Osaka Gakuin University 2011-2012 Spring Semester

Minority Group Issues in Japan

Instructor:

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Lesson:

Office Hours: N/A Subject code: 2034

Course Description:

This course will teach fundamental knowledge of minority groups in Japan, specifically the Buraku (Dowa) problem. After explaining the history and the contemporary issues relating to Buraku and other minority groups, it will show how they take some actions against the various types of discriminations in their daily lives.

This class will also focus on Dowa Education which is a special educational program on Buraku issues and community development in Buraku communities. It will show how Dowa Education and community development in some Buraku Communities in the Kinki region play significant roles at local and national levels, and what impact this education and community development practice has had on the Buraku community as well as wider society. We will also take a comparative analysis on special education for minority groups in Japan.

In addition to lecture and discussion, the class will take in some field trips to places such as Buraku community in Osaka city and Human Right Museum or National Museum of Ethnology so that students can learn this subject actively and practically.

The class is held in English; however important cultural and technical terms in Japanese will be introduced as necessary. Student must take a term exam as well as participle in class discussion and a team project presentation.

Resources

Handouts will be provided for each class.

Evaluation

A grade will be given based on:

Participation to the lecture and discussion (20%)

Field trip report (10%)

Team project presentation (20%)

Term exam (50%).

Notes:

Course Schedule:

- Week 1: Orientation (Buraku problem between you and me)
- Week 2: Buraku problem- past, present and Future.
- Week 3: Buraku Liberation Movement
- Week 4: Buraku Liberation Movement and international solidarity
- Week 5: Community development of Sumiyoshi Buraku Community -1-
- Week 6: Community development of Sumiyoshi Buraku Community -2-
- Week 7: Buraku and illiteracy
- Week 8: Dowa education and Human Rights education
- Week 9: Fieldwork 1 (Buraku Community in Osaka city)
- Week 10: Team project presentation (Field trip report)
- Week 11: Special education for minority group 1 (Old timer and New comer from overseas)
- Week 12: Special education for minority group 2 (Ainu)
- Week 13: Team project presentation (case studies of Human Rights educations in your country)
- Week 14: Field trip (Human Right Museum)
- Week 15: Team project presentation (Field trip report), wrap up