
DEEP CULTURE DIFFERENCE : UNDERSTANDING JAPAN
THROUGH CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON 2 credits
(Spring)

異文化比較を通じての日本理解 2単位(春学期)

Understanding Japan through Cross-Cultural Comparison

SHAULES, JOSEPH

ショールズ, ジョセフ

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:

- The Intercultural Mind: Connecting Culture, Cognition and Global Living, (2015) Shaules, Intercultural Press, Boston

Reference Books:

- Deep Culture: The Hidden Challenges of Global Living, by Joseph Shaules, Multi-lingual Matters, 2007

- The Beginner's Guide to Deep Culture: Beneath the Surface, (2010), Shaules, Intercultural Press, Boston and London

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%)