

KC3023 Contemporary Global Issues A (*set with B)

- Cognitive Development in (Cross-) Cultural Contexts -

Yokohama
OKAMOTO Yukari
Tue 3

【Course Description】

This course introduces students to children's thinking – from the time infants come to the world to when they reach adult-like thinking. We will examine major issues, such as how nature and nurture influence children's development. We will also explore the role of schooling (what should be taught, why, and how) in children's conceptual development. The impact of cultural practices will receive much attention as we compare Eastern and Western ways of raising/educating children. Examples used in class draw primarily from research in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Other examples will be discussed as appropriate.

【Class Goals】

To understand children's thinking is to enter their minds. Thus, one goal of the course is for students to examine what children are thinking (and feeling). Students will also learn various methods to unpack children's thinking, which is the second goal of the course. The third goal is to become aware of cultural similarities and differences in how we educate/nurture children. The ultimate goal is for students to develop a critical eye to help judge merits of different perspectives of child development.

【Course Schedule】

- 【第1回】 Introduction, Issues in cognitive development
- 【第2回】 Piaget theory of cognitive development II
- 【第3回】 Culture and development: Preschool in Japan
- 【第4回】 Information-processing theories of development I
- 【第5回】 Neo-Piagetian theories of development I
- 【第6回】 Memory development
- 【第7回】 In-class review
- 【第8回】 Language and mathematics: Cross-cultural comparisons
- 【第9回】 Teaching junior-high students: Cross-cultural comparisons (TIMSS math)
- 【第10回】 Special topics in cognitive development
- 【第11回】 Special topics in cognitive development
- 【第12回】 Special topics in cognitive development
- 【第13回】 Special topics in cognitive development
- 【第14回】 Student presentations
- 【第15回】 Review Session

【Remarks for Class】

【You must take this course (Tuesday 3rd period) together with KC 3024 Contemporary Global Issues B (Friday 3rd period).】
Active participation is required. To do so, students are expected to complete assigned readings. Readings will be posted online or handed in class. There will be in-class assignments. Thus attendance is a must. Only one excused absence is allowed and subsequent absences are allowed only for critical emergencies.

【Texts】

None

【Reference Books】

None

【Evaluation Criteria】

The stated goals will be assessed through a variety of learning outputs as follows:

- 20% Quiz
- 20% In-class activities
- 20% Midterm exam
- 10% Short writing assignments
- 30% Final project

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【Course Schedule】

【第1回】 Piaget theory of cognitive development I

【第2回】 Vygotsky's theory of cognitive development

【第3回】 Culture and development: Preschool in China and the US

【第4回】 Information-processing theories of development II

【第5回】 Neo-Piagetian theories of development II

【第6回】 Theories of intelligence

【第7回】 In-class midterm

【第8回】 Teaching primary-grade children: Cross-cultural comparisons

【第9回】 Teaching junior-high students: Cross-cultural comparisons (TIMSS science)

【第10回】 Special topics in cognitive development

【第11回】 Special topics in cognitive development

【第12回】 Special topics in cognitive development

【第13回】 Student presentations

【第14回】 Student presentations

【第15回】 Review Session

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