

Global Collaboration Exercise

Lecturer: Rafaela Yoshioka

Year 2025 main topic: How can we shape the future of capitalism?

Course Overview

In November 2025, the University of Tokyo will host the annual Tokyo Forum in collaboration with the Chey Institute, where global leaders gather to address some of the most pressing issues of our time. This year's theme, "Rethinking Capitalism: Varieties, Contradictions, and Futures," will focus on how capitalism must evolve in the face of today's global challenges.

This course, which will become an integral part of the Forum as the "youth session," is closely aligned with the annual theme and discusses the meaning of capitalism for the next generation of leaders in Japan and Korea. This course invites students to move beyond critique and explore how capitalism might be reimaged—and what role they can play in shaping its future.

Focusing on the future of capitalism as this year's central theme, the course examines how collaboration across business, government, and civil society can open space for social innovation and new ways of thinking about labor and population. Through lectures, critical dialogue, and project-based learning, students will engage with creative and practical approaches to systemic change. By the end of the course, participants will present proposals on how cross-sector collaboration can contribute to building the next generation of capitalism in Japan, Korea, and beyond.

Course Objectives

1. Examine the dynamics, contradictions, and evolving structures of contemporary capitalism in both local and global contexts.
2. Understand the fundamental role of cross-sector collaboration in addressing social challenges.
3. Develop innovative proposals that promote inclusion and social impact.
4. Collaborate effectively across disciplines to create viable solutions.

Course content

| Weeks | Topics | Details |
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| Pre-Travel Session (August 4 th , 3 hours) | | |
| Week 0 | Why Rethink Capitalism? Introduction to Structural Challenges and Innovation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring collaboration as a tool for addressing social challenges• Social and economic perspectives in Japan and Korea – A comparative view• Team formation and team building exercise• Travel instructions |
| Visit to Seoul (August 26 th – 29 th) | | |
| Week 1 (Sep. 17) | Case Studies on Collaborative Innovation and Economic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyzing collaborative initiatives and business models that respond to social and economic challenges in |

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| 19:30-21:00 | Transformation | <p>today's capitalist systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from community-based practices |
| Week 2 (Oct. 1) 19:30-21:00 | Defining the problem and researching solutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying key challenges and opportunities • Conducting background research and market analysis |
| Week 3 (Oct. 8) 19:30-21:00 | Ideation and Collaborative Proposal Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorming inclusive and innovative approaches to address identified issues • Designing feasible and sustainable frameworks for action |
| Week 4 (Oct. 22) 19:30-21:00 | Refinement and Presentation Preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refining project ideas • Structuring and preparing presentations |
| Week 5 (Nov. 12) 19:30-21:00 | Final presentations and feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting projects to peers and instructors • Receiving feedback for further improvement |
| Tokyo Forum (November 19 th – 23 rd) | | |

Final Presentation: Public Event at Tokyo Forum

Students will present their group proposals at Tokyo Forum, a public event attended by researchers, business leaders, and invited guests. Presentations will be given in English and should offer clear, actionable strategies for how public and private sectors can respond to the evolving challenges of capitalism and help shape the future of society.

Format:

- 7-minute team presentations
- Delivered in English
- Followed by Q&A and feedback from company representatives
- Proposals may include campaigns, services, tools, or policy suggestions

Scenario Setting:

In your group, choose a specific problem, tension, or positive possibility that you observe in today's capitalist economy. This could be something that feels unfair, unsustainable, or alternatively, something promising and innovative—a model, trend, or sector that points to a new direction.

Your task is to analyze:

- What values, systems, or rules are contributing to the situation?

- Who is most affected, excluded, or benefiting from it?

Then, design one concrete initiative—such as a policy, service, platform, business model, or cross-sector project—that could realistically address the issue or amplify the potential you have identified.

Textbooks

No specific textbooks are required for this course. Instead, relevant handouts will be distributed during class sessions.

References

Banks, J. A. (Ed.). (2006). Diversity and citizenship education: Global perspectives. John Wiley & Sons.

Grading Criteria

Active participation and reflection papers (20%), Group presentation (50%), Final report (30%)