Japan Studies Institute Project Summary for Walter C.Todd

June 20, 2007

XIDS- 2100: What do you really know about Japanese Culture?

This is a University of West Georgia multi-discipline course and

will be offered in the Spring semester of each academic year. This

project will be used in conjunction with a two week visit to Kagoshima,

Japan in the late spring of each academic school year. The course is to

help prepare the students for the trip that will be offered. The class

will also be available to students unable to attend the actual trip to

Japan, but interested in studying Japan. The course is designed to make

students aware of the many different aspects of the Japanese culture

and its people. The course will be taught by a native Japanese

instructor and an American professor. The course is designed to cover

such topics as: 1.) Communication Forms and the Japanese Language; 2.)

Daily Life and the Japanese Families; 3.) Eating and Drinking in Japan;

4.) Traditional Arts, Skills and Sports; 5.) Modern Japanese Recreation

and Leisure Activities; 6.) Religions and Spiritual Practices of Japan;

7.) Japanese Holidays and Festivals; 8.) Japanese Heroes; and 9.)

Japanese Television, Movies and Music. Students who do not attend the

trip to Japan will be evaluated with three papers (3-5 pages each)

covering a Japanese sport or recreational activity, one movie review,

and on any subject of their own choosing dealing with Japanese culture.

Those attending the trip to Japan will maintain a journal with at least

25 photos of their trip covering activities and sites visited, and

their impressions of what they experienced which will be due one week

after their return to the United States. All students will take two

written test, a mid-term and a final, on subjects covered in class

during the spring semester.