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PHILOSOPHICAL TOPICS ON THE IDEAL IMAGES OF  
HUMAN BEINGS; CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE  
AND THE WESTERN CULTURE 2 credits (Spring)

人間の理想像に関する哲学的探究: 日本と西洋との対話を通じて 2 単位 (春学期)

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AND THE WESTERN CULTURE 2 credits (Fall)

人間の理想像に関する哲学的探究: 日本と西洋との対話を通じて 2 単位 (秋学期)

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**Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:**

We have various kinds of the images of ideal human beings. Thinking of those images often leads us to answer the questions such as “How ought we to live?”, “What is the best way of living for us?”, “What ought we to pursue in our lives?” and so on. In this course, I shall examine those questions from a philosophical point of view by means of using various philosophical methods.

There are two notable features in this course. Firstly, I shall attempt to use the images of ideal human beings taken both from western culture and Japanese culture. I do not mean to, however, make a contrast between two cultures in a hackneyed manner, but rather intend to show that some similarities and differences of the images transcend the difference of cultural background. In doing so, I expect the participants to ask yourself of what image of ideal human beings you have; in short, the aim of this course is to “know yourself” which has been a deep motive for pursuing philosophy in various cultures.

Secondly, unlike a conventional philosophical course, I shall use not only classical philosophy texts, but also various kinds of materials for the objects of investigations including Descartes’s and Kant’s philosophy texts, Muneyoshi Yanagi’s writings on the works of Japanese folk craft (Mingei), Kenji Miyazawa’s poem. Although I attempt to use various kinds of materials, the nature of investigations is thoroughly philosophical; this course is not for art criticism, or comparative literature.

Roughly, topics in this course will be divided into the following three parts.

1. Rationality and Intellect as an Ideal Capacity for Human Beings.
2. Anti-intellectualism and its Problems.
3. Beauty and the Image of Ideal Human Beings.

The important part of this course, furthermore, is to learn how to discuss with each other in English both for native and non-native speakers. Yet this course is not a language course; what you expected to learn is to formulate your own opinions in English with an articulated manner in an international opportunity. Thus active participation to the discussion is required to take this course.

**Course Plan:**

- 1 Introduction and guidance: what is the ideality? Why does it matter in philosophy?
- 2 Descartes 1: Reading assignment, Discourse on the Method part 1.
- 3 Descartes 2: Reading assignment, Discourse part 2
- 4 Kant 1: Reading assignment, What is enlightenment?
- 5 Kant 2: Reading assignment, What is enlightenment?
- 6 Modernity vs. Kenji Miyazawa’s poem
- 7 Introduction to folkcraft art and the thought of Yanagi: Reading assignment, Towards a standard of beauty
- 8 Yanagi 1: Reading assignment, Seeing and Knowing
- 9 Yanagi 2: Reading assignment, Seeing and knowing
- 10 Yanagi 3: Reading assignment, The beauty of irregularity
- 11 Yanagi 4: Reading assignment, The beauty of irregularity
- 12 Yanagi 5: Reading assignment, The Buddhist idea of beauty
- 13 Final Discussion

Other The format of this course is OnDemand, remote lecture. There will be no actual meeting in the classroom on campus. However, it is not yet certain the future situation...

**Method of Evaluation:**

- 1, Answering questions (at least 3 times); 30%
- 2, Two short term papers; (35×2)% About 2 page papers
- 3, Participation (extra 20%): if you answer the questions more than three times, it will be counted as extra points for your grade.

**Textbooks:**

Copies of texts will be distributed in the class.

**Reference Books:**

TBA

**Lecturer’s Comments to Students:**

If you send me an answer to a question via e-mail(as a requirement, you have to answer the questions at least three times in this course), you will have a reply to your answer. Other than that, you can feel free to contact me by e-mail. I shall try to send you a reply.

**Questions/Comments:**

You are always welcome to ask me a question by e-mail.

You will know the details of requirements of this course at the first online lecture.