

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT CULTURES

Lecturer(s)	NAGASU, MIWAKO
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2025 Spring
Day/Period	Wed.2
Campus	Mita
Classroom	522
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	28974
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
K-Number	CIN-CO-00133-212-86

▼ Detail

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of different cultures, particularly focusing on how to address events and challenges that arise when living in a foreign cultural environment. Students will examine the differences between living in their home country and in a foreign culture, reflecting on these differences. Students will explore what strategies are most effective when adapting to intercultural settings.

Each student will introduce their own culture, analyze the differences between their culture and Japanese culture, and present their findings. The ultimate goal is for students to acquire the skills needed to live respectfully in any intercultural context, while valuing and respecting the cultures of others.

Active Learning Methods [Description](#)

Lab / Skill-development / On-site training
Presentations
Discussions, Debates
Group work
Problem-based learning

Preparatory Study

Please read the textbook in advance to prepare for the content we will cover in class. Additionally, as homework, practice creating a presentation based on information obtained in class.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Introduction of the course, etc.

Lesson 2

Discussion about Clothing, Food, and Housing in Your Country and Japan.

Lesson 3

Introduction of the Culture Map/ Listening to the Air: Communicating Across Cultures

Lesson 4

The Many Faces of Polite: Evaluating Performance and Providing Negative Feedback

Lesson 5

Why Versus How: The Art of Persuasion in a Multicultural World

Lesson 6

How Much Respect Do You Want?: Leadership, Hierarchy, and Power

Lesson 7

Big D or Little d: Who Decides, and How?

Lesson 8

The Head or the Heart: Two Types of Trust and How They Grow

Lesson 9

The Needle, Not the Knife: Disagreeing Productively/8. How Late Is Late? Scheduling and Cross-Cultural Perceptions of Time

Lesson 10

Epilogue: Putting the Culture Map, Preparation for the Presentation

Lesson 11

Presentation

Lesson 12

Presentation

Lesson 13

Presentation

Lesson 14

Presentation, Review of the course, Quizzes

Other

Review of the course, Quizzes

Method of Evaluation

Grading percentages are as follows; Class participation: 30%, Assignments and Quizzes: 20%, Writing an essay (800-1000 words): 20%, Presentations (Group Presentation, Individual/Group Presentations): 30%.

Textbooks

The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business, Erin Meyer, English.

Lecturer's Comments to Students

In this course, please actively share your unique experiences and ideas. Through daily life experiences in Japan, including cross-cultural encounters and challenges, this course aims to understand as many similarities and differences between your own culture and Japanese culture as possible. The goal of this course is not to find the "right answers," but to build an understanding of different cultures based on your own experiences and cultural background. Especially through discussions and presentations, learn as much as possible from your classmates' diverse cultural perspectives.

Question/Comments

I will be available to meet with students after class for questions and consultations. Additionally, I am available to answer questions via email: konagasumiwa@gmail.com