

# Japanese Culture and Society

Instructor: Akinobu NAMEDA, Ph.D.

## Overview of Lecture:

This lecture introduces theories and research on Japanese society and culture. This lecture is based on social and cultural psychology. We consider and discuss cultural and social issues in Japanese context: false confession in interrogation processes, work-family conflicts, life career development, behavior in cyberspace and so on. In this lecture, we firstly gain fundamental understanding of Japanese culture, focusing on differences and similarities in culture internationally. Secondly we consider social issues in Japan, particularly discussing how we can deal with social and cultural problems in our daily life.

## Goals of Lecture:

- Students can obtain their understanding of cultural and social issues in Japan.
- Students can gain social and cultural psychological knowledge to deal with problems in their life.
- Students can reflect on their own culture and social issues in Japanese context.

## Schedule:

12:50 – 16:00 on Tuesdays, during 13 Jan – 14 Apr in 2015

	Date	Title	Contents
1	Jan 13	Introduction	Theories and research methods in psychology
2	Jan 20	Social psychology of group	Leadership. Cultural differences of mind
3	Jan 27	Cultural psychology and cultural differences	Character. Face recognition. Pocket money
4	Feb 3	Research projects on culture	Text mining analysis of Japanese songs. Analysis of Japanese food culture with pictures.
5	Feb 10	Law and psychology issues	Sense of fairness. How does false confession happen in interrogation process?
6	Feb 17	Work life balance issues in Japan	Work-family conflicts. Division of labor in close relationships. Family in Japan
7	Feb 24	How can we deal with difficulties when natural disaster happens?	Co-construction of knowledge with game

8	Mar 3	Personality psychology issues	Blood type stereotype in Japanese society
9	Mar 10	How do we behave in cyberspace?	Persons on the internet
10	Mar 17	Field-work (to be arranged)	Field-work
11	Mar 24	Considering quality of life	Learning from the research on patients
12	Mar 31	Life career issues in Japanese society 1	Successive job support for people with disability
13	Apr 7	Life career issues in Japanese society 2	How do Japanese people make career development at young, middle, and old ages
14	Apr 14	Students' Presentations	Students' Presentations

Notes:

The order of lectures is provisional. It may be changed, considering fieldworks and students' presentations.

**Key Words:**

Japanese society; Culture; Social psychology; Cultural psychology.

**Reading List:**

- Markus, H. R., & Kitayama, S. (1991). Culture and the self: Implications for cognition, emotion, and motivation. *Psychological review*, 98, 224.
- Valsiner, J. (2007). *Culture in minds and societies: Foundations of cultural psychology*. SAGE Publications.

**Evaluating Method:**

1. Communication paper in each lecture (30 %)
2. Term paper (40 %)
3. Presentation (30 %)

**Contact Information:**

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