

### **Plan to Infuse Japanese Studies into My UW-RF Curriculum**

My plan has six steps.

(1) I want to begin small by adding a unit on some aspect of Japan to my Freshman Written Communication course. I wanted to choose some work of fiction or nonfiction. The next time I teach this course, it will have a theme of “food.” As a result of the fellowship, I read Banana Yoshimoto’s *Kitchen* and literary criticism of this work and will incorporate the novella in the next iteration of this course.

(2) Relatedly, I hope to create a Written Communication course with the theme of Japan. Additionally, I would like to link this course to a section of Human Geography taught by the chair of our Geography and Mapping Sciences Department who has been to Japan numerous times and has a strong personal and professional interest in the area. We have talked about linking courses off and on for several years. Linked courses, where those in the Human Geography section he teaches will also take the required Written Communication course from me, are instrumental in increasing retention. Currently, Business Administration and Psychology link courses to Written Communication sections. I hope that the English Department will create more opportunities for other majors, and this link with geography will be the next. Both courses will illustrate essential skills and knowledge by using material and employing assignments about Japan.

These two plans have been mapped out in my presentation at the conclusion of the fellowship, June 23, 2006.

(3) I also teach a World Cinema course. My knowledge of Japanese cinema and its historical and cultural backgrounds has been increased so that I can create a more informed class when teaching units on this national cinema as well as the country’s anime.

(4) Additionally, Jan Bardsley’s presentations and handouts combined with other presentations on the history and literature of Japan have mapped out a course of study for me that I plan to embody in a new course, The Literature and Film of Japan. This course will fit into the Global Perspectives University requirement. I have developed two other film and literature courses, American Ethnic Film and Literature and The Literature and Film of the New Europe.

(5) Finally in terms of courses, I plan an honors one-credit offering on *The Tale of Genji*. I have been intending to read this world novel for many years. Our discussions of it and the superb recommendations of secondary sources have inspired me to complete the novel this summer. From there, I will engage in reading the secondary sources recommended. Regardless of whether an honors section becomes viable, this preparation will help with plan #4, the Japanese literature and film course.

While I am eager to teach these courses, I cannot offer any next year because of my sabbatical.

(6) However, the last plan I hope to implement this fall (and, if popular, next spring as well). Our campus has done much to help students obtain employment, including etiquette dinners to inform students about formal manners in business settings. A brown-bag lunch where I could present some points of Japanese cultural etiquette (concerning business cards, seating arrangements, etc.) might be appreciated by as well as interesting to students. I plan to speak to our Dean of the College of Business and Economics to see if she would be supportive of the idea. This is one element of the overall plan that I will be able to carry out next year, during the sabbatical. Professor Higurashi has provided fellows material to carry out many sorts of projects and this type especially, in handouts distributed from her books.

