

Incorporating Japanese Studies into a Developmental Seminar

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As a result of participating in AASCU's Japan Studies Institute, I will be reworking a senior Developmental Seminar within my department of psychology. In this seminar, I introduce students to cultural psychology. After reading theoretical articles which address issues of culture, cultural psychology, and coming to know "the other," students then pursue research articles in specific content areas (such as moral development; parent-child relationships) that have been carried out in various cultures.

My participation in AASCU's Institute has led me not only to incorporate the Japanese culture into my course, but to rework my course fundamentally on several levels. Instead of having students read only scholarly works within the fields of psychology, anthropology and human development, I will be incorporating literature and movies from several cultures, including that of Japan. As a specific consequence of participating in the Institute, I will be incorporating specific short stories, anime, films and psychological research that I came to know through specific seminars during the Institute and while conducting research at San Diego State University's library. The impact of my participation in the Institute are concretized in the changes in my syllabus for my Developmental Seminar course.