

Research Seminar Application Brochure for 2022

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School of International Studies
Kwansei Gakuin University

Table of Contents

1. About Advanced Research Seminars	3
2. Class Size	4
3. Prerequisites	4
4. Research Seminar Application Schedule.....	6
5. Research Seminar Application Form	8
6. Seminar Class Information	8
1. Professor Koji Kojima	9
2. Professor Tsu Timothy Yun Hui	10
3. Associate Professor Jeet Sapkota	11
4. Associate Professor De Soete Francois	12
5. Assistant Professor Antononoka Olga	13
6. Assistant Professor Taslima Akhter	14

1. About Advanced Research Seminars

The Advanced Research Seminars are small group seminars taught by faculty members of the School of International Studies on the topics in their fields of expertise. These seminars are designed to help students develop abilities to identify and solve various issues.

Below are the course titles and the number of credits required for graduation.

“Advanced Courses in International Studies: Advanced Research Seminars”

The number in parenthesis indicates the number of credits.

Standard Year for Registration	Courses
3rd Year	Research Seminar I (4)
4th Year	Research Seminar II (4) Graduation Thesis (4)
Graduation Credit Requirement	12 Credits

In the 3rd year, students are required to take “Research Seminar I” to start their research on the topic of their interest while developing expertise in that field under the guidance of their instructors. In the 4th year, they are required to take “Research Seminar II” and “Graduation Thesis.” In the process of organizing their research findings in a thesis paper, students acquire the necessary skills to conduct research and analysis, and write an academic paper, which is the final goal of these courses.

In order for students to take “Research Seminar I” in their 3rd year, they must complete the application procedures during their 2nd year. This leaflet is intended to provide 2nd-year students with the details of the procedures. Please read the instructions thoroughly.

The important notes on the application for “Advanced Research Seminars” are as follows:

- (1) The graduation requirement of 12 credits must be earned from the combination of “Research Seminar I,” “Research Seminar II” and “Graduation Thesis.” The instructor of these three courses must be the same.
- (2) No class is given for “Graduation Thesis.” Students are to complete and submit their thesis papers for a pass/fail evaluation. Guidance and instructions on thesis writing will be given in “Research Seminar II.”
- (3) No change of seminar class will be accepted.
- (4) In principle, only English-based International Students are eligible for “Research Seminar I,” “Research Seminar II” and “Graduation Thesis.” However, Regular Students and Japanese-based International Students may also apply for these courses if they satisfy the following requirement:

- A minimum score of TOEIC 770, TOEFL 79 (IBT), IELTS 6.0 or TOEFL 550 (PBT), including the score of TOEIC-IP and TOEFL-ITP

2. Class Size

Each seminar class will have ten students in principle, but the size may be adjusted according to the number of applicants for each class. Once the class allocation for all English-based International Students is completed, Regular Students and Japanese-based International Students will be considered for the remaining availability.

*Regular Students and Japanese-based International Students may not be accepted into Research Seminar.

*English-based International Students may not be allocated to their desired seminar class.

3. Prerequisites

Prerequisites are required for students to take “Research Seminar I” in their 3rd year.

- (1) English-based International Students and Japanese-based International Students
Credits from the following courses must have already been earned, and the period of enrollment excluding any period for a leave of absence must be two years and more.

<Languages>

First Foreign Language Elementary: 8 credits or more

<International Studies Foundation Courses>

Basic Courses: 2 credits or more

Practical Orientation: 4 credits or more

<Others>

Other Courses*: 18 credits or more

*Courses with credits that can be included in the graduation credit requirement other than the courses above

Total Number of Credits: 32 credits or more

- (2) Regular Students

Credits from the following courses must have already been earned, and the period of enrollment excluding any period for a leave of absence must be two years and more.

<Languages>

First Foreign Language Elementary: 8 credits or more

Second Foreign Language Elementary:	2 credits or more
<International Studies Foundation Courses>	
Introductory Courses:	4 credits or more
Basic Courses:	8 credits or more
Practical Orientation:	4 credits or more
<Others>	
Other Courses*:	6 credits or more
*Courses with credits that can be included in the graduation credit requirement other than the courses above.	
<u>Total Number of Credits:</u>	<u>32 credits or more</u>

4. Research Seminar Application Schedule

The following is the schedule for the application, screening and class allocation for Research Seminar I.

Research Seminar I is the course for 3rd-year students. Students, who will be 3rd-year at the time of 2021, are required to apply for Research Seminar I in 2020. Please read thoroughly, and do not miss any procedures and required document submission

1. <Announcement of Application Procedures & Schedule>

Thoroughly read this brochure

2. <Fall Orientation>

Watch the research seminar orientation video created by your preferred seminar instructor to understand the content of the seminar. (The links to the videos will be provided on the Kyogaku Web Service from mid to late September.)

3. <Application Submission (1)>

Between Thursday, November 4, and Wednesday, November 10, 16:50, submit to the SIS Office* the "Research Seminar I Application Form," indicating your first choice of seminar class.

This year, we will send a URL for application submission via the Kyogaku Web Service as a personal message at 8:50 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, to avoid close contacts among students and accommodate students who cannot enter Japan.

[Notes]

- The deadline for submission is strictly Japan standard time.
- A submitted application form **cannot be replaced**, as all students have to submit the form under the same conditions.

(Multiple submissions are not allowed. If there is more than one submission, we will precede the first one.)

4. < Screening (1)>

When the number of applicants exceeds the class capacity, screening will take place between Monday, November 15 and Monday, November 29. If the number of applicants is within the class capacity, all applicants will be accepted. In principle, the screening is done based on the submitted application documents, however, interviews and other screening procedures may be required depending on the class. The details should be confirmed in the "Research Seminar Application Procedures." Pay attention to additional information seminar instructors may provide regarding the screening procedures.

5. <Screening Result>

The result of Screening (1) will be posted on the SIS Information Board and Kyogaku Web Service on Friday, December 3, 9:00.

[Note] Students who have been determined at this time; there is no required procedures until the final announcement of 10 below.

6. <Application Submission (2): ONLY those whose class has not been determined>

Students whose seminar class has not been determined must submit the “選択届②（研究演習・RS 共通） SIS Research Seminar I Application Form #2（common form）” between Tuesday, December 7, and Friday, December 10, 16:50.

7. <Document Screening (2)>

Document screening will be conducted by seminar instructors between Tuesday, December 14 and Friday, December 17.

8. < Screening Result (2)>

The result of Screening (2) will be posted on the SIS Information Board on and Kyogaku Web Service on Friday, January 7, 9:00.

[Note] Students who have been determined at this time; there is no required procedures until the final announcement of 10 below.

9. <Students who have not been determined>

Office will contact students who have not been determined seminar class in the middle of January.

10. <Announcement of Seminar Class(Final)>

Seminar class allocation will be announced on the SIS Information Board and Kyogaku Web Service in the beginning of March.

[Note] Students who meet all the prerequisites only will be allowed to take Research Seminar.

5. Research Seminar Application Form

As indicated in 4 in the “Research Seminar Application Schedule” section, all students must submit the “Research Seminar I Application Form,” which will provide the most important information for the screening process via the URL for submission. The URL will be delivered to the applicable students as a personal message through the Kyogaku Web Service at 8:50 on Wednesday, November 4. All required information on the form must be written clearly and in detail. Please download the application form from the SIS website.

[Important Notes on Entry]

Please type in the application form. We will not accept handwritten forms.

Be sure to check the application form you entered **in the print preview** to ensure **all the text is fitting within the frame readable** before submitting it.

After thoroughly examining the content and the format, submit the "Research Seminar I Application Form" (Excel file) via the URL for submission.

Students cannot modify the application form or resubmit it after the submission to ensure screening fairness.

6. Seminar Class Information

The following pages contain below information on each seminar class:

Instructor:	Faculty member to teach the class
Research Seminar Theme:	Theme to be discussed in the class
Course Details:	Details on what the seminar provides for students
Graduation Thesis Language:	The language in which graduation thesis is to be written
Additional Selection Criteria:	
Note to Applicants:	What to be expected of the students applying for the seminar class, and message from the instructor

Read through the seminar class information on the following pages, attend the orientation by the instructor whose seminar you wish to take, and prepare the application form to be submitted in November.

Instructor	Koji Kojima (児島幸治)
Research Seminar Theme	Business Reporting and Analysis
Course Details	<p>Course objectives: The research seminar will provide students with (1) an overview of financial accounting theory, (2) an opportunity to examine accounting issues, (3) analyses on firms' business reporting and their strategy, and (4) an exposure to accounting and finance research. Topics to be covered will include: (a) accounting information and information asymmetry, (b) moral hazard problems, (c) usefulness of accounting information, (d) Agency Theory, (e) incentive (compensation) system, (f) debt contract, (g) conservatism of accounting, (h) voluntary disclosure and investor relations, (i) investment strategy, and (j) earnings management.</p> <p>Course contents: 1-10: Introduction to financial accounting theory. 11-15: Introduction to financial accounting research. Summer camp (2-3 days) 16-25: Case presentations 26-30: Introduction to research methodologies.</p> <p>Method of instruction: Lecture, Discussion, and Case study</p> <p>Text: To be assigned.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English, Japanese
Additional Selection Criteria	None
Note to Applicants	<p>Suggested courses to finish prior to taking this research seminar: Basic management, Introduction to financial accounting Financial reporting and analysis, International accounting Japanese Economy, Management A And various business/economic courses in Japanese if possible.</p>

Instructor	TSU, Timothy Y.
Research Seminar Theme	Japanese and Chinese History, Society, and Culture
Course Details	The content of this seminar is tailored to the interests of the members of the class in a particular year. Generally, students are encouraged to explore contemporary issues of their own choosing and which pertain to Japan or China in the areas of heritage studies, migration, and/or the environment. In the past, students have also pursued projects on gender, civil society, and cultural politics. The primary language of the class is English but students are welcome to bring in, for their own projects, Japanese and Chinese sources on their own initiative and in consultation with the instructor. If you want to learn more about this class, please do not hesitate to set up an appointment with the instructor.
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	N.A.
Note to Applicants	All are welcome as long as they are comfortable writing in English. Students who can use Japanese or Chinese sources are particularly encouraged to consider this course.

Instructor	Jeet Sapkota
Research Seminar Theme	Globalization and Development
Course Details	<p>Description of research content This seminar explores contemporary globalization and development issues aiming to cultivate the academic interest of each student and enhance their research skills. Under the growing wave of globalization, such as the free flow of goods, services, people, ideas, and information, countries and societies face enormous challenges and unprecedented opportunities. Thus, various issues and aspects of globalization and development will be introduced at the beginning of the seminar to reinforce your research interest. Gradually, you will acquire necessary research skills, such as reviewing relevant literature, applying appropriate research methods, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting results. Finally, you will develop a research proposal, make oral presentations of your research idea and output, and ultimately write your graduation thesis.</p> <p>Class management policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture and discussion on topics in globalization and development • Presentations on assigned readings and research progress by students <p>Events: Summer camp and field visits depending on students' interest</p> <p>Seminar schedule: To be announced in the class.</p> <p>Readings: To be assigned in the class.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	None in particular.
Note to Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no prerequisites for joining this seminar. • Please do not hesitate to contact at jeet@kwansei.ac.jp anytime if you have any question about this seminar.

Instructor	DE SOETE, Francois
Research Seminar Theme	Topics in Politics and International Relations
Course Details	<p>Overview: This seminar focuses on the field of politics and international relations, with special attention to international relations theory, political philosophy, and environmental ethics. This includes topics relating to, for example, (1) arms races and territorial disputes, (2) democratic theory and debates about the concept of justice, and (3) endangered species conservation and climate change.</p> <p>Format: The instructor will present a brief lecture to introduce each week's topic. The majority of class time, however, will be devoted primarily to student-led discussions and presentations based on reading materials relevant to each week's topic. (Students will choose each week's reading material, in consultation with the instructor.).</p> <p>Goals: 1) Learn about various issues relating to the course topics, 2) become familiar with research methodologies used in the social sciences, 3) develop the analytical thinking skills needed to conduct independent research, and 4) improve writing skills in preparation for the graduation thesis.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	None
Note to Applicants	Student-led discussions and presentations are designed to not only help develop research abilities and analytical thinking skills, but to also foster a vibrant interactive and collaborative class setting. As such, regularly attending classes and keeping up with reading assignments is a key part of this seminar.

Instructor	Antononoka Olga
Research Seminar Theme	Japanese Contemporary Culture
Course Details	<p>Description:</p> <p>This seminar focusses on Japanese contemporary popular culture, such as: anime, manga, games, light novels, film, etc. We will gain the skills to apply methodology of media-studies to analyze selected examples of Japanese popular culture.</p> <p>We will analyze how contemporary popular media are frequently interrelated, comprising expanding media-mixes that arise around popular narratives.</p> <p>Beginning with introduction into media-studies, this course teaches how to apply methodological tools to the specific Japanese media. This course overviews multiple methodological approaches, such as: historical approach, media-specific textual analysis, reception studies, gender studies, etc.</p> <p>This course emphasizes group-work, discussions, and presentations.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	None
Note to Applicants	Provided theoretical materials will be in English.

Instructor	AKHTER Taslima
Research Seminar Theme	Corporate Sustainability Management
Course Details	<p>Nowadays sustainability demands considerable attention from us. Developing and implementing effective sustainability strategies are an important challenge for the management. This research seminar aims to develop the knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues in the theory and practice of sustainability management, accounting, and accountability. Key discussion topics include corporate sustainability, corporate social responsibility, integrated reporting, sustainability reporting, important theories of corporate sustainability (such as institutional theory, legitimacy theory and stakeholder theory). Based on their understanding on various sustainability and accountability issues, students can explore and develop their own research interest.</p> <p>The students will be provided with an outline of topics and related reading materials for each session. The format of this seminar is based on a mixture of lectures, reading study materials and student presentation. Students need to make active participation in the class discussion, group work and presentations on their learning.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	None
Note to Applicants	<p>All activities of the seminar will be conducted in English. Students are expected to read the assigned study materials in advance and come to the class completely and thoroughly prepared.</p>