

2012 Project Summary

”Incorporating Japanese Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum”
June 11–23, 2012 • San Diego State University, California

PROJECT SUMMARY
“Historicity and Identity”
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My project is an attempt to rethink the practice of History in order to convince my colleagues to incorporate more Japan Studies into the curriculum. My hope is that through a more rigorous understanding of the historical praxis, Japan Studies will be integrated as an essential (and more attractive) addition to courses across disciplines at the Community College of Denver.

Japan Studies offers an opportunity to come not only to a richer understanding of Japanese history and culture, but to understand more about the construction of Identity (as a historical concept). As such, when we (students in the United States) learn about Japan, we are learning about ourselves. This construction informs our behavior, and in turn impacts the possibilities for community and social change.

The Japanese Studies Institute Program provided an almost endless variety of topics and themes that can be applied to virtually all of the social science and humanities courses taught at the Community College of Denver. My project focuses on three elements intended to entice and inform: Religion, Literature, and contemporary Anime.