

**Course syllabus: “Sustainable Society and Cultural Diversity in Globalization”
provided by the University of Miyazaki**

Overview

This course is a STEP 2 program, a part of the inter-university exchange project “SEKATEN-UX”, adopted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan.

In this project, students from 10 universities —four in Miyazaki Prefecture, including the University of Miyazaki, and six in the United States, Taiwan, and South Korea — will collaborate.

This project aims to develop global human resources capable of challenging GX, equipped with intercultural understanding, multicultural conviviality, problem-finding, problem-solving, and problem-transmission skills. For that, there are three types of programs —STEP 1: COIL, STEP 2: Online study abroad, and STEP 3: Actual short-term study abroad.

Students who complete STEP 2 and are selected based on their good grades can have the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Miyazaki in STEP 3.

Participating universities

Japanese Universities

–Miyazaki UOM: University of Miyazaki, MKU: Minami Kyushu University, MIU: Miyazaki International University,
 MGJC: Miyazaki Gakuen Junior Collage

Partner Universities overseas

–U.S.A. IUP: Indiana University of Pennsylvania, TESC: The Evergreen State College
–Korea SCNU: Sunchon National University
–Taiwan DYU: Da-yeh University, TUT: Tainan University of Technology, NCYU: National Chia-yi University

Course Overview

Course name: “Sustainable Society and Cultural Diversity in Globalization”

Lecturers: ITO Kenichi (in charge, lectures, student support to Korea), OKADA Takehiro (lectures, student support to U.S.), YANO Yasunori (lectures, student support to Taiwan), NANBU Megumi (VR)

Course style: Hybrid (online, on-demand)

Credits: Credits from your university

Class hours: Total 22.5 hours, 15 classes of 90 min.

Target: All regular students

Class Period: U.S.A.: September 30th to November 21st
Taiwan, Korea: October 1st to November 22nd

Competencies: Cross-cultural communication, cross-cultural understanding, multicultural society, presentation, discussion

Language: English and Japanese (for students learning Japanese) *

* The lecturer speaks and shows documents in both.

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants can attend at least 70% of the class in real time.

Applicants must understand the learning objectives.

Requirements to study abroad in Miyazaki:

Applicants who wish to participate in the short-term abroad at the University of Miyazaki as STEP 3, must meet the following requirements* for STEP 3. And, your intention to participate in STEP 3 will be confirmed during the STEP 2 course.

* Eligibility Criteria for STEP 3

- 1) Ability to participate in approximately 7 nights, 8 days (excluding travel days) short-term study abroad program scheduled between July 6 and 24, 2026.
- 2) Ability to be enrolled at your university during the above period.
- 3) Ability to cover all expenses related to the program, excluding partial subsidies from UOM (such as apart of airfare or accommodation costs)
- 4) English proficiency at CEFR Level B1 or above, or JLPT Level N4 or above.

Course Details

(1) Objectives

Through this course, students will enhance their understanding of sustainable societies and cultural diversity. Through discussions with students from the U.S., Korea, Taiwan, and Japan, they will aim to improve their cross-cultural understanding and communication skills. Additionally, by engaging in collaborative learning with students from overseas about GX (green transformation) related to regional issues, including nature, culture, and environment, they will cultivate the mindset necessary for global talent capable of addressing international challenges collaboratively across regions and the world in the future.

(2) Keywords

Intercultural communication, multicultural society, international collaboration, sustainable society

(3) Learning objectives

- Deepen understanding of environmental and GX related to issues at the local and global level.
- Engage in discussions with students from multiple universities about research and initiatives aimed at creating a sustainable society, and acquire the ability to collaborate internationally to find solutions.
- Through presentations and communications on the differences in university life and the social and cultural norms of universities in countries, develop a positive attitude towards learning different languages and cultures, and acquire the ability to communicate across cultures effectively.

(4) Course content

- Students from multiple countries and regions will engage in discussions about the culture, lifestyle, and environment of their respective areas.
- Attend lectures on research related to achieving a sustainable society, such as energy studies and environmental sciences and technologies, and engage in discussions.

- Attend classes that explore the importance of recognizing cultural and natural diversity and the relations, and participate in group discussions based on the class content.
- Attend classes that consider the complexity and risks of GX related to regional issues and participate in group discussions based on the class content.

(5) Class schedule

See Appendix

(6) Communication tools

This course will use the following tools.

- ZOOM
 - Lectures, discussions
- Virtual space “SEKATEN-UX” (V.S.)
 - Lectures, discussions
- Slack
 - Communication between instructors and students, distribution of course materials, assignment submissions
- Google Forms, Microsoft Forms
 - Reflection sheets, surveys



(7) Grading Criteria:

Grading will be evaluated comprehensively by the following three methods.

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| · Class participation attitude | 20% |
| · Reflection sheets for each lecture | 40% |
| · Report assignments | 40% |

Grades and Scores:

- S: Excellent: 90 points or higher
- A: Good: 80–89 points
- B: Fair: 70–79 points
- C: Pass: 60–69 points
- D or F: Fail: 60 or below

(8) Certificate

Applicants who receive a grade of S to C will receive a certificate of completion from Miyazaki University upon completion of the course.