

Drawing on the knowledge of culture, history, and society that I have gained at the AASCU Japan Studies Institute, I plan on modifying two of my courses and designing one new course. I currently teach a sophomore-level general education survey course, ENGL 2371, called Masterworks of Asian Literature. The theme of this course is cultural foundations (metaphysics, religion, ethics, social philosophy) and modern artists' engagement with their traditions. I focus on India, China, Korea, and Japan in this course. I plan to enhance and increase the Japanese section by adding material on Buddhism, Shinto, and Japanese aesthetics, as well as introducing Classical Japanese poetry and the *Tale of the Genji*. I will ask students to consider the ways that these influences are reflected in manga, Miyazaki's *Totoro*, *My Neighbor* and Tawara Machi's *Salad Anniversary*.

I also regularly teach a junior-level course on Mythology (ENGL 3340), to which I plan to add some Japanese mythology. Students engage in a semester-long team research project on a cultural myth system; I will use my knowledge of Japanese myth and ritual to support the team working on Japanese myth. I will also discuss stories from Japanese mythology that have parallels in Greek myth and use Japanese ritual practice to exemplify the Ritual theory of myth criticism.

Finally, I propose a new upper-level course on Japanese literature, which will partly be intended to recruit for my ongoing study abroad trip to Japan. This course will introduce cultural foundations, but will primarily focus on the development of modern Japan, the construction of a national identity in relation to imperialism and industrialization, and literary responses to WWII.