>		
Course Schedule	<p>Divided into 15 sessions, we will cover the follow topics (additional topics are possible):</p> <p>Part I: Structural Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demographic change in numbers: Development and projection - Demographic change: International comparison <p>Part II: Social Aspects of Demographic Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changing family structure and family formation patterns - Elderly care - Income inequality - Labor market and economy - Social security system <p>Part III: Political Aspects of Demographic Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Civil society in an ageing society - The old or the young? Politics for whom? - Immigration as key? <p>Part IV: Cultural Aspects of Demographic Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concepts of old age and death - Well-being in a super-aged society 		
Homework	<p>There will be required readings every week, which I will upload for you on Moodle.</p> <p>You will give a class presentation of about 30 minutes on one of the topics of the class as well as lead a class discussion afterwards. You will hand in a final report of 10-15 pages at the end of the semester.</p>		
Grading System	<p>1. Preparing the class readings as well as active participation in class discussions.</p> <p>2. Class presentation of about 30 minutes.</p> <p>3. Final paper on a topic of your choice related to the main topic of this class (10-15 pages).</p> <p>4. Class attendance: you can miss a maximum of 2 classes unexcused. If you miss more, you fail the class.</p> <p>Grading system</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Classroom contribution + attendance: 30% 2. Class presentation: 30% 3. Final paper: 40% 		
Textbooks / Reading List	Readings which will be provided in PDF-format through Moodle.		
Websites	To be announced at the beginning of the semester		
Website of Laboratory			
Additional Information	This is a sociology class, not an English class. Please do not worry about making mistakes in English. The most important point is to get your message across.		