

Course Name	Ideas: Discussing Contemporary Social Issues		
Semester, Year	First Semester, 2019	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	1000	Course Number	027052
Instructor(s) (Institution)	HANSEN Paul Simon 大学院メディア・コミュニケーション研究院		
Course Objectives	To better understand contemporary social problems and perspectives. To listen and discuss issues and opinions. To summarize topics for a general audience and present a viewpoint.		
Course Goals	This seminar style course primarily focuses on discussing contemporary social issues based on a series of popular podcasts called "Ideas" from the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC). Examples of potential topics are labor precarity, indigeneity, technology and the posthuman etc. As such, the main focus will be on developing listening and discussion skills (although occasionally transcripts are also available for the programs). Each one hour episode will be discussed over a two week period with the expectation that topics and questions build from one week to the next. Students will also be expected to summarize and present on an episode of their choice near the end of the course.		
Course Schedule	The following outline will depend upon student interest and enrollment. Topics listed here are potential topics: 1. Self / Course Introduction 2. Topic 1a Making a Better World with a Culture of 'Citizen Eaters' 3. Topic 1b 4. Topic 2a Less Work More Leisure: Utopian Visions and the Future of Work 5. Topic 2b 6. Topic 3a Dr. Taylor Owen on How Internet Monopolies Threaten Democracy (The Dalton Camp Lecture) 7. Topic 3b 8. Mid-term Student Presentations 9. Topic 4a Autonomy: The Unexpected Implications of Self-Driving Vehicles. 10. Topic 4b 11. Topic 5a "Fighting at the Table: Conflict as Successful Integration" Migration issues. 12. Topic 5b 13. Preparation Class 14. Final Paper Presentations and Discussion 15. Final Paper Presentations and Discussion		
Homework	Students are expected to keep up with weekly listening projects, develop terminology lists, and produce questions and topics for discussion. There is also a mid-term summary / presentation and a final paper and presentation.		
Grading System	Grades are allotted via Hokkaido University's 11 point GPA system 15% daily assignment 15% participation (daily contribution to discussions) 20% a mid-term program summary and presentation 20% final presentation 30% final paper		
Textbooks / Reading List	There is no reading list but the following website offers numerous examples of the type of programs to be discussed. http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas		
Websites			
Website of Laboratory			
Additional Information	All students are welcome, including MJSP and HUSTEP students. The goal is to have a vibrant atmosphere of discussion. And so, an interest or curiosity about social issues and an openness to diverse viewpoints is essential. Please note, this is not a beginner level seminar. Given that the focus of the seminar is on listening and discussion it should be obvious that 'shy' or reserved students are unlikely to score well.		