**A Summary of 2012 JSI Project**

Xiansheng Tian, Ph. D.

Department of History

Metropolitan State College of Denver

June 25, 2012

 Instead starting a new class or project, my plan is to enhance the current upper level Hist. 3740 Modern Japan class at my school, as I mentioned in my early spring application for this year’s JSI seminar. I have designed and taught this class for the last few years, and this year’s JSI seminar indeed greatly improved and updated my knowledge about Japan. Such newly updated knowledge and understanding of Japan through these two weeks’ studies, especially those on current Japanese policies regarding domestic development and foreign affairs, will help me to update my classroom presentation and discussion sessions. At the same time, a list of additional research topics comes out as a result of the JSI seminar.

 Beside what has been discussed in Hist 3740 class (see syllabus attached), this new list of additional research topics for the term paper will lead students to further considering some of the details in Japan’s modern history. Students will be challenged to find out, beyond what they can read in the textbook, why the Japanese leaders made the decision to open their country voluntarily in 1853-54 and who played the most important roles during this event. Students will also be challenged to find out more details on their own about the famous “Iwakura Mission” (1871) as well as its impact on Japan’s later reforms. Japan’s fast recovery after the WWII will also be a topic for students to explore. Besides talking about external reasons (US assistance, Korean War, etc.), which are discussed during the class, they are going to try to find out what the Japanese people did to make such “economic miracle” possible. Another question, which may also appear on the Final Exam, is that what Americans can learn from the Japanese, especially during this economic down time. Students are encouraged to explore beyond the textbooks and class discussions to find the topics that will improve their understanding of the history of modern Japan and what historical lessons we can draw from our common past.