

Professor Brian Burnes
University of West Alabama

My project description:

As a biology professor, I will use my experience at the Japan Studies Institute to develop a new course entitled “Science in Japan and the US”. The course will be a comparative study of the development and practice of Japanese and US science. Students will write long-form research papers that address the roles of nationality, political structure, geography, ethnicity, and popular culture in the formation of scientific, technological, and medical knowledge. The course will be offered as an elective to undergraduate students and online graduate students at UWA. UWA has several thousand online graduate students, many of whom are practicing high school teachers from across the US. The online course will have a teaching module designed for high school teachers to take directly into their high school classrooms, thereby extending the reach of the course. This course is designed to spark student interest in Japan and to plant the seeds for an exchange program with Japanese universities.