

## PROJECT SUMMARY

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Westfield State University is a comprehensive, coeducational, four-year public university in Westfield, Massachusetts, belonging to the Massachusetts State University system. Westfield State has a small population of Asian students and has been trying to focus on Asian Studies by first launching a few Asian Studies classes including the Introduction to Asian Studies. I have been assigned to teach this class in this Fall, 2014. The participation in the Japan Studies Institute program at SDSU will help me develop and teach this class with a more focus on Japan's economy and its influence on neighboring countries.

In order to stimulate students' interest in the Asian Studies, the class of Introduction to Asian Studies will be designed to attract a variety of students across various majors. This introductory course will be co-taught by three regional specialists: a Chinese specialist teaching Chinese society, an Indian specialist teaching contemporary culture in India, a Korean faculty teaching contemporary cultures, societies, and politics in Northeast Asian, and I will be teaching Japanese economy and its influence on neighboring countries, especially South East Asian ones. I plan to explore the processes to make Japan from a poor and developing country to become a developed and super-power nation, so the students may relate it to their own nations.

To elaborate, I will develop lectures on the Meiji Restoration and Japan's economy growth in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from the excellent textbook from the course, Andrew Gordon's *A Modern History of Japan* and other valuable notes from lecturers in the JSI programs.

In addition, I plan to introduce the growth in the 60-80s and the collapse in the past two decades in Japan's economy and stock markets to my existing Financial Markets and Instruments. I will try to explore the cost and benefits of collectivism (keiretsu system) in Japan's society, which I believe one of the major factors for the lost decades in Japan's stagnant economy. Based on this analysis, we can also forecast what may happen to China's economy in the next few decades if they do not learn lessons from Japan.