

## Seminar: Self and Culture I

Yu Niiya

Credit : 2 | Semester : Spring | Year : 3~4  
Day/Period : Fri 3rd

### [Subject]

In this seminar, we will explore issues related to the self and culture from the social psychological perspective. We will question the meaning of interdependence and the various goals and motives underlying interdependence. Why do East Asians value it? Why are they concerned about maintaining group harmony? What goals do these strategies serve for the self and for the group?

### [Goal]

The goal of this course is to challenge stereotypical views associated with interdependence and independence and to gain a deeper understanding of the goals we pursue for the self in East Asian and North American cultures. Another important goal is to develop students' interest on the topic of self and culture and to help them formulate research questions based on the reading materials covered in class. This course will improve students' employability skills of critical thinking, written and oral communication, self-innovation, as well as collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information.

### [Course Description]

Students will read, discuss, and apply research and theory on the self and culture, including topics such as independent vs. interdependent self-views, individualism vs. collectivism, self-enhancement vs. self-criticism motives, public vs. private self-consciousness, and compassionate vs. self-image goals. The primary method of learning will involve presentations and discussions. Each student will be required to do the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. In addition, students will develop a research question of their interest to pursue in the following semester.

### [Schedule]

No.	Theme	Contents
1	Introduction	Overview of class organization
2	The "East" and the "West" 1	Individualism vs. collectivism
3	The "East" and the "West" 2	Independence vs. interdependence
4	The "East" and the "West" 3	Questioning the dichotomy
5	Positive self-regard 1	Is positive self-regard an universal need?
6	Positive self-regard 2	Self-enhancement and self-criticism: What goals do they serve?
7	Review	Summary and review of the topics covered so far
8	Fitting in 1	Public vs. private self-consciousness, self-monitoring
9	Fitting in 2	Primary vs. secondary control
10	Fitting in 3	<i>Tatema</i> and <i>Honne</i> , <i>Amae</i> .
11	Caring for others 1	Self-image and compassionate goals
12	Caring for others 2	Self-compassion and empathy
13	Caring for others 3	How much do they overlap with the cultural constructs?
14	Student presentation on the research question	Assessing progress on the research question
15	Wrap-up	Recapitulation of the topics covered throughout the term

### [Work to be done outside class (preparation etc.)]

All students must do the assigned readings and post their discussion questions on the course website every week by Thursday 5pm. Discussion leaders will read the students' questions before class and organize the topics for discussion around them.

### [Textbooks]

No textbooks will be used in this class. All the readings will be available on the course website.

### [References]

Kitayama, S. & Cohen, S. (2007). *Handbook of Cultural Psychology*. New York: The Guilford Press.  
Triandis, H. C. (1995). *Individualism and Collectivism: New Directions in Social Psychology*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

### [Grading Criteria]

Final grades are based on participation in discussion (20%), weekly questions (20%), leading discussion (20%), a final paper (30%), and a research question (10%).

### [Changes following previous student comments]

This is a new course.

### [Other]

Students must also take Research in Social Psychology in the spring term and Cultural Psychology in the fall term if they haven't done so already.

They are also strongly encouraged to take a statistics course prior to or in conjunction with this seminar.

### [Prerequisite]

Students must have successfully completed Interpersonal Relations I and II.

管理 ID :  
1253981  
授業コード :  
A6424