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Assoc. Prof. Bounthone SOUKAVONG

School of Economics, International Economic Department

Visiting Professor

1. Introduction

I am a lecturer and researcher from the Faculty of Economics and Business Management, National University of Laos. I appreciated very much being at Senshu University as a visiting professor. I have a chance to give lectures on four subjects, including World Affairs 1, World Affairs 3, Special Lecture on Comparative Studies, and Special Lecture on Contemporary Issues. In the first week of lectures, I introduced the students to the evaluation method. The score includes class attendance, assignment, report, and examination.

2. Teaching

The following are the courses I have taught:

2.1 World Affairs 1

This course aims to help students learn and understand the historical background of the world economy, such as major economic developments, trade theory, and economic integration in regions. Students will engage in discussions on socio-economic news from online social media platforms, covering topics such as economic integration, finance, and global economic crises. Moreover, students will learn key factors that influence economic growth, stability, and economic downturn, such as technological advances, policy decisions, and global markets for goods and services. Through the study of historical events and current economic trends, they will be able to learn valuable lessons that can inform policymaking, crisis management, and sustainable economic development.

2.2 World Affair 3

This course will examine global trade, economic development, and international relations. This course will elucidate global trade liberalization and address its principles, advantages, and challenges. This study analyses the impact of China's trade expansion on global markets, focusing

on the trade conflict with the United States and economic interactions with Japan. Three important social challenges are wealth disparity, health, and the global economy. The course will talk about the world economy, particularly the economies of both Russia and India. Moreover, students will do case studies to further their understanding. We also encourage them to study group reports, presentations, engage in discussions, and conduct critical evaluations.

2.3 Special Lecture on Comparative Studies

This course provides a comparative analysis of economic systems, including capitalism, socialism, and market socialism. Students will explore the economic performance of different countries, the Flying Geese Model of development, and the practical implementation of market capitalism. Topics also cover transitional economies, the role of government decisions, and the relationship between markets and the environment. Through case studies and theoretical frameworks, students will understand the dynamics of economic systems and their real-world applications. The course culminates in a synthesis of key concepts and a presentation on comparative economic systems.

2.4 Special Lecture on Contemporary Issues

This course explores key economic and political issues shaping our world today and in the future. Through engaging discussions and real-world case studies, students will analyse economic puzzles, such as inflation, poverty, education in developing countries, and the gender wage gap. The course also examines the future of political economy, global conflicts, AI's impact on jobs, and financial literacy. Special sessions will address critical challenges in the 21st century, fostering critical thinking and policy analysis skills. The course concludes with an interactive discussion, encouraging students to apply their insights to contemporary global issues.

3. Outcomes

I taught and engaged with students over a 15-week period. During this period, I observed that most students demonstrated a strong commitment to their studies by regularly attending class and arriving punctually. When I asked questions in class, many students actively participated by offering answers and joining discussions. They consistently completed their homework and submitted it on time. In addition, students worked in groups to prepare reports on topics of their choice, which they presented to the class. These presentations sparked lively discussions and

allowed classmates and me to ask questions and share ideas. Student performance was evaluated through tests and exams, and the results showed that several students stood out for their dedication and focus. I also encouraged all students to write individual reports, requiring them to research information from various sources to meet specific objectives. Through this process, students also learnt how to analyze current global issues by applying the economic theories they studied.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith', located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

January 20, 2026
Visiting Professor
Dr. Steven Lim
Economics Dept
University of Waikato

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

My teaching at Senshu University during the Fall semester of 2025-2026 was most enjoyable and productive. Senshu University is an excellent institution in which to teach. The support provided by university staff went truly beyond my expectations.

In my opinion, the top students at Senshu University are very strong academically I am very impressed with the top students in my classes here. There were some excellent students who exhibited a very firm grasp of economics and who produced research work of excellent quality. In the coursework most of the students in my four classes scored highly. I was very pleased with the quality of the students overall, their intellectual abilities and their willingness to learn.

I am very grateful to President Baba, Dean Tanaka and the entire Economics/International Economics Faculty for extending my invitation to visit Senshu University, and especially for their helpful and cooperative approach.

I appreciated the strong support from the staff of Senshu University and, in particular, Prof Nagashima Takeshi and Prof Sunayama Mitsuko who offered so much helpful advice. The assistance, friendship and generosity of the Senshu U. staff were truly magnificent. All staff members, especially the International Academic Affairs Office and computer support, provided efficient and prompt service, and went far out of their way to help me as much as they could. I express my sincere thanks and congratulate them on maintaining such high professional standards.

1. INTRODUCTION

I am a Research Associate at Waikato University and work as a private sector economic consultant and businessman. My teaching, research and consulting activities focus on business economics and corporate social responsibility.

2. TEACHING

I taught the following four courses:

Special Lecture on Contemporary Issues

This course emphasised how economic factors shape students' daily life and their behaviour in society. It also explained how to use economics knowledge to improve business and investment outcomes, highlighting how basic economic concepts could be used in a wide range of day-to-day and business situations. This course helped students to understand the complexities facing them and others around the world, and contributes to their knowledge of how to cope with and manage important aspects of their life.

Special Lecture on Comparative Studies: Economic and Social Issues in Asia

This course provided an introduction to the economies of Asia, starting with region-wide questions and then focusing on specific economic and social issues. As examples of the diverse approaches to economic policy, students compared and assessed current policies from economies such as China, Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam. The course drew on the analytical methods of various disciplines, emphasizing economic, historical and political factors.

World Affairs 2

This course aimed to help students understand more about current economic problems and policy, using news media and discussion in English as the basis of their learning. Students read and discussed newspaper articles about economic issues that related to them and their future careers. The course introduced students to some of the most important economic events of today and the last few years, such as the global trade situation under Trump's tariffs, Japan's attempts to stimulate economic growth and redistribute income, and China's economic performance especially in the AI and technology areas. Throughout the course students were encouraged to practice their English and to develop confidence in communicating their ideas to others.

World Affairs 3

World Affairs aimed to help students understand more about current economic problems from around the world. The course linked economic principles that students learned in other courses to current world economic events and policies, and also how to contribute more to their future work as company workers or business people. Students practiced their English as much as possible, especially in terms of discussing ideas and giving formal class presentations.

Public Lecture

I gave one public lecture: Did Trump Really Hold the 'High Cards' in His Tariff War with China? The lecture seemed to be popular, with the audience asking many questions and contributing their own, interesting views.

3. OUTCOMES

The teaching of the university courses seemed to go smoothly. The students' feedback on the courses was very pleasing, as were the final grades. The high grades reflected the effort that students put into their class work. A pleasing number of students gave outstanding formal presentations, and it was quite clear that such students had thought very carefully about the issues involved. English abilities were very high overall.

The students reported that the material that they learned was relevant and useful, and was presented in a way that was easy to understand and could be applied fairly easily. In my view, at least, the key to motivating student enthusiasm for learning was to match the lecture and other material to the needs of the Senshu University students. The students seemed to appreciate having economic theory illustrated with relevant examples from their own experiences. I will certainly remember my students and others at Senshu University with great fondness and affection.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My association with Senshu University was a very enjoyable, exciting and rewarding experience. I offer my warmest thanks and best wishes to the academics, administrators and staff of Senshu University.

Foremost, I express my sincere thanks to President Baba, Dean Tanaka and the Economics/International Economics Faculty for supporting my visit to Senshu University. I am very grateful for their kindness in giving me the opportunity to return to Senshu University.

Prof Nagashima, Prof Sunayama and the team at the International Academic Affairs Office demonstrated excellent organisational skills in preparing the contracts and other details prior to my visit, and I am especially grateful for the flexibility and consideration that Prof Nagashima, Prof Sunayama and the members of the International Office showed. They were always ready to help and were very attentive to my needs and requests.

The International Office provided excellent, prompt service. Things ran very smoothly indeed. The staff members are highly trained and carry out their work excellently. I especially thank all the members of the International Office team for their professionalism and exemplary service. The IT/computer support and assistance from the Registration and Curricula Office were also excellent, prompt and very helpful.

Lastly, I thank my students at Senshu University. Their enthusiasm, abilities and warmth made my online teaching an unforgettable experience.

Yours sincerely,



Steven Lim