Osaka Gakuin University 2011-2012 Spring Semester

Intercultural Communication: Cultural Myths, Norms, Games and Rules

Instructor:

Stephen Dalton

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Lesson: Monday 16:10-17:40, Wednesday 14:30-16:00

Office: 01-03-18

Office Hours: By Appointment

Subject code: 2031

Course Description:

Living in a culture different from your own is to live slightly askew. Even as language proficiency rises, foreign students often find their social experiences more puzzling. This course will unpack the cultural myths and norms of Japan and the West, shedding light on why the patterns of our communication differ so radically in business and beyond. If communication can be said to be a game with its own rules for play, then students must learn the rules to be able to play successfully.

Resources

The teacher will provide hand-outs and Power Point slides for each class

Evaluation

Weekly reading questions: 25%

Field Research: 25% Final Paper: 25%

Final Poster Project or Presentation:25%

Notes:

Course readings will familiarize students with some aspects of sociolinguistics, but no previous study is necessary. Experience in a foreign culture a plus.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Two Stories, Two Games

Week 3: Communication "Equipment"

Week 4: Speak for Yourself, Listen to Others

Week 5: Business = Business & Family

Week 6: Talking about Talk in the Boardroom

Week 7: How to "Score Points"

Week 8: Rhythm and Humor

Week 9: Teasing, Praising, Repeating

Week 10: Role Models

Week 11: Dividing the West

Week 12: Dividing the West pt. II

Week 13: Conclusion/Research Consultation

Week 14: Student Poster Project/Presentation