

<b>Course number</b>	G-ECON31 6A594 LE43 G-ECON31 6A594 LE82				
<b>Course title (and course title in English)</b>	International Agribusiness Studies International Agribusiness Studies		<b>Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation</b>	Graduate School of Economics Professor, HISANO SHUJI	
<b>Target year</b>	1st year students or above	<b>Number of credits</b>	2	<b>Year/semesters</b>	2022/First semester
<b>Days and periods</b>	Mon.3,4 隔週開講	<b>Class style</b>	Lecture	<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>[Overview and purpose of the course]</b>					
<p>Our consistent and overarching theme of this course is how to investigate and understand the power of business as a political actor, especially the role of multinational corporations vis-à-vis the role of states and civil society actors. In the years of 2019 and 2020, this course provided a comprehensive analysis of social, economic, political, cultural and environmental issues surrounding specific agricultural products along the agri-food value chains (a global flow of the food from upstream to downstream across borders). Then, in the year of 2021, we turned our attention to one of the ongoing structural processes with profound influences on agri-food systems and rural economies around the world: financialisation. Through reading a relevant textbook, we critically examined the impacts of financialisation in the food industry and in farming and forestry, as well as the impacts on rural actors and communities. In both cases, what we kept in mind in our review and discussion was power relations within and behind the process of agri-food businesses development and transformation.</p> <p>As a matter of necessity, our subsequent question is how powerful business actors are able to exert a direct and indirect influence on the process of international and national policy making (agenda setting) and governance of agri-food systems. In this semester, we are going to read together several books (chapters) and articles on the topic of a rising trend of multistakeholder governance for global challenges, such as food insecurity and climate change. As often dubbed and criticized as “multistakeholderism” or “corporate takeover of governance”, the main driving force behind these multistakeholder approaches to global governance is multinational corporations, business associations, and private foundations. They are powerful enough to form their own global governance platforms and coalitions involving other actors, and to construct discourses to legitimise themselves as if having governmental authority and make their own agenda and standards normalised. In order to tackle this question, we will take a perspective of political economy, political sociology, and governance studies, not business management or project management, as a theoretical and methodological foundation.</p>					
<b>[Course objectives]</b>					
<p>By the end of this course, having read the literature and participated in the educational activities, students should be able to acquire a deep understanding and critical insight into the process and mechanism of global governance and the role of powerful corporate actors and private foundations: how and in what way they are able to exert their influence on global governance; and if and how it is possible to challenge such a hegemonic regime and bring global governance more democratic and genuinely participatory.</p>					
<b>[Course schedule and contents]</b>					
<p>We are going to read the following book (tentatively): Week 1) Guidance</p>					
----- Continue to International Agribusiness Studies (2) ↓ ↓ ↓					

## International Agribusiness Studies (2)

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Week 2-5)

- Harris Gleckman (2018) *Multistakeholder Governance and Democracy: A Global Challenge*, Earthscan/Routledge.

Week 6-9)

- Brid Brennan et al. eds. (2021) *The Great Takeover: Mapping of Multistakeholderism in Global Governance*, People's Working Group on Multistakeholderism.

Week 10-14 (either)

- Adam Moe Fejerskov (2018) *The Gates Foundation's Rise to Power: Private Authority in Global Politics*, Routledge.

- John C. Scott (2018) *Lobbying and Society: A Political Sociology of Interest Groups*, Polity Press.

Week 15) Wrap-up and feedback

### [Course requirements]

No prerequisite knowledge or skill required other than English language ability sufficient to interact actively in class.

### [Evaluation methods and policy]

Grading will be carried out on a basis of active class participation (70%) and assignment presentation/report (30%).

### [Textbooks]

Harris Gleckman 『*Multistakeholder Governance and Democracy: A Global Challenge*』 (Routledge, 2018) ISBN:9781138502130

Adam Moe Fejerskov 『*The Gates Foundation's Rise to Power: Private Authority in Global Politics*』 (Routledge, 2018) ISBN:9781138306851

John C. Scott 『*Lobbying and Society: A Political Sociology of Interest Groups*』 (Polity Press, 2018) ISBN:9781509510351

Reading materials will be made available in advance through the course mailing list and/or a cloud system (e.g. Google Drive).

### [References, etc.]

( **Reference books** )

Recommended reading materials will be made available in advance as well as in class through the course mailing list and/or a cloud system (e.g. Google Drive).

### [Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students are required to read assigned book chapters for each class as well as other relevant reading materials so that they will be able to actively participate in discussions.

### ( **Other information (office hours, etc.)** )

Please note that this course is designed for research masters and PhD students of the Graduate School of Economics, including those of East Asia Sustainable Economic Development Studies Course. Therefore, the style and structure of the classes could be different from those offered at the Business School.

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Continue to International Agribusiness Studies (3) ↓ ↓ ↓

## **International Agribusiness Studies (3)**

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The schedule of the classes are not yet fixed. Basically the classes are offered on alternate Mondays, from 13:30 to 16:30.

\*Please visit KULASIS to find out about office hours.