

**2015 AASCU Japan Studies Institute
Curriculum Development Project
Japan, Geography and their Connection
Sunhui Sim**

I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of North Alabama (hereafter, UNA) where I teach courses in World Regional Geography and Geography of Asia as well as urban field course. Geography of Asia (Asia lectures in World Regional Geography) is designed as an introduction to the human geography of Asia, considering such topics as **history, religion/philosophy, food, music, art, sports, economy, science/technology, education, urban system, language, politics and international relations.**

I have got a deeper understanding of Japan from the fellowship program on cultural aspects and international relations in East Asia as well as in the global community. I plan to incorporate it into my existing courses (Geography of Asia and World Regional Geography) and also develop a new course, Geography of East Asia with enhanced knowledge from the fellowship

Also, I teach Urban Field course at UNA summer 2013. This course is designed to introduce students to human geography fieldwork in the urban setting. The course explores current issues in social and cultural geography and urban studies, using New York and Washington D.C as a laboratory.

I am awarded 2014-2015 Emma V. Craig Professorship of Geography from UNA to create a new scholar field tour packages course in New York City and am planning to do a field work over summer 2015.

I would like to add to this course with an activity of learning diverse ethnic neighborhoods in New York City. One of neighborhoods will be "little Japan" between St. Mark's Place and 10th St. in the East Village, New York city.

Upon returning from the Institute, I am planning to give a public seminar about the experience. UNA has thriving international studies program with students from 50 countries as well as a variety of study abroad programs for UNA students. The knowledge from the fellowship will support the University's initiatives to promote international competence of students and faculty.