

Global Leadership Program – The University of Tokyo



Global Education for Innovation & Leadership

**GEFIL EXPERT MENTOR LECTURE SERIES**

**(共通講義)**

**2021-2022**

# EXPERT MENTOR LECTURE SERIES – SYLLABUS

## ***Aim of the course***

The GEFIL Expert Mentor Lecture Series is a compulsory course for students participating in the Independent Research Project Phase 1. It consists of 6 interactive lectures and discussion sessions given by the GEFIL Expert Mentors and Co-Mentors as internationally recognized thought-leaders in their respective fields of research.

The thematic fields of the Independent Research Project and the GEFIL Program as a whole are closely related to, and informed by, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2015 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Thus, the GEFIL Expert Mentor Lecture Series is designed as an introduction to the cutting-edge research conducted by the Expert Mentors on specific SDGs and their implementation. The course provides students with close insights into how GEFIL expert mentors tackle problems of a complex, global nature such as the SDGs. Crucially, students will gain a clear understanding of how research can impact on practices in international agenda setting, development of public policy, corporate strategies, and technological innovations.

A further important aim of the course is to facilitate a sustained academic dialogue between GEFIL Mentors and students from the very beginning of students' GEFIL studies. This will enable students to make well-informed choices when selecting their Phase 2 thematic field and strengthen students' research work in both their Phase 1 and Phase 2 classes.

## ***Learning Outcomes***

Students will gain

- an understanding of research on specific SDGs and its implementation;
- some essential knowledge of research methods;
- insights into how academic research informs practice in the “real world,”
- a grasp of the multi-faceted perspectives required when dealing with complex global as well as domestic issues;
- comprehension of the work of thought-leaders;
- ability to discuss global issues in English at an academic level.

## ***Schedule***

- 6 sessions, 10:00-12:00, Saturdays (December 2021– April 2022)
- The lectures will be held online by Zoom until mid-December. The location and medium for the four lectures in March and April will be announced later.

## ***Class Structure***

Each class consists of a lecture given by the Expert Mentor or Co-Mentor followed by a discussion & teamwork session, in which student teams will discuss issues and questions raised in the lecture. Postgraduate TAs will help facilitate the discussions of the student teams.

## ***Assessment and Attendance***

Students will be required to give a short presentation, or write a short essay, or take a short test after each lecture. Attendance requirement is 75%. This course is worth 2 GEFIL credits.

## ***Major Themes & Dates***

## **Lecture 1: 10:00 – 12:00, Saturday, 4 December**

**Professor Kiichi FUJIWARA: Between Globalism and Nationalism**

Outline: This class aims to discuss the decline of globalism and the rise of nationalism in the present world. At the end of the cold war, the world was supposed to be moving ahead toward democratic governance, open and integrated global market, and rule of law in international relations supported by shared political and economic values and institutions. At 2020, we no longer see such optimism toward a global future; what we see is a growing challenge toward globalism most especially in the industrial democracies that were supposed to be leaders of globalism. Why is that the case? Is there a future for global engagement based on shared responsibility, duties beyond borders? The specific topics will include UN institutions, neoliberal economy and its discontents, illiberal democracies and populism, and sustainable development goals.

### Class format & objectives

90-minute lecture followed by a 30-minute discussion session.

**(on the same day: Phase 1 Workshop 1, 13:30 – 17:30)**

## **Lecture 2: 10:00 – 12:00, Saturday, 11 December**

**Professor Alexandros GASPARATOS: Understanding the Sustainability Impacts of Commodity Crop Agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Outline: This lecture will identify and discuss about the major environmental and socioeconomic impacts of commodity crop production in Africa. It will draw from our empirical work in sugarcane, coffee, tea, oil palm, jatropha, tobacco and cotton production systems in different African countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, and Swaziland. The focus will be on impacts spanning multiple SDGs and especially SDG 1, 2, 13 and 15. The lecture will touch on how we design and implement transdisciplinary research in developing country contexts, and what to consider when disseminating results to local stakeholders.

### Class format & objectives

90-minute lecture followed by a 30-minute discussion session.

At the end of the lecture the students will ideally appreciate the complexities and the approach of transdisciplinary research design and implementation in developing country contexts, from conceptualisation to dissemination.

**(on the same day: Abroad Program 1<sup>st</sup> Info Session. 15:00 – 17:30)**

## **Lecture 3: 10:00 – 12:00, Saturday, 26 March**

**Professor Junichi HANDA: Innovative Leadership**

Outline: Nobody would argue against the significance of innovative activities to promote evolution of societies and business organizations. In this complex world, however, we need to develop organizational capacity to create innovation, not just waiting for a person

of genius. The question is How? This lecture is designed for you to find clues to understand the nature of innovation and leadership to lead innovation in large (business) organizations.

Teaching method & class objectives:

Lecture 90 minutes, Q&A 30 minutes

The class mainly addresses a viewpoint of the practitioners - business leaders. It will be a good opportunity for the students to understand that promoting innovative capacities of organizations should be one of the most important agendas for the future of leadership.

## **Lecture 4: 10:00 – 12:00, Saturday, 2 April**

### **Professor Shunya YOSHIMI: Global Cities in Crisis: Surviving Pandemics in History**

Outline: It is impossible for global cities to keep their normal functions under the circumstances of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Since ancient times, cities have developed as a place for gatherings, encounters, contacts, exchanges, interactions, and confluences. All of these key functions of cities are under threat because of the pandemic. Today, many typical places of “urbanism”: night clubs, stadiums, Sakariba, fish markets, etc. are deemed to be “dangerous” which are true. But I dare to emphasize that these city functions are the fundamental premise for intellectual creativity throughout history. We need these densely concentrated places. Now we face a question of how to reconstruct places of “urbanism” for intellectual creativity in the post-COVID-19 Pandemic era. I will discuss the pendulum between globalization and pandemics starting from the 13th century, in order to observe how global cities (as well as universities) survived blockades, closure, and isolation in crisis.

Class format & objectives

90-minute lecture followed by a 30-minute discussion session.

After the lecture, students will discuss and design a future model of global cities (or urban spaces) that can thrive in the post-COVID-19 Pandemic era.

## **Lecture 5: 10:00 – 12:00, Saturday, 9 April**

### **Professor Masamine JIMBA: Walls and Bridges in Global Health**

Outline: The goal of global health is to narrow the health gap and to achieve social justice at the global level. By our strong commitments to Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, we have been successful in improving health indicators, such as under-5 mortality and average life expectancy, around the world. However, in many resource-limited settings, people still encounter visible and invisible walls and this results in unacceptable and inequitable living conditions. In the era of COVID-19, some people were able to improve their living conditions by transforming the walls enclosing them into bridges, while others could not. In this seminar, I will share a variety of thought-provoking examples of transformation in global health.

I would like students to critically think and share ‘walls and bridges’ experience within their assigned group. These examples can be from the students' own experience at the individual level, or from a current issue that the students are passionate about at the national or global level. Then, students will discuss what walls are to be broken or

overcome and how to transform them into bridges. Finally, all groups are expected to share the examples with other groups and receive feedback.

Class format & objectives

Lecture 30 minutes (By Professor) + 15 minutes (By Assistant Professors): small group discussions 30 minutes; final sharing sessions 45 minutes.

After this session, students should be able to apply these critical thinking skills to transform the walls that they might face into potential bridges in the future.

**(on the same day: Phase 1 Workshop 5, 13:30 – 17:30)**

**Lecture 6: 10:00 – 12:00, Saturday, 23 April**

**Professor Kensuke FUKUSHI: Health Risk Assessment in Developing Urban Environment: Impact of Climate Change and COVID-19**

Outline: Climate change has become a serious problem in various parts of the world. Heavy rain is one of the extreme events that are particularly prone to catastrophic disasters in urban areas. The most serious impact of climate change on cities is floods caused by heavy rain. Flooding is expected to occur frequently, especially in developing countries, where environmental infrastructure is not well developed, due to poor drainage capacity of cities. Floods in developing cities damage infrastructure and kill humans. In addition, since the flood water contains wastewater and sludge in the sewer pipe, it has hygienic problems and often causes infectious diseases. Although there are various flood control methods to prevent flooding, there is no definitive method. In addition, the development of sewer system to reduce the concentration of pathogenic microorganisms in flood water takes a long time to complete because of financial constraints.

Class format & objectives

90-minute lecture followed by a 30-minute discussion session.

This lecture will consider how we shall address the issues of flooding and how to deal with them under the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**(on the same day: Phase 1 Workshop 6, 13:30 – 17:30)**

**Required Textbook**

No specific textbook; students will receive preparatory reading assignments for each lecture via Slack.