



# Major in Social and Cultural Studies

Learning objectives

**A post-graduation pathway that corresponds to the symbiosis of local communities containing multiple elements, on a foundation of sociology and cultural theory**

In addition to having an overall view of the community, new community leaders need to have a perception of the symbiosis of diverse elements in local society, such as an understanding and acceptance of multiculturalism (different cultures) in response to the internationalization of communities, and the symbiosis of men and women. In the Social and Cultural Studies major, we look for

ways to solve problems by analyzing the issues that communities in the 21st Century are confronting from the standpoint of sociology and cultural theory. We investigate topics with an awareness of sociological history and of the global society, with an eye on the US, European nations and Asian countries.

## Points

- As an incorporated national university, we offer a diverse range of cultural courses in the largest social science program in Japan.
- Our program covers a broad range of academic disciplines, including education, history, gender, and comparative culture.
- We have a large number of courses relating to qualifications for curators and social education supervisors, for example, and courses for English proficiency such as TOEIC® and TOEFL®.



## Ideal student

- A person with an interest in the community and history and culture, who aspires to work in mass communications, private enterprise, or NPOs, for example

## Pathways after graduation

Staff member in various types of cooperatives, curator (museum, archaeological), social education related (community center) official, staff member in an NPO or NGO, private enterprise, graduate school, mass communications, and the like

## Student's Voice

There are many things I would like to know and want to find out about. While studying can be difficult, I am happy.

I have always been interested in gender studies (the differences between men and women that are socially and culturally shaped), and discovering that I would study this when I took part in the open campus was what made me want to go to this university. In the seminar program, we are conducting detailed composition research on a selected *Manga* topic. We are currently tackling *issues in the institution of marriage in Japan*. By comparing Japan with France, where there are many common-law marriages, we were able to discern the low level of freedom in Japan. On the other hand, while there has been a stigma attached to single parents in Japan up until now, we found out that this has been changing recently. Because I discovered many things that I would like to know more about while I was studying this topic, I think I'd like to learn more about France aside from just the marriage system. During our first year, we studied *Childhood Poverty and Abuse*, and we provided teaching support for children who were victims of this while aiding NPOs. In the second year, we also studied the *Theory of Industrial Society Culture*, and although writing a report was difficult, it allowed me to deepen my knowledge of modern culture. Being able to study a variety of things that I am interested in, such as the local community and multiculturalism, is what attracted me to this major. I am giving careful consideration to my future career, and am hoping to find a satisfying job.



Third Year Social and Cultural Studies Student  
**Mana Katsumata**  
(from Miyagi Prefecture, Ishinomaki Nishi High School)

Second Year First Semester Timetable

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	Civil Law I		English B I / II	Constitutional Law I	Career Model Learning
2	Civil Law I	Theory of Social Education I	Sociology of Law I	Constitutional Law I	English B I / II
3		Theory of Industrial Society Culture			
4	Theory of Social Welfare			Introductory Courses in the Major (Seminar)	
5					

Example introductory course topics in the major

As regards *introductory courses in the major*, introductory content relating to the various majors and the foundations for independent research are studied in a practice and exercise format.

Example of the Courses

Commentaries and Memories of the Great Earthquake

In this course we learn about social research methods and undertake research. In specific terms, we record the earthquake experiences of people who are leading the life of an evacuee after the Great East Japan Earthquake. As well as sharing these experiences, we clarify current and future social issues as seen from the perspective of the people concerned, aiming to link them with support. Through field surveys based on preliminary studies, we will ultimately prepare a report and make it available to the public.



Example of the Courses

Reading the Classics of Social Science

In this introduction to the major, we read *The Wealth of Nations* and *Das Kapital*, which are classical masterpieces of social science, write reports, and pass on information. The aim is to accept classical words in our own hearts and minds, and to *contemplate* the questions *what is man?* and *what is society?* While reading these masterpieces for comparison purposes, we travel back and forth between the historical and the modern, and between theory and reality, cultivating the *ability to think* regarding how to study and how to live.



Example of the Courses

Considering Popular Culture

In this course, by studying the popular culture that prevails in various forms in our daily lives, we look to understand the interest and meaning of studying and thinking about the various issues surrounding society and culture. With literature readings for the first semester and fictional subject matter (films, novels, *Manga*) for the second semester, we have introduced topics and issues related to family, self, and life which participants have connected with a variety of concerns and immediate problems and situations. We have conducted presentations and debates in which students have demonstrated a strong awareness of issues and a high level of interest.



Examples of specialized practicum topics

A *specialized practicum* involves specialized study and research under the close guidance of a teacher. Ultimately, a thesis is prepared to cover the four years spent at university.

Example of the Courses

Clarifying Gender Structure in Daily Life

We continually question what is the *family* that we are living in? How has the *family* changed through time? We know from old documents and literature, and also from listening to elderly people in the community, that a variety of family relationships existed in the past. In addition to simply listening to others in the community, we like to consider how this could link to the future, including the family within the fantasy world (such as fantasy novels and games). This is partly in book form (*Fantasy and Gender*, Seikyusha, 2004).



Example of the Courses

Considering Multiculturalism

In the specialized course *Theory of International Cultural Exchanges*, mainly by reviewing Japan-Australia history from the end of the Edo Period until the Pacific War, we discuss how people in both countries at that time had come to understand the other country and its people. In the specialized practicum, we set an overall topic (for the 2012-13 academic year it is *multiculturalism*), and for their thesis our seminar students conduct research on an independent topic which is not restricted to a particular region or period.



Example of the Courses

Sociology of Sports

Our aim is to explore a variety of sports phenomena that occur in society from a sociology perspective. For example, we analyze the problem of doping from the perspectives of ethics and medicine, and we set up topics centered around sports, such as *sports and education*, *sports and law*, and *sports and mass communications*. We are also engaged in the promotion of local sports and lifelong sports, and are championing the growth of "woodball" as a new sport.

