Material Culture Course Development Integrating Japanese Artifacts

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Currently, my primary undergraduate teaching areas are interior design and facility management. However, for the Fall 2014 semester I will teach a course new to me, Material Culture. One of my main goals this summer will be to incorporate ancient and current Japanese artifacts into this interdisciplinary Material Culture course's lectures and student assignments. Student enrollment will include interior design, merchandising and apparel design students.

As a result of my participation to date in AASCU's 2014 Japan Studies Institute Fellowship: Incorporating Japanese Studies in to the Undergraduate Curriculum, I have already developed several new course lectures which incorporate material culture. This new content originates from or was influenced by the culture of Japan. This content was gleaned from the readings assigned prior to and during the JSI summer session and the materials disseminated to us by the individual presenters. I have also accessed SDSU library materials to supplement the content. I have included clips from a few of the videos which were shown during the summer session or recommended by the institute's presenters. Ideas, images and text drawn from institute's field trips (Buddhist Temple, Minghei International Museum, Japan's Recovery from Earthquake and Tsunami Exhibition, SDSU Library) have also been included. Further, I have introduced both anime and manga into the course lectures. Many of the topics addressed during the institute (religion, history, film, literature, political science, music, art, design etc.) and the approaches and viewpoints expressed by the other interdisciplinary attendees of the institute may also be incorporated into the material culture course.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in the 2014 AASCU Japan Studies Institute. It has been a very worthwhile and enlightening experience. Thank you.