

Course Name	Being Young in Super-Ageing Japan		
Semester, Year	First Semester, 2019	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	2000	Course Number	027001
Instructor(s) (Institution)	HOMMERICH CAROLA 大学院文学研究院		
Course Objectives	<p>Over the past two decades, Japan has seen growing inequality triggered by an increase of precarious employment, rising numbers of unemployed and a retrenchment of company and government welfare. At the same time, social bonds hitherto provided by family, neighbors, or the company have weakened, meaning that there is less of a network to fall back on for support. Both phenomena have been subject to widespread academic and public discourse. In this, the Japanese youth has been one of the main protagonists, being especially affected by structural changes and an increase of social risks.</p> <p>A growing number of young Japanese seems unable to cope with daily life. Various surveys indicate a strong increase in anxieties, cases of clinical depression, social withdrawal, and even suicide among the young. Amidst these developments, results of a longitudinal government survey come as a surprise, which show that the share of 20-29-year-olds who consider themselves satisfied with their life has increased since the 1970s and by the turn of the century has outstripped that of older generations.</p> <p>In this class, we will analyze this seemingly contradictory experience of young Japanese. We will look at various social problems Japanese society is facing today from the perspective of Japanese youth.</p> <p>(I am open to additional topics not included in the syllabus below. Please feel free to suggest anything you find relevant. You are the experts!)</p>		
Course Goals	<p>By the end of this class, you will have learnt about various social problems Japanese society is facing today, and will have understood the specific way they affect Japanese youth.</p> <p>You will have given a class presentation in English and will have written a final report in English.</p>		
Course Schedule	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview 2. Forever young? A theoretical introduction to definitions of youth 3. Being young in an ageing society: Some dilemmas of Japanese youth 4. Happy or anxious: the mental state of Japanese youth Childhood and early adolescence 5. An unequal start? Child poverty and educational chances 6. Problems at school: Bullying, school non-attendance Late adolescence 7. Entering the labour market: finding a job, job security 8. Hikikomori and NEET 9. Not ready for love? Youth and love relationships 10. Political participation 11. Uchimuke: Going abroad as risk? 12. Changing communication: The impact of mobile phones 13. Youth culture Transition to adulthood 14. Achieving financial and emotional independence 15. Final discussion 		
Homework	There will be required readings, which I will upload on Moodle.		
Grading System	<p>You will be graded based on the following four aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class presentation (15-20 minutes) on a topic of your choice 2. Final paper on the topic of your presentation (5 to 10 pages, 11-12pt font). 3. Active participation in class and group discussions. 4. Class attendance: You can miss a maximum of 2 classes unexcused. If you miss more without contacting me to excuse yourself, you fail the class. <p>Classroom contribution + attendance: 30% Class presentation: 30% Final paper: 40%</p>		
Textbooks / Reading List			
Websites			
Website of Laboratory			
Additional Information			