

## Japanese Studies Institute 2022

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### **Incorporating Japanese Studies Information into Course Curriculum**

I will integrate information from the experiences and learning gained throughout the Japanese Studies Institute (JSI) to refocus and update curriculum in a course I teach – Comparative Social Control. I have taught this course several times throughout my university career, and the information gleaned from various JSI seminars has provided new insights, resources and theoretical considerations to support student learning and high-impact research opportunities. My plans to achieve this work are outlined below:

Redevelop a *“Comparative Social Organization and Control: Japan and the US”*

1. **Formal social control** is expressed through laws, rules, and regulations against deviant behavior. It is conducted by government and organizations using social control mechanisms/agents and other formal sanctions (e.g., jail, fines). In democratic societies the goals and mechanisms of formal social control are determined through legislation by elected representatives and thus enjoy a measure of support from the population and voluntary compliance.
  - a. Law and politics, CJ sub-systems - police, courts, prisons, etc.
2. **Informal social control**, or the reactions of individuals and groups that bring about conformity to norms and laws, includes peer and community pressure, bystander intervention in a crime, and collective responses. Informal controls cover a vast array of possible sanctions and tend to differ from individual to individual, group to group, and society to society. Some criminologist, such as Black (1976), held that the agents of the criminal justice system exercise more control when informal social control is weaker.
  - a. Education, religion, workplace, family & community, gender & age, etc.
3. **‘Solidaristic Theory of Social Order’** – review social controls via Formal and Informal mechanisms
  - a. Consider the many similarities and differences across Japan and the US
4. **Miller & Kanazawa (Order by Accident, 2000)** held that “differences are not merely cultural by-products, based on differences in race, language, and religion. The differences are specifically related to the structures of each society – to the relationships among people and between people and social institutions, and as such, represent an explicit desire to organize their societies differently” (p.3).
  - a. Efforts to explain why (using the above understanding) social order is high in Japan relative to the US.
  - b. Here focus rests primarily on understanding specific social psychological processes that occur in small groups (meso-level interactions), and how these social control

mechanisms produce both desirable and undesirable consequences at higher levels of social aggregation (macro-level expressions).

In addition to revising the curriculum for this course, I would also like to lead students and faculty colleagues to visit Japan (e.g., as part-II to this course; to grow Japan-US consortium partnerships, to engage in collaborative research opportunities) and as part of such an effort engage with several of the relationships and resource opportunities which this JSI experience has made available (e.g., Japan Foundation, JOI Program, Consulate-General of Japan).