

**【教員氏名】**

江川 暁夫

**【単位数】**

2 単位

**【演習概要】**

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic understanding on how and how much economic theories can contribute to discussing and solving important social problems. The course structure is, (1) to overview the role of economics as social science (class sessions #1-3), (2) to consider possible measures for alleviating poverty and income inequality from the perspectives of (welfare) economics (#4-10), and (3) to critically discuss the topics which are publicly believed to be true (#11-14).

**【学習目標】**

The aims of this course are

- (1) To enable students to get rid of any prejudice against a conventional thought that economics is always hampering social development or that economists are always ignoring people in society when establishing economic policies.
  - (2) To enable students to participate in debates or discussions on current economic and social affairs with some background knowledge in economics, regardless of their major
- Student's level of proficiency in English does not matter very much in attending the class sessions.

**【講義計画】**

- 第1回: The objective of economics as social science
- 第2回: Economic modelling: just for money game?
- 第3回: Notion of a welfare state and social welfare in economics
- 第4回: Poverty and income inequality: the differences
- 第5回: Poverty: definition and measurement
- 第6回: Measurement of income inequality and its interpretation
- 第7回: Economics of state intervention to the market with asymmetric information
- 第8回: Provision of education and health-care as basic needs and economic growth
- 第9回: Measures for low-income households (1) price control
- 第10回: Measures for low-income households (2) in-cash and in-kind benefits for grassroots
- 第11回: Have regulatory reforms changed society towards a wrong direction?
- 第12回: Does stronger international competition cause a spread of 'black companies'?
- 第13回: Does liberalistic economic policy worsen inequality?
- 第14回: Can imposing very progressive direct taxes contribute to finance a welfare state?
- 第15回: Other important topics

**【成績評価の方法】**

試験評価: 0% レポート: 80% 出席: 20%

This course is assessed by four assignments and active participation in the class sessions. A term-end examination will not be taken.

Four assignment during the term. One is to answer a fill-in-the-blank type questions, and the other three are to write short essay (approx. 500 words) in English, each of which are related to the topics in the course.

**【参考文献】**

Indicated in each class session.

**【準備学習の指示】**

In order to develop a better essays, students are advised to make a tiny observation on the economic and social situation and policies in their country regarding the topics which are dealt in the course.