

## **Summary of Curriculum Development Project**

**2017 AASCU Japan Studies Institute**

**Madhuri Mukherjee**

**William Paterson University, NJ**

**My original intent was to acquire competence to teach the “Japanese component” of a broader, already existing course on the experience of Asian Americans in America, from the 1800’s to the present day.**

**However, to do justice to a history that is so vast, and an experience that is so rich and complex, my intention, after participating in the AASCU/JSI, is to propose and develop a semester-long course concentrating entirely on the history and experience of Japanese Americans, along the following lines:**

**Introduce students in Asian Studies, History, Languages and Cultures and other departments to the histories of Americans of Japanese ancestry from the late eighteenth century to the recent past. Explore their unique experience taking into account factors of class, gender, and colonial and postcolonial relationships to the United States. Within a broad chronological framework, approach the Asian American experience thematically, and include the following topics: the impact of U. S. imperialism on Japanese migration; the significance of Japanese labor in the development of Hawai’i and the American West; anti-Japanese movements and exclusion; community formation and ethnic identity; stereotypical images of Japanese-Americans, from the Yellow Peril to the Model Minority; urban and suburban experiences; interaction with other ethnicities and social movements; and their role in the forging of a pan-Asian movement in the 1960's.**

**This will lead up to an exploration of contemporary cultural phenomena that students are already consuming avidly and are intensely curious about, such as Manga, Anime, and J-Pop.**