

科目名 Course Title	Nitobe College Honors Program: Graduate Curriculum		
講義題目 Subtitle	Nitobe College Special Seminar: Practical Problem-Solving Workshop		
責任教員 Instructor	KANEKO Junichi (Faculty of Engineering) Nitobe College: TANI Hirofumi (Faculty of Engineering) Nitobe College: WHITFIELD Dale Lee (Institute for Academic Innovation) Nitobe College: YANG Zitong (Institute for Academic Innovation)		
担当教員 Other Instructors	SHIINA Nozomi (Startup Creation Department)		
科目種別 Course Type	Nitobe College Special Classes		
開講年度 Year	2026	期間 Semester	Full Year
授業形態 Type of Class	Seminar	単位数 Number of Credits	2
補足事項 Other Information	-		
キーワード Key Words	Local and Regional Issues, Fieldwork, Project-Based Learning (PBL), Social Entrepreneurship, Social Impact, Co-creation		
授業の目標 Course Objectives	<p>This course is offered as an Practical Entrepreneurship Education Program “Practical Problem-Solving Workshop”. For the students of Nitobe College Honors Program: Graduate Curriculum, it is also opened as “Nitobe College Special Seminar: Practical Problem-Solving Workshop” of Nitobe College Honors Program. Students will discuss a project with a team by demonstrating the “3+1 Competencies” (Ability for Sustainable Personal Development; Team Organization & Management Skills; Capacity for Knowledge Sharing & Application for Social Benefit; and Professional Ethics) learned at Nitobe College.</p> <p>This course aims to develop individuals (social entrepreneurs) who can generate solution ideas that balance social value and economic sustainability, by starting from real challenges faced by local communities and engaging in processes of investigation, dialogue, ideation, and proposal development.</p> <p>Through fieldwork in local communities and interviews with relevant stakeholders, students will structurally analyze local issues and collaboratively develop and propose solutions that emphasize feasibility and social impact. Beyond simple idea generation, the course places strong emphasis on deeply examining why such issues have emerged and what kinds of changes they can bring about, and for whom.</p>		
到達目標 Course Goals	<p>The learning outcomes of this course are as follows:</p> <p>To acquire the ability to investigate and organize locally rooted social issues from multiple perspectives and to understand them in a structural manner.</p> <p>To develop the ability to articulate the essence of problems through fieldwork and dialogue with stakeholders.</p> <p>To be able to design solution ideas (social business models) that consciously balance social value and business viability.</p> <p>To acquire practical project execution skills through team-based collaboration, including consensus building, role allocation, and effective communication.</p>		
授業計画 Course Schedule	<p>Kick-off / Orientation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Introduction to social entrepreneurship •Approaches to understanding local issues and methodologies for fieldwork <p>Local Context Understanding and Issue Exploration Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fieldwork (on-site research, observation, interviews) •Organization and structuring of local issues <p>Problem Definition and Idea Generation Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reframing and redefining the issues •Ideation and hypothesis development for solutions <p>Business and Implementation Examination Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Examination of social impact and sustainability •Basic business model design <p>Final Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Presentation of proposed solutions to local issues •Feedback and reflection 		

準備学習(予習・復習)等の内容と分量 Homework

Preliminary research within teams, including literature review and collection of statistical data
Reflection and organization following fieldwork activities
Preparation of materials for the final presentation

成績評価の基準と方法 Grading System

Participation and contribution to class activities (including discussions and proactive engagement in fieldwork): 40%
Assignment submission (analysis of local issues and proposed solutions): 30%
Final presentation: 30%

テキスト・教科書 Textbooks

講義指定図書 Reading List

Literature on social business, social entrepreneurship, and regional development Relevant regional collaboration and entrepreneurship support platforms

参照ホームページ Websites

<https://nitobe-college.academic.hokudai.ac.jp/en/>

備考 Additional Information

Additional Information

Dates: August 31 – September 3, 2026 (4 days)

Time: Approximately 9:00–17:00 each day

Note: Schedule may vary depending on the day.

Venue: HBA Headquarters or Fieldwork Locations

Address:

1-8 Kita 4-jo Nishi 7-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-0004, Japan
(Approximately 7 minutes on foot from Sapporo Station)

Capacity: Around 15 participants

If the number of applicants exceeds capacity, participants will be selected by lottery.

Participation Fee: Free

Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Application Form:

<https://forms.gle/AZX5rTVWV2AkhCzH6>

Students who wish to enroll should apply using the form above.

If the number of applicants exceeds the available spots, participants will be selected by lottery. Course registration will be completed collectively by the program office.

*This course is offered as a Practical Entrepreneurship Education Program “Practical Problem-Solving Workshop.” When students who register for Nitobe College Honors Program: Graduate Curriculum have earned credits for this course, they are deemed to have earned 2 credits for “Nitobe Collage Special Seminar: Practical Problem-Solving Workshop”, and the credits will be considered as the part of the credits needed to complete the program. For details, please contact the instructor responsible (Prof. Tani, tani@eng.hokudai.ac.jp).