

# *Rubrecht “Translation of Ideas” Seminar -- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year*

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian G. Rubrecht, Ph.D. **Class Place / Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email / Webpage:** rubrecht@meiji.ac.jp <http://www.isc.meiji.ac.jp/~rubrecht/>  
 ★ This syllabus supplements other university syllabi/information.

## **Class Materials:**

- (1) notebook (for writing new vocabulary, taking class notes, etc.)
- (2) electronic or paper dictionary
- (3) USB IC recorder (if no smartphone or other recording device)
- (4) a water-based (水性) marker
- (5) file or binder for handouts **← VERY IMPORTANT!!!**

## **Class Objectives:**

The objectives of the second year of the seminar are for students to:

- (1) continue to get to know fellow students and their instructor
- (2) learn to reflect on task topics and future projects and discuss in English
- (3) learn academic English writing
- (4) study ideas by studying the history of Western philosophy
- (5) learn to think critically
- (6) understand deeply the importance of following instructions

## **Class Activities:**

\* Students will engage in foundational activities (generally speaking). Some activities will be individual based, but many will have a group focus. You will be required to have discussions in groups outside of class time (or in lieu of a class period). This year, we will focus largely on academic English writing and the history of Western philosophy. Some handouts will be provided (only one set per student).

## **Weekly Schedule:**

\* We have a weekly schedule for the class (see Oh-O! Meiji). However, adjustments to semester lessons (and the syllabus) may be made depending on (1) students' understanding of the material, (2) the pace of student in-class interaction, (3) appropriateness of the material, and (4) students' learning attitude.

**Semester Grading:**

**SPRING:** Class Contribution = 30%; Homework = 10%;  
Group Logs = 20%; Writing = 40%

**FALL:** Class Contribution = 20%; Group Logs = 20%;  
Writing = 20%; Research Report and Project = 40%

**Grading Explanation:****• Class Contribution**

\* Do not be late to class. Do not be absent (without a valid reason). Speak up in class. Participate in the seminar that you are lucky to have been able to enter.

**• Homework**

\* It is important to do the homework assigned because (a) there will only be a few assignments, (b) homework will probably be used in the next lesson, and (c) homework will prepare you for other things. Please come to class by the start of class time on days when homework is to be checked so that I may check that your homework has been completed. Do not do homework right before class. It may not be accepted, meaning the assignment will be given a ZERO.

**• Group Logs**

\* Several times a semester you will be asked to get into groups and discuss various topics. In such cases, you will need to record the discussion on an IC recorder and by a written record. Copies of both must be given to your instructor.

**• Writing**

\* We will be doing multiple writing assignments. It is imperative to turn them in ON TIME. It is also important to APPLY what you learn in the seminar to your writing assignments.

**• Research Report + Project**

\* There is a special research report and project in the fall semester. These are a major part of your grade. Students must listen very carefully to the instructions about how to do the project. Failure to follow instructions = not do the project correctly = failure of the semester and the entire year of the seminar. Do not let this happen. Learn what your instructor teaches you, expand yourself by doing activities you have never done before, and experience something new.

**• Confirmation Sheet – 5 points keep or lose from final grade****→ Additional Information:**

- ✓ Talk to me if you need help (email is OK).
- ✓ Absent students are **still responsible for understanding class information and for doing assigned homework**. The “I did not know about it” excuse does not work. Please be an adult. Act responsibly. Ask your classmates about the lesson you missed or ask me.
- ✓ Lying or cheating or improper use of AI (in any course) = **course failure**.
- ✓ Following instructions in this class is for YOUR benefit. If you follow instructions, then you will be fine, so let’s enjoy our time together! ☺