1. **What are the main aims of this course?**
   To help you:
   a. further develop your ability to research, explain, analyse and discuss, and give presentations on legal, political, social and economic issues in English;
   b. use English to learn with and from other students about multicultural Japan, and to investigate issues of multiculturalism in Japan that interest you.

2. **What topics and issues will we look at?**
   During the course, you will do four research projects and will be able to choose from a range of topics and issues including:
   - Ethnic minority groups such as Ainu, Buraku and Okinawans
   - Korean and Chinese long-term foreign residents
   - ‘Newcomer’ foreign immigrants from countries such as Brazil, China, Taiwan, Thailand, and the Philippines
   - Diversity amongst people of Japanese ethnicity (e.g. regional, sexual, gender, class and sub-cultural diversity) and within Japanese culture
   - Debates about Japanese identity and nationality
   - Ethnic schools (such as Korean, Chinese, and Brazilian schools) and education for ethnic minority children in the Japanese education system
   - Employment discrimination and insecurity for foreign residents and immigrants
   - Immigration issues and policies
   - The treatment of refugees and asylum seekers
   - Issues facing children of mixed marriages
   - Local and central government policies on multiculturalism and discrimination
   - Discourses of multiculturalism in Japanese media and society

3. **What do you need for this class?**
   a. An A4 notebook for research, vocabulary work and writing;
   b. An A4 binder or folder, to keep your worksheets, notes, and readings organized;
   c. A passport sized photo for your name card
4. **What's important for you to do well on this course?**
   To improve your English, and to get a good grade for the course, you need to:
   - a. Attend class and come on time;
   - b. Prepare for class by doing research, note-taking and other homework activities;
   - c. Speak and listen actively in English with other students;
   - d. Work co-operatively with other students;
   - e. Use English (as much as possible);
   - f. Ask questions whenever something is not clear to you;
   - g. Think carefully about how you can develop your own learning and use of English

5. **How will we decide your grade?**
   a. Your grade for each semester will be based on:
      - i. your attendance;
      - ii. your preparation for class;
      - iii. your participation in class activities;
      - iv. your progress in developing your English
   b. You grade will be decided by a combination of self-assessment and teacher assessment.

   **Self-assessment** means that you will think about your own attendance, participation, preparation, and progress on this course, and then decide what you think is an appropriate grade for yourself. You will be able to choose a grade for yourself from A to D.

   **Teacher assessment** means that the teacher will also decide what he thinks is an appropriate grade for you.

   If your grade and the teacher’s grades are different, we will discuss and decide together a fair grade for you.

6. **What are the rules about attendance and punctuality?**
   Good attendance and punctuality are very important for this class. Here are some rules to make clear what is expected of you:
   - a. You cannot pass a semester of the course if you miss more than three classes in the semester without a good reason (good reasons include illness, occasional circle activities, important family events, job hunting, etc.)
   - b. You will be counted as late if you come to class more than 5 minutes after the start of the class (without a good reason). Three lates = one absence.
   - c. You will be counted as absent if you come to class more than 30 minutes after the start of the class (without a good reason) although you can still participate in the class if you want.
   - d. When you are absent, it is your responsibility to: i) contact your class partners to find out what we did in class, get the worksheets, and find out what the homework is; ii) catch up on the work you have missed and be ready for the next class; (iii) tell Mike if you have a good reason for being absent.