Course Description:
Culture has a visible side – food, clothing, architecture – and a hidden side of unconscious beliefs, values and assumptions. In this class we will explore this "cognitive programming" by comparing deep culture patterns in Japan with those of other places. We will focus on how intercultural experiences affect us at the level of the "cognitive unconscious", and do cultural comparison in key areas of deep culture. The ultimate goals of this course are for students to 1) learn about deep culture patterns in Japan and other countries, 2) gain a deeper understanding of culture’s unconscious influence over us, 3) learn how get more out of our intercultural experiences, and 4) reflect on our own cultural values and assumptions. The focus is on how cultural difference is experienced, not simply how to describe it from a historical or social perspective. This class is suitable for Japanese and non-Japanese students.

Textbooks:

Reference Books:

Course Plan:
1. First class - The deep culture of Japan
2. The "Oz Moment" and the "international brain".
3. The autopilot - System one versus system two
4. Configuration - The hidden impact of culture
5. Systematic Intuitions - Learning to read cultural patterns
6. Dilemma theory and deep cultural difference
7. The cognition of in-group and out-group
8. Deep Culture and Status
9. Deep culture and our moral compass
10. Deep culture and issues of control
11. Deep culture and time
12. Life spaces, privacy and identity
13. Student presentations
14. Final exam

Other Independent study

Lecturer’s Comments to Students:
Students will be expected to reflect on and discuss their intercultural experiences. The instructor is passionate about the material.

Method of Evaluation:
1. Final Written Exam (40%)
2. Presentation(s) (30%)
3. Attendance, Participation (30%)