

## **Project Summary-Japan**

### **Course that I am teaching**

Diverse Populations and Groups—course teaches undergraduate students from various majors how to be culturally competent and culturally humble in a global world. It helps students examine their biases and prejudices and move toward a sensitive understanding of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, class, and race.

### **Changes to this course**

Because of the Japanese Studies Institute the following changes will be implemented in the course. It will bring a more focused and detailed view to examining different aspects of culture. Material from the Japan Institute will be utilized to enrich the curriculum content. Students are required to do an oral PowerPoint presentation to the class; the expectations of the PowerPoint will increase so that there is an increased focus on presenting the language, mythology, gender perspective, literature, art, music, food, treatment of elderly, film, architecture, and aesthetics of different world cultures. There will be an increase in time allotted for Asia in the course. Japan will be the focal point of the discussion with students. There will be two reaction papers on Japan. The professor will put Japan in the context of East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. Hopefully course will stimulate interest in studying abroad in Japan and other parts of Asia. We have existing exchange programs in Japan, China, and Korea. Instructor will develop a rubric to better evaluate presentations in class. Curriculum changes will be evaluated through student evaluations.

### **Course Modules on Japan**

#### **Geography and History of Japan**

Physical and Human Geography of Japan. Emphasis on the Modern Period-  
Discussion of Influence of China and Korea on Japan

#### **Religion in Japan**

Influence of Buddhism, Chinese philosophy, and Shintoism. Discuss what is Buddhism. The Eight-Fold Path—often pictorially represented by an eight-spoked

wheel (the Wheel of Dharma) includes: Right Views (the Four Noble Truths), Right Intention, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood/Occupation, Right Endeavor, Right Mindfulness (total concentration in activity), and Right Concentration (meditation). Professor will create a power point about Buddhism and Japan and show pictures of the Buddhist temple visited in San Diego. There will be a discussion of the relationship between music and theatre and religion.



### **Japanese Language**

Poetry and Literature. Professor will share information about Japanese literature and poetry.

### **Experiential Exercise-Ikebana Flower Arrangement Demonstration**

Students will read about this type of flower arrangement and professor will do a short demonstration on what he learned at Japan Studies Institute. There will be discussion of the philosophy of flower arrangement and the establishment of Ikebana and the Ikenobo school.

### **Literature, Art, and Aesthetic**

Students will learn about Japanese art, music, design, gardening, landscape, and other aspects of the Japanese aesthetic.

### **Social Aspects of Japan**

Students will read articles about social aspects of Japan including gender roles and status of the elderly. There will be a discussion of the gender gap in Japan and the lack of woman's involvement in politics in Japan. Also, the instructor will use Japanese literature to put gender roles and status of elderly into perspective.

### **Viewing of Movie Only the Brave.**

Class discussion on the issues in this movie and the status of Japanese historically in the United States.

**Tea Ceremony**—students will have a basic experience with the tea ceremony

**Japanese Music**-students will listen to music of Japan and learn about the traditional instruments such as the Koto and the flute. There will be use of videos of Japanese music.

**Foreign Policy**-Discussion of relations of Japan with China, U.S., Taiwan, and Korea. Impact of Hiroshima on Japan. Resources: Dr. Akiko Mikano's work *Rising from the Ashes*, Worldwide Initiative to Safeguard Humanity.

**Educational System in Japan**-education at secondary level and university level in Japan. Psychological issues in Japanese education.

**Popular Culture in Japan**- Discussion of anime and manga and the process of producing animation in Japan. The class will view videos of anime and manga. The students will be asked to react to the popular culture of Japan and make a comparison with the United States. Also, there will be a comparison between popular culture and other aspects of culture in Japan.