Japanese Culture and Society: Social and Cultural psychology
Tutor: Akinobu NAMEDA, Ph.D.

Course description:
This course explores Japanese society and culture by looking at theories and experiencing research in social and cultural psychology. This course is divided into two parts. The first part of this course focuses on culture. We will discuss theories and research findings on culture in psychology as well as cultural phenomena in Japan. For the second part of this course, we will consider and discuss social issues in Japanese context: work-life balance, family work, career development, and so on. In addition to participation in classroom lectures and discussions, students in this course will conduct some research projects on culture and social issues in Japan that will help to have views to understand Japanese culture and society.

Course objectives:
- Students can obtain their understanding of culture and social issues in Japan.
- Students can make discussions on Japanese culture and society, based on knowledge and research in social and cultural psychology, and/or other academic fields in social sciences.
- Students can reflect on their own culture and society in looking at culture and social issues in Japanese context.

Schedule:
12:50 – 16:00 on Tuesdays, during 10 Jan – 18 Apr in 2016

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## Research project on culture 2

### Project: Understanding “Kawaii (a Japanese word expression)” in Japan
- **Feb 14**: Introduction
- **Feb 21**: KJ qualitative method for organizing information
- **Feb 28**: Work and discussions for presentation
- **Mar 7**: Students’ presentations
- **Mar 14**: How do Japanese people make career development?
- **Mar 21**: Population decline, Having children in Japan, Parent’s participation in child rearing
- **Mar 28**: Field-trip
- **Apr 4**: The share of paid work and household work in family, Communication styles in couples
- **Apr 11**: Successive job support for people with disability
- **Apr 18**: Project: Understanding issues on career development

### Notes:

The order and contents of the classes may vary according to the progress of projects and the schedule for field-trip.

### Key Words:

Japanese society; Culture; Social psychology; Cultural psychology.

### Reading List:

Evaluating Method:
1. Communication paper in each class and participation in activities in classes (30 %)
2. Papers based on projects and class activities (50 %)
3. Presentations (20 %)

Contact Information:
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