

Research Seminar Application Brochure for 2021

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School of International Studies
Kwansei Gakuin University

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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.

Total Number of Credits: 32 credits or more

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 leaflet

~~2. <Spring Orientation> (Cancelled in spring semester 2020)~~

~~An orientation on Research Seminar will be given by each seminar instructor from the middle of May to early June. Attend the orientation by the instructor whose seminar you wish to take to confirm the course details.~~

~~The orientation schedule will be announced at the beginning of May. Students who are scheduled to participate in study abroad programs during the Fall Semester must attend the spring orientation.~~

3. <Fall Orientation>

The same orientation on Research Seminar will be given by each seminar instructor from late September to the middle of October. **Students who were on study abroad programs during the Spring Semester must attend the fall orientation by the instructor whose seminar they wish to take to confirm the course details.**

The orientation schedule will be announced in the middle of September.

4. <Application Submission (1)>

Between Wednesday, November 4, 8:50 and Tuesday, November 10, 16:50, submit to the SIS Office* the "Research Seminar I Application Form," indicating your first choice of seminar class.

*If you are on a study abroad program during this period, submit the application form to the office via email (the office will contact the relevant students separately.).

5. < Screening (1)>

When the number of applicants exceeds the class capacity, screening will take place between Friday, November 13 and Friday, November 27. 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.

6. <Screening Result>

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

7. <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 Monday, December 7, 8:50 and Thursday, December 10, 16:50.

8. <Document Screening (2)>

Document screening will be conducted by seminar instructors between Monday, December 14 and Friday, December 18.

9. < Screening Result (2)>

The result of Screening (2) will be posted on the SIS Information Board on and Kyogaku Web Service on Friday, January 8, 9:00.

[Note] Students who have been determined at this time; there is no required procedures until the final announcement of 11 below.

10. <Students who have not been determined>

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

11. <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 to SIS office the “Research Seminar I Application Form,” which will provide the most important information for the screening process. All information on the form must be written clearly and in details. Please download the application form from SIS website.

[Remarks]

Note that please type in the application form and print out to submit.

(2-sided printing)

No longer accept handwritten forms.

To ensure the fairness of screening, students are not allowed to modify texts of the application form or reintroduce it after the submission.

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
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	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. It approaches popular culture from the perspective of media-studies.</p> <p>Beginning with introduction into media-studies, this course continues by applying 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>Furthermore, we will observe how contemporary popular media are frequently interrelated, comprising expanding media-mixes that arise around popular narratives.</p> <p>Finally, we will inquire into reception studies, by learning about fan-activities, such as: dōjinshi, cosplay, and other derivative contents and practices.</p> <p>This course emphasizes group-work, discussions, and presentations.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	
Note to Applicants	Provided theoretical materials will be in English.

Instructor	Sapkota Jeet
Research Seminar Theme	Globalization and Development
Course Details	<p>This research seminar explores contemporary globalization and development issues aiming to enhance students' research skills. Under the growing wave of globalization, such as free flow of goods, services, people, ideas and information, countries and societies are facing enormous challenges and unprecedented opportunities for socioeconomic development. Thus, various issues and aspects of globalization and development will be introduced at the beginning of the seminar. Then, students will explore their research interest and develop a clear research title/topic within the broad theme of globalization and development.</p> <p>Taking this seminar, students will acquire necessary research skills; such as reviewing relevant literature, applying appropriate research method, analyzing data and presenting results. Moreover, they will be able to develop a research proposal, make an oral presentation of their research idea and output, and ultimately write the graduation thesis.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	There is no prerequisite to join this seminar. However, it is better to have earned credits from "Introduction to Economics" and "Development Economics" courses.
Note to Applicants	<p>(1) Active participation in the seminar discussion, peer collaboration, and frequent presentation on your learnings and research progresses are essential parts of the seminar.</p> <p>(2) Apart from graduation thesis, the entire activities of the seminar will be conducted in English.</p>

Instructor	DE SOETE, Francois
Research Seminar Theme	Politics – Environmental Security Issues
Course Details	<p>This seminar will focus on contemporary security issues, with an emphasis on three issue areas in particular: (1) state security, which includes topics like weapons of mass destruction and territorial disputes; (2) human security, which includes topics like ethnic conflict and human rights violations; and (3) environmental security, which includes topics like climate change and endangered species conservation. The first half of this course will focus on the first two issue areas, while the second half will focus on the third issue area.</p> <p>The instructor will schedule the topics and suggest appropriate reading materials for each session, but class time will be devoted primarily to student-led discussions and presentations. Students will ultimately work on a final group research project that will focus on a specific topic relating to environmental security.</p>
Graduation Thesis Language	English
Additional Selection Criteria	Application form only.
Note to Applicants	Classes will feature student-led discussions and presentations designed to help develop research abilities and analytical thinking skills. As such, regularly attending classes and keeping up with reading assignments is a key part of this seminar.