

**2022 AASCU Japan Studies Institute  
Project Summary  
Marie Barnas  
Middle Tennessee State University**

I plan to develop one Japanese film course for the fall of 2023 in an effort to stimulate interest in Japanese cinema among Video and Film Production majors at Middle Tennessee State University. I will integrate what I learned in the JSI program from “Session #5 – How to Create a Japanese Film Course” and in “Workshop #1 – Identifying and Exploring Japan-related Resources” to find and obtain Japanese-related films and other materials for my new course.

My project presentation will attempt to demonstrate a first draft of a Japanese film appreciation syllabus where I will discuss rationale for the course, outcomes and assessments, and possible films to include over the course of the semester. The Video and Film Program at Middle Tennessee State University is short on critical, analytical, and historical film classes, so the addition of a class on Japanese cinema will be much appreciated by the students who are already enamored with other aspects of Japanese media such as Anime and Manga.

These past two weeks that I have spent at the Japan Studies Institute has filled me with knowledge beyond my expertise in video and film production as I have learned about Japanese history, economics, aesthetics, architecture, the educational system, literature, government, business studies, music, religion, and more. I will be better informed as I present Japanese cinema to my students and will be able to speak about the films we view in my new course with greater context.

Furthermore, Japan’s focus on respect, trust, and building relationships allows me to look at how I approach education from an epistemological and pedagogical stand-point. I have a new appreciation for balance, renewal, and rejuvenation, all concepts I can now bring to my classroom as I teach and mentor students. My long-term goals are to try and work with faculty across my college to incorporate Japanese studies into their fields such as Recording Industry, Journalism, Animation, Interactive Media, Photography, and Media Management. As I find myself in a newly administrative role as Interim Chair of the Department of Media Arts, I would also like to expand possibilities for students in study abroad, exchange, and the JET program after graduation. I am also excited to build a relationship with the members of the Committee of the Sister Cities of Nashville of which the Japanese city of Kamakura is listed and recognized. These endeavors will help internationalize our options in our curricula at Middle Tennessee State University and also help make our students globally minded leaders after graduation.