

2015 Japan Studies Institute

Project Summary

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It is my intention to create a thematic study abroad course, PA 650: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response in Japan. It will provide a comparative overview of emergency management disciplines, including hazards and risk assessment, mitigation, preparedness, communications, response, recovery, international disaster management, terrorist and threats, civil defense, humanitarian assistance, and future-related challenges and opportunities in the context of Japan. The history and evolution of emergency management law, policies, management approaches, and institutions will be emphasized, along with whole-of-government approaches in both urban and rural contexts. The course requires daily journaling, a policy analysis, and lessons-learned brief, as well as two days of humanitarian service assisting displaced earthquake/tsunami/nuclear accident victims. A pre-departure exam will also be given to assess comprehension of assigned readings and cultural instruction.

By completing this course and its requirements, students will achieve the following objectives: 1) Historically and culturally contextualize contemporary Japanese Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR); 2) Assess Japanese HADR organizational structure, policies and practices; 3) Comprehend the constitutional and geo-strategic context of Japan's international HADR efforts; 4) Assess the impact of disaster on social structure, politics, and economics; 5) Describe the role of HADR in relation to conventional and irregular warfare; 6) Analyze post-war reconstruction; 7) Comprehend the "special relationship" between the U.S. and Japan in HADR and other areas; 8) Discuss the future of HADR; and 9) Participate in a humanitarian assistance service project.

In addition to the study abroad course, I will also integrate a section on post-war reconstruction in my PA 596: War, the State and Governance course, a chapter on the historical evolution of organized crime and corruption in my next book on the global history of organized crime, and continue my research on regional security issues vis-a-vis China's near, middle, and far seas strategy as they impact the Japan-U.S. military and strategic alliance.