

2015 National Faculty Development Institute  
Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum  
Project Proposal  
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June 21, 2015

Summary of the Project

The goals of this project will be to 1) promote teacher candidates' awareness of diversity in culture, language, and ethnicity; 2) infuse culture into curriculum as a part of learning experiences; 3) promote global perspectives.

After completing this Japanese Studies Institute, I would like to use Japanese culture as a topic and infuse it into the undergraduate course, EDEC 3650 Integrated curriculum for Early Childhood. At the beginning of this course, students will brainstorm about what they would like to learn about Japan. The students and the instructor will design a three-week experiential learning unit about Japanese culture. However, the instructor will guide students to explore the following Japanese culture around the following aspects: 1) articles about Japanese history before and after WWII, parenting and childrearing practices, and education in Japan; 2) Japanese language; 3) Japanese arts and cultural activities such as origami, flower arrangement, brush painting, calligraphy writing, and art appreciation, and etc. After learning about Japanese culture for three weeks (2 hours each week), then students will be assigned to work collaboratively, to apply their curriculum developing skills-- to scan and cluster meaningful standards by using a topic. The evidence of the learning is to create a theme-based unit applying mandated state standards, children literature, educational resources, and contextualized tasks to

engage elementary students' learning. The content knowledge from the four content subjects, Social Studies, Mathematics, English and Language Arts, and Science must be taught and connected through a topic or a theme. Arts, music, and PE are encouraged to be included as well.

In conclusion, I have thoroughly enjoyed the program and learned a lot about Japanese culture as a theme. I hope my students will enjoy some experience I have planned for them and will appreciate Japanese as much as I have at SDSU's Japanese Studies Institute.