12th September, 2022

For international students who want a special experience,

It is our pleasure to introduce you a new course titled “**Contextualizing Self in Society (in English)**” (Thur.3) presented by **Kaz Yui** from the Hirayama Ikuo Volunteer Centre (WAVOC\*). This course (presented in Japanese) has been taken by more than 2,600 students and they are delighted by the unprecedented experience. Finally, the English version of this course is open.

\*WAVOC is a volunteer centre that belongs to Waseda University. This organization supports and encourages students to develop their perspectives, skills, and competencies through volunteer activities and courses offered by faculty members.

This hands-on workshop, which uses originally developed “WAVOC method” as its methodology, will help you figure out that some social issues and your personal experiences, which seems quite unrelated, are deeply connected, and you will be able to “contextualize yourself in society.” It will give you a chance to perceive and recognize the world from a different point of view, which will eventually deepen your understanding of the world and yourself.

For more information, please see below.

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In this course, you will reflect on your experiences, analyze them, and connect them to social issues. By verbalizing your experiences in the form of "Narrative," you will enhance your university life.

The course is open to students who have had some kind of social experience, such as, a one-day trash pickup, a three-day internship at a company, a one-month part-time tutoring job, or a two-year club activity.

During these activities, did you ever feel sad, angry, painful, or frustrated?

Are you able to express what you thought through the experience in words?

In the class, we will focus on situations where you felt gloomy, unsatisfied, or uncertain. Under the guidance of the professor, you will be asked questions such as, "Why did you feel that way?" or "Why did that person say that?" and think about the connection between your personal experience and "social issues".

At this moment, you may not feel that your experience is connected to social issues. But in fact, your experiences are likely to be connected to a variety of issues, including politics, culture, international relations, the environment, education, poverty, and gender.

Becoming aware of these connections between yourself and social issues will give you an opportunity to feel connected to the world. Furthermore, this will lead to a greater awareness of the issues and motivation when studying your major subjects.

The class will be conducted in a participatory manner by a small group of students. Group discussions will be incorporated into the process of reflection, and students will be able to discuss and deepen their own ideas with other students. The final presentation will be a 5-minute "Narrative".

Not only in the final presentation, but also in each class, students are encouraged to express their own experiences and opinions, and comment on those of others. In other words, each class is a training session for students to verbalize their experiences and thoughts.

The "ability to verbalize one's thoughts and communicate them to others" (communication skills) nurtured in this process will be useful not only in university life but also in one's social life after graduation.

We have received the following comments from students who have taken this course:

"I used to be nervous about sharing my experiences, but I am gradually getting better at it!"

"Thanks to the group work, I am now able to express my opinions!"

"I've learned to look at things from the perspective of 'why'!"

"I have changed my way of thinking from simply memorizing the knowledge given to me to understanding the knowledge by drawing on it myself."

"The skills I developed in this course helped me in my job search!"

Let's think together to make your university life more fruitful.

This course aims to help students acquire the following three skills:

(1) The ability to talk about experiences in one's own words

(2) The ability to discover social issues through experiences

(3) The ability to connect experiences to a willingness to learn

We look forward to seeing you in the class!

**Web Syllabus:**

[**Syllabus in JP**](https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA104.php?pKey=9S120300530120229S120300539S&pLng=jp)

[**Syllabus in EN**](https://www.wsl.waseda.jp/syllabus/JAA104.php?pKey=9S120300530120229S120300539S&pLng=en)

**Notice:**

**- Credits for this course are NOT included in the completion credits for CJL students.**

**- When you register for this course, you need to fill out a statement of purpose.**