

Professor Dorothy Davis  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

## Presentation Summary for Course Project

Sasakawa Institute  
AASCU  
June 22, 2006

I plan to add a unit on Japan to my course ATY 100, Contemporary Non-Western Cultures. This course explores what happens when Western and Non-Western cultures come into contact with each other. An attempt is made to view this contact situation from the Non-Western perspective. The culture areas covered in this course reflect the interests and experience of the anthropology faculty at UNCG. We currently have no Asian specialists in this department and do not anticipate any new hires in this cultural area, but the course really needs a section on Asia. Japan is perfect choice for an addition for many reasons. It fits perfectly into the course framework. I feel that my experience at SDSU has enabled me to add this important area to the course. I plan to use the same format that I use for other cultural areas presently covered in the course. Each section begins with a description of basic geography, prehistory and history. Next, is an examination of the contact situation between the Non-Western and Western culture. Finally, the focus turns to the contemporary situation. Both historical and contemporary events in Japan are unique in many ways and will offer an opportunity to compare and contrast the contact situations between different cultures at different times.

I will begin to use examples from Japan immediately in this course as well as others that I now teach, however the new section on Japan will not appear in my textbook until the new edition comes out, probably in January 2008. That new text and the accompanying study guide will both include sections on Japan.