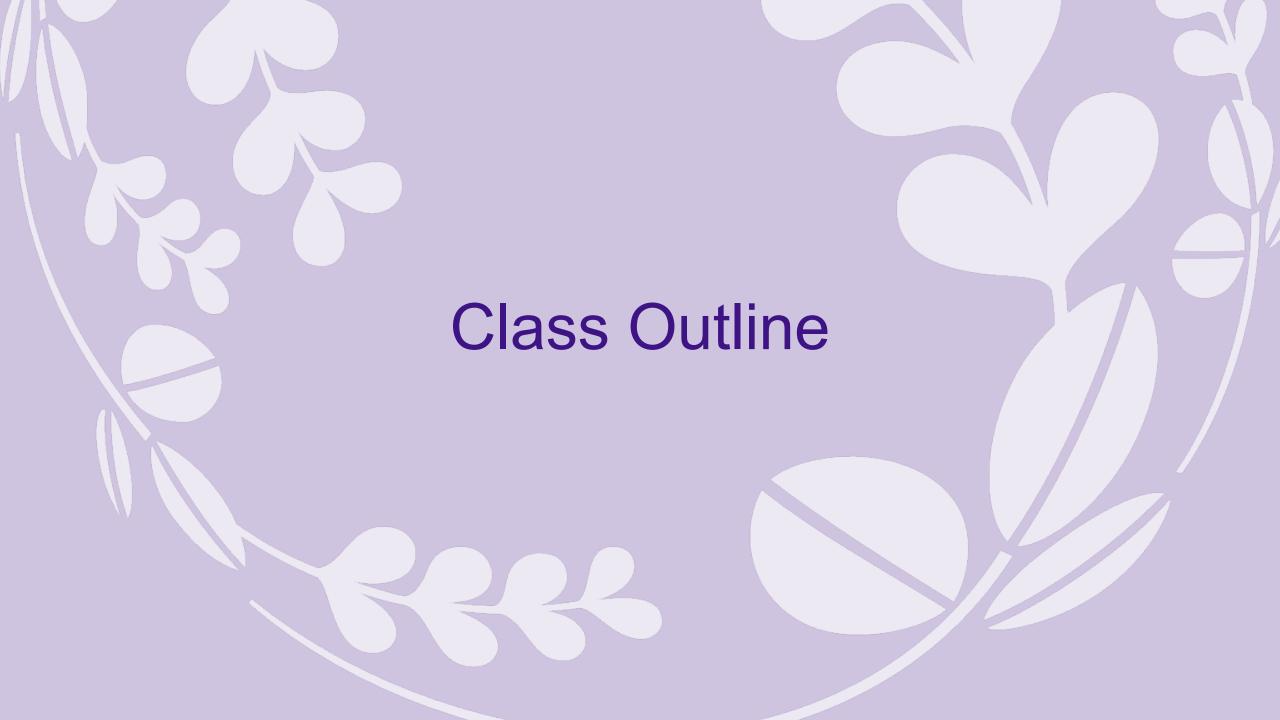
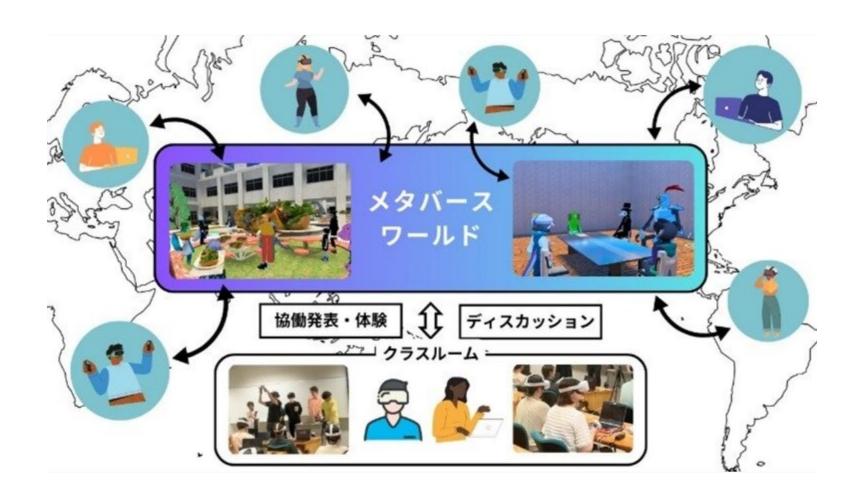
Creating Worlds with XR and the Metaverse XR・メタバースで世界をつくる

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Institute for Excellence in Higher Education
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Virtual Exchange with Overseas Students in the Metaverse.



Goal of Study

1

 Deepen knowledge and understanding of one's own culture and other cultures through multicultural collaborative learning (Knowledge and Understanding).



2

 Enhance collaboration and presentation skills in international collaborative learning through the use of XR technology (Skills and Techniques).

3

 Actively learn about and deepen respect for other cultures (Attitudes and Interests).



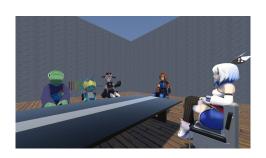
Participation Method and Class Periods

Participation Method: Online (Discord) + Metaverse (VRchat)

Date & Time: Every Thursday, 16:20-17:50 (JST)

Cost: Free of charge

Class Periods: October 3, 2024 - January 30, 2025 No classes on December 26 and January 2.



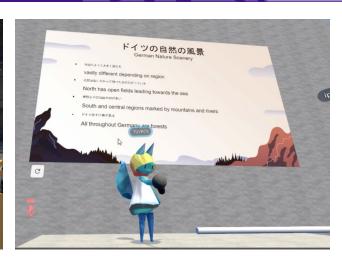




Social VR Platform: Metaverse VRChat













Class Method



Groups will collaboratively research themes that their classmates want to know about or that they want to convey to the class.



Group presentations (2~5 minutes per person) will be made using multimedia such as metaverse worlds, self-made videos shot with VR cameras, and videos from foreign students' countries.



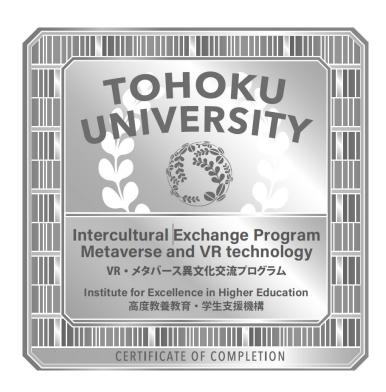
Discuss the presentation theme and share opinions with the whole class.



During discussions, it is acceptable to use generative AI for translations.

Open badge

Participants who meet certain requirements will be issued an Open Badge, an internationally recognized microcredential.







Request for Research Cooperation



Aiming for SDG 4 "Quality Education for All," we aspire to contribute to global international education through "Metaverse International Virtual Exchange."





Therefore, we kindly request your cooperation in surveys and interviews.



This project has passed the research ethics review of Tohoku University, and personal information will be strictly managed.





Characteristics of this class

- The class uses a social platform "Metaverse" which is a 3D virtual space.
- Domestic students participate face-to-face in the classroom while also communicating with international students abroad via Metaverse.









Characteristics of this class

 Another attraction is the ability to study together with students from diverse cultural backgrounds, surpassing geographical barriers.





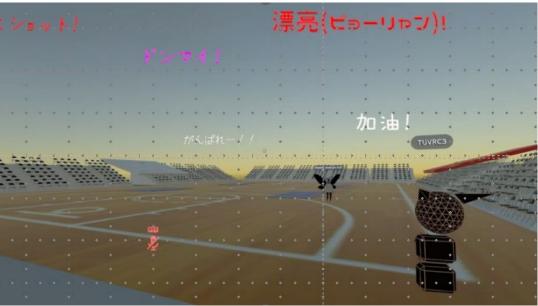
Article Introducing
This Course Featured
in Yomiuri Shimbun's
"University Frontline"
2023.6.20



Characteristics of this class

 In particular, students who cannot travel to Japan have the benefit of being able to learn the Japanese language and culture without having to physically travel abroad.





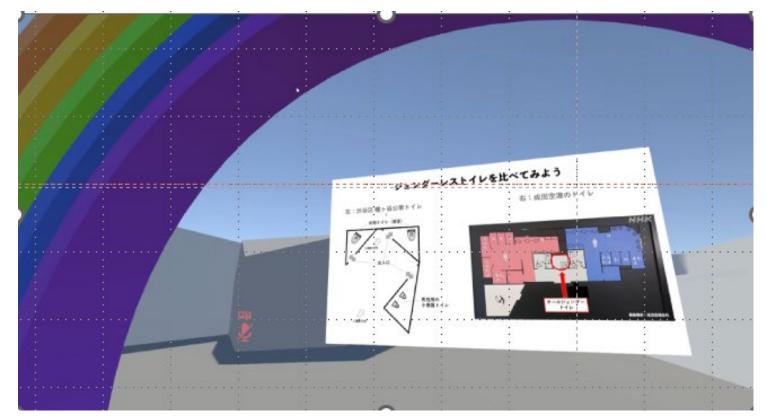


 Students are able to encounter the diversity of society that they did not know before, and to view their own culture from an outside point of view.





Introduction to World Cultures: Comparison of Gender-Free Toilets by the "SDGs + LGBTQ" Group



メタバース内に渋谷区幡ヶ谷と成田空港のトイレを再現。男性用とジェンダーフリートイレがある前者、男性用・女性用・ジェンダーフリートイレがある後者の特徴を比較することで、属性による捉え方の違いが議論を生み出すことを期待。メタバースを通じて、仙台から仮想的にアクセスし、地理的制約を超えて瞬時に比較可能であり、異なる視点からトイレを考察し、より深い議論が可能になると期待される。

Reproduction of restrooms in Hatagaya, Shibuyaku and Narita Airport in the metaverse. By comparing the characteristics of each restroom, which has men's and gender-free toilets, and the latter, which has men's, women's, and gender-free toilets, we hope to generate discussion on the different ways of perceiving toilets based on attributes. Through the metaverse, the toilets can be accessed virtually from Sendai and instantly compared beyond geographical constraints, which is expected to enable deeper discussions by considering toilets from different perspectives.



Student Opinions on the Metaverse

日本人学生から From Japanese students

「<u>メタバースを駆使し、最新の技術を肌で感じながら異文化を</u> 知ることができる、他には類を見ない授業(国内学生)」

The class is unique in that students can learn about different cultures while experiencing the latest technology firsthand through the use of the Metaverse.

「個人でここまでメタバースを使って学修をするのは金銭的、 設備的にも難しいがそれを大学の支援でここまで 活用できるのは非常にいい経験」

It is difficult financially and equipment-wise for individuals to do this much academic work with the Metaverse, but with the support of the university, it is a very good experience to be able to use it to this extent.

「最初はこれらの技術を使いこなすのが大変だと感じるときもありましたが、**使いこなせようになるとメリットしかない**と感じます。**社会に出たときに大きなアドバンテージ**になる。」

At first, I sometimes felt that it was difficult to master these technologies, but once I became proficient in using them, I felt that there were only advantages. It will be a great advantage when I enter the workforce.

留学生から From International Students

「メタバースを利用して、色々な国の文化を理解するのは、とても素晴らしい体験」

It's a wonderful experience to use the Metaverse to understand the cultures of different countries.

「たくさんメタバースが使えます。いろんな文化の知識を勉強になれます。**留学生として各国の学生とコミュニケーションできて楽しい。**」

We can use many Metaverses. I can learn about various cultures. **As an international student, I enjoy communicating with students from different countries.**

「新しい技術を使用ながら全世界の学生とあえて、その文化について勉強なれます。」

It's a great opportunity to meet students from all over the world and learn about their cultures while using new technology.

「交流の中で私の会話のレベルはある程度向上して、元宇宙(メタバース)という概念に対してももっと深い認識がありました。」

During the exchange, my level of conversation improved to some extent, and I had a much deeper awareness of the concept of the Metaverse.

「VRChat などで友達と一緒に遊ぶことはありますが、授業でのメタバースは初めてで新感覚でした。」

I've played with friends on VRChat, for example, but this was my first time using the Metaverse in a classroom setting, so it was a new sensation."

