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Project Summary

To incorporate the vast amount and wide variety of information made available through the JSI into my teaching, I will design a three-part project. The first will be a unit on Japanese literature to be included in an existing course in World Literature. The second will be a complete course on Japan through Literature and Film to allow for a more in-depth study of the country and its culture.

For the unit on Japanese Literature to be incorporated into the World Literature course, I will engage students in the conversation about the potential for nuclear war and the importance of nuclear disarmament that has been so prevalent in our national and international discourse in recent times. To use this contemporary issue to encourage their interest in Japan and its literature, I will use three different genres to make the material accessible to students in various stages of their academic development, those with different learning styles and those with different aptitudes and interests. These will include the animé *In This Corner of the world*, the story of a girl growing up in pre-war Hiroshima; the movie *Godzilla*, an anti-nuclear allegory; and the novel *Rising from the Ashes*, a first-person account of the devastation and horror experienced as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima.

The second part of my project will be a full course: Japan Through Film and Literature. This course will focus on a representation of Japan through the different periods of the nation's history, beginning with its earliest recorded texts and continuing on to its most recent publications and productions. Representative works of literature and film for each period will be explored, beginning with Japanese mythology. The materials will be selected to demonstrate how the various literary forms of expression were used by the nation's artists to depict the experiences of the Japanese people, and the social and political issues and values reflected in the works.

The third part of my project would involve a screening of the movie *Only the Brave* during the university's annual week-long international festival. This film will expose the entire university community to one aspect of the contributions of Japanese-Americans about which far too few are knowledgeable.