

Agricultural and Rural Economics

Program Specialized Courses

区分 Category	英語対応 English Support	科目名 Course	授業の概要 Course Description
Program Specialized Courses (Basic Courses)	○	Agricultural & Rural Economics 農業・農村経済学	This course examines the theoretical foundations and issue structures of the major fields that constitute agricultural and rural economics, with a focus on contemporary challenges facing food systems, agriculture, and rural communities. It provides an organized overview of current topics in related social science disciplines while maintaining agricultural and rural economics as the core perspective. The course also aims to develop the fundamental analytical viewpoints necessary for writing a master's thesis and to deepen students' understanding of the interrelationships among various related academic domains.
		Theory of Agriculture 農法論	Through critical reading and discussion of key literature on agricultural production methods, this course cultivates the ability to analyze the socio-economic structures underlying agricultural productivity. Students will develop the capacity to envision socially, economically, and environmentally just and sustainable agricultural and food systems. The course emphasizes building analytical perspectives that enable a deeper understanding of how production methods interact with broader societal and ecological contexts.
		Rural Geography 農村地理学	This course focuses on rural regions and examines their natural and socio-economic characteristics through practical geographic methods. Students learn to interpret topographic maps and aerial photographs, utilize statistical data, create maps using GIS, and conduct field surveys. Through these approaches, the course fosters a comprehensive understanding of the spatial structures and dynamics that shape rural landscapes and communities.

区分 Category	英語対応 English Support	科目名 Course	授業の概要 Course Description
	○	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development 農業・環境・地域と社会的課題	This course provides an overview of key theories and issue structures within the specialized fields that constitute agricultural and rural economics, with a particular focus on the interrelated challenges facing agriculture, the environment, and rural regions. It reviews contemporary topics in the social sciences related to these domains and highlights their implications for sustainable development. The course further aims to strengthen students' academic perspectives and practical methodological skills essential for developing a master's thesis, fostering the ability to analyze and propose solutions to complex socio-environmental issues.
	○	Economics of Strategy and Institutional Design 戦略と制度設計の経済学	This course aims to equip students with a cross-disciplinary understanding of key issues and research methodologies in modern economics and farm management studies. By integrating theoretical perspectives with practical analytical tools, the course provides the knowledge necessary to apply economic principles of strategy and institutional design to real-world agricultural and organizational contexts.
Program Specialized Courses (Advanced Courses)	○	Advanced Marketing 応用マーケティング論	This course provides advanced instruction in marketing with a particular focus on theories and concepts related to branding. Students will develop applied knowledge of strategic marketing frameworks and gain a deeper understanding of how brand value is created, managed, and evaluated within contemporary markets.
		Social Enterprise theory and cases 社会的企業論	This course explores social enterprises—business models designed to generate both economic and social benefits—as practical approaches for the sustainable management of rural resources. In addition to examining theoretical frameworks, students will analyze real-world cases using concrete data to understand how social enterprises operate, create value, and address rural development challenges. The course emphasizes the integration of theory and empirical evidence to foster the ability to evaluate and design socially oriented business strategies.

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		Food System フードシステム学	This course introduces advanced theories and applied knowledge in food systems studies. Students will explore the structure, functions, and dynamics of modern food systems, gaining an understanding of how production, distribution, consumption, and policy interact to shape outcomes in agriculture and society.
	○	Geography of agriculture and food 食と農の地理学	The course introduces the fundamentals of agricultural economics and management. It covers concepts such as food systems, food networks, food chains, alternative food, and food security.
		Rural Finance 農村金融論	This course introduces fundamental financial terminology and theories, with a focus on the current conditions, challenges, and future issues of agricultural and rural finance in Japan. Students will develop an understanding of how financial systems support agricultural production and rural development, gaining insights into both structural characteristics and policy-related considerations.
	○	International Agroecology 国際アグロエコロジー論	<p>This course examines the theoretical foundations, historical development, and contemporary research trends in international agroecology. It situates agroecology within global debates on climate change, sustainable agriculture, and food system transformation.</p> <p>The course explores ecological, social, and economic dimensions of food systems, focusing particularly on the challenges facing local agriculture and rural communities in a globalized context. Through critical analysis of international agricultural policies, biodiversity governance, and regional resource circulation, students will develop an integrated understanding of agroecological transitions and sustainability frameworks.</p>

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Program Specialized Courses	○	Advanced Seminar in Agricultural and Rural Economics 農業・農村経済学特別演習	<p>This advanced seminar provides research guidance tailored to each student’s thesis topic within the field of agricultural and rural economics. The primary supervisor and co-supervisor support students through discussions and research activities such as critical reviews of prior studies, experimental design, data analysis, and the planning of field surveys. Through this process, students deepen their specialized knowledge and research skills. The seminar also incorporates discussions related to community design and global area studies, encouraging interdisciplinary perspectives on Boundary spanning issues relevant to agriculture and rural development.</p>
	○	Advanced Research for thesis in Agricultural and Rural Economics 農業・農村経済学特別研究	<p>“Advanced Research for Thesis in Agricultural and Rural Economics” is a course in which academic credit is granted based on a comprehensive assessment of the student’s progress and performance in master’s thesis research. Because students in the Agricultural and Rural Economics program pursue a wide range of research topics—including those related to food systems, agriculture, and rural society—the specific content of the course is individually tailored to each student’s research theme.</p> <p>In preparing the master’s thesis, students first determine their research topic, develop a thorough understanding of the relevant academic issues, and carry out the necessary research activities under the appropriate guidance of their supervisor. These activities vary according to the stage of research and may include literature review, data collection, empirical analysis, and other methodological tasks. Throughout the process, students are expected to cultivate the ethical standards required of academic researchers.</p> <p>The course also incorporates discussions that draw upon interdisciplinary perspectives, including community design and global area studies, in order to deepen students’ understanding of Boundary spanning issues. Research progress is summarized on an ongoing basis and reported primarily in seminar-style meetings with the supervisor. By the end of the first semester of the second year, students present a mock research report and deliver an oral presentation in the presence of faculty members associated with the program.</p>