

FOLENS Syllabus

Subject Title: Fieldwork in Rural Communities[農村社会調査実習]							
Subject Category:	Domestic Training	Department	FOLENS	Credit	1	Code	n/a
Semester	First/Spring	Day(s)/Period(s)	Lecture: 2 nd Period (10:30-12:00), 4 & 18 July Fieldwork: 20-22 July (tentative)				
Class Format	Lecture and Fieldwork			Location	Fuchu Campus (see below) and Towa, Nihonmatsu, Fukushima Pref.		
Instructor	Masaaki Yamada, Yosei Oikawa, Sachi Ninomiya-Lim						
Office	FOLENS Head Office (Rm.403, Build. 1)			Email	sachinl@cc.tuat.ac.jp		

■ Outline & Target

To propose and implement appropriate measures against environmental issues as a leader in the real world, anyone must have proper understanding of a society and people there.

This course aims to help students recognize the importance and difficulty to understand society and people, and develop necessary attitudes and view points for it, through lectures and fieldwork in a Japanese rural community.

For the fieldwork in 2013, we are visiting Towa District of Nihonmatsu City, Fukushima Prefecture.

Towa, a rural community promoting its development through organic farming and networking, has faced a serious challenge since March 2011. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster that followed the Tohoku Great Earthquake discharged radioactive substances contaminating the surrounding region. The people in Towa have been struggling to study the actual situation of radiation pollution and find possible solutions to protect their agriculture and life. Because of its strong internal and external network capability, Towa attracted a number of supporters including TUAT research project teams.

In this fieldwork, we will visit Towa to learn from the people there what they have experienced, what they have learnt through such experience, and how they are trying to overcome the situation. One of the important outputs of the fieldwork will be a proposal of possible solutions or further actions.

Students are encouraged to take this course before conducting their overseas field training or internship, as part of preparation.

■ Course description

1) Introduction to Fieldwork in Towa (Nihonmatsu, Fukushima)

Date: 4 July

Time: 10:30-12:00 (2nd Period)

Place: TBD, Fuchu Campus

Contents:

Lecture on background of Towa-Fukushima fieldwork

Division of students into groups for presentation on 18 July

2) Students Presentation

Date: 18 July

Time: 10:30-12:00 (2nd Period)

Place: TBC, Building 2, Fuchu Campus

Contents:

Presentation by students

- Issues of Nuclear Power Plant and Radiation Pollution

Information on the Towa-Fukushima field work

3) Fieldwork in Minamata

Date: 20-22 July (Tentative/ Detailed schedule will be notified in class)

Contents:

Day 1: Talk by Local Leaders

Day 2: Fieldwork by Groups

Day 3: Presentation and Reflection

■ Prerequisites

Interests in social aspects of environmental issues—Students not with social science backgrounds are also highly welcome.

■ Textbook(s)

To be distributed in class

■ Reference publication(s)

*English references will be announced later.

**You can borrow some of these reference publications from the FOLENS Office.

■ Evaluation standards

Attendance, participation in discussion and training, presentation, final report

■ Message from instructor(s)

We believe that what you learn in this course would provide you with important ideas and hints that you can always reflect on while working as an environmental leader in the future, no matter what field you are specialized in.

■ **Course keywords**

Fieldwork, Rural Community Development, Fukushima, Radiation Contamination, Nuclear Power Plant, Organic Agriculture

■ **Office hours**

By appointment

■ **Related URL**