Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Syllabus

Tuesdays in a computer lab in Osaka, Japan, with Steve McCarty

Kansai University (Division of International Affairs) Global Frontier

(KUGF) classes for foreign exchange and domestic students together

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are instrumental to daily life, work, and society. This course will focus on the academic study of ICT, focusing on the C in ICT (Communication over mechanical aspects of IT), and how people become empowered with online content creation skills. Students will learn about applications of ICT to various sectors of society in Japan and the world. They will also learn about specific technologies and platforms such as the Internet of Things and social media. Students will receive guidelines on academic writing for the short semester paper, and for the creation and delivery of presentations. Students may choose areas of their own interest to research and present to the class.

Course Objectives:

❖ Students who may need ICT skills in the future will gain basic knowledge of the field in Japan and the world. Computer classroom facilities provide hands-on experience.
❖ Beyond ICT knowledge and skills, the class will emphasize the academic study of technology, with critical analysis, so students can continue their education in this area more successfully.
❖ Students will have choices as far as possible. Sharing their knowledge and views about ICT with the class will determine how successful the experience is for everyone.

Course Content (90-minute class once a week):

1: Self-introductions and interests in fields related to ICT; course introduction; computer lab facilities; class Web page for research readings and showing in class. Set up a class Facebook Group with input from students.


3: Mobile phone technology. Comparing mobile phone use in different countries. Introducing and discussing Line and other mobile apps for messaging, payments, entertainment, and language learning.

4: Uses of ICT for work, business (e-commerce), government, and organizations. Mobile Internet content creation, ubiquitous computing, QR codes and the Internet of Things.

5: The academic study of ICT. Internet social science research methods. Google Scholar and online research repositories.

6: Prepare for Show and Tell presentations on a useful technology Website. Guidelines on delivery of presentations.

7: Show and Tell presentations, projected onto the screen. Explain in detail what the Website does and how the technology works.
8: ICT in education, including learning management systems, online education, and blended learning.

9: Online content creation: blogging, servers & building Websites. Big data, cloud computing, and AI. Information ethics and security.

10: Research guidelines for the semester paper, effective titles and other necessary elements of an academic paper.

11: More guidelines for academic writing and the organization of essays or papers. Citations and references in APA or another standard style.

12: Guidelines on PowerPoint slides or content as well as delivery of presentations. ICT for healthcare, environmental sustainability, preserving art history.


14: More final presentations and preparing the semester paper. Discussion of other ICT issues or news.

15: Submit the semester paper. Any unfinished presentations. Discussion of ICT issues or news in other fields or countries. Reflections on what was learned in the course.

**Expected work outside of class:**

Do research for presentations and the semester paper, starting with the class Website resources. The class Facebook Group is also available for communication and interaction.

**Grading:**

Active class participation, preparation, and attending class on time: 40%. Presentations (Midterm Show and Tell: 10%; Final Presentation: 25%): 35%. Semester Paper: 25%.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Contribute to the class by sharing new knowledge, skills, and the student's own ideas.
- Show critical thinking and some mastery of the guidelines taught for academic writing and presentations, in slides or content as well as delivery.
- Independent research and making the best of this learning opportunity.

**References:**

Links to many readings are available from the class Website at https://japanned.hcommons.org/teaching/ict

**Instructor Contact:**

Contact the instructor with any questions or problems by e-mail to waoesteve@gmail.com or by FB message.