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Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

DEEP CULTURE DIFFERENCE : UNDERSTANDING JAPAN THROUGH CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON

Subtitle	Understanding Japan through Cross-Cultural Comparison
Lecturer(s)	SHAULES, JOSEPH
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2025 Spring (2nd Half)
Day/Period	Mon.3,4
Campus	Mita
Classroom	457
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	17398
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
K-Number	CIN-CO-00133-212-10

[▼ Detail](#)

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

This course focuses on the psychology of cultural difference. We will examine cultural patterns found in Japan and compare them with those other countries. We will see that a deep understanding of cultural difference requires a form of intuitive pattern recognition, and the ability to look at situations from multiple cultural perspectives. The class has two parts, 1) the psychology of deep culture, and 2) analyzing cultural difference. We will learn how culture shapes our minds, and how to gain deeper understanding of Japan and other cultural communities.

Active Learning Methods [Description](#)

Presentations
Discussions, Debates
Group work
Problem-based learning

Preparatory Study

It is highly recommended that students listen to Episode 1 of the Deep Culture Podcast (10 minutes):
<https://japanintercultural.org/podcast/welcome-to-the-deep-culture-podcast/>

Course Plan

Lesson 1

First class – The deep culture of Japan

Lesson 2

The "Oz Moment" and the "international brain".

Lesson 3

The autopilot - System one versus system two

Lesson 4

Configuration - The hidden impact of culture

Lesson 5

Systematic Intuitions - Learning to read cultural patterns

Lesson 6

Dilemma theory and deep cultural difference

Lesson 7

The cognition of in-group and out-group

Lesson 8

Deep Culture and Status

Lesson 9

Deep culture and our moral compass

Lesson 10

Deep culture and issues of control

Lesson 11

Deep culture and time

Lesson 12

Life spaces, privacy and identity

Lesson 13

Student presentations

Lesson 14

End of semester course review

Other

We will be using an online learning platform for interaction between students and engaging more deeply with the material.

Method of Evaluation

1. Final exam (30%)
2. Final Presentation (30%)
3. Participation (attendance + HW assignments) (40%)

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

Lecturer's Comments to Students

The class will be held in-person.