Bringing Japan to Fredonia

Incorporating the JSI Institute into Classes

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My primary teaching areas are international media, film, and journalism. Prior to the conference, my primary goal was to learn more about anime and incorporate it into my COMM 385 International media course. One of the goals of this course is to increase students’ understanding and appreciation of how different countries and cultures use the media in unique ways.

As a result of the seminar, I have gotten a better idea of how to accomplish that goal. I have already purchased three books recommended by Professor Jan Bardsley. It is also important to discuss anime and manga as they relate both to traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. A lot of the topics discussed during the institute (religion, literature, theater, music, art, etc.) can be tied in.

In addition, two new goals have been developed. In my COMM 386 International Films course, I show contemporary movies from all over the world. Prior to each screening, there is discussion about key issues and important aspects of culture on the country from which the movie was produced. This is important an understanding of film cannot occur without historical, political, economic, and cultural contexts. The information learned during the seminar will help provide this context when I show Japanese films.

The final goal would be to develop a new course in Japanese film. Inspired by the screenings of Professor Dan McLeod during the seminar, I would like to put together a course that would include discussion and screenings of both classic and contemporary Japanese films. The themes that tie the movies together can be changed from semester to semester as recommended by Professor Bardsley.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful seminar.