

2006 Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan

We are pleased to invite applications to the 2006 Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan. This year-long seminar is designed to help five competitively-selected campus teams—each composed of three faculty members from different disciplines—expand their knowledge of Japan and work together to integrate Japan-related content into the curriculum. We encourage you to share this announcement with those at your institution who might be interested.

Background and Overview

Japan is of great current importance, and it will be even more influential during the lifetimes of today's (and tomorrow's) undergraduates. Unfortunately, however, it is insufficiently addressed in most undergraduate curricula. The problem is one of capacity. Although most colleges and universities have a trained Asianist or two, their faculties as a whole are not prepared to provide all students an appropriate introduction to this key non-western area.

Having successfully conducted Japan Seminars from 1998 through 2003, we are now offering a seventh. Similar to its predecessors, the 2006 Japan Seminar will provide a total of 15 faculty members five months of on-campus study, a summer visit to Japan and a fall semester of guided curriculum development. The program, to be led by G. Cameron Hurst and Jane R. Spalding, is designed not for Japan specialists, but for faculty in any discipline. Thanks to a generous grant from the Henry R. Luce Foundation, participation will require an institutional contribution that is only a fraction of the cost of the project. Applications are invited from all accredited U.S. institutions.

Seminar Staff

G. Cameron Hurst III is Professor of Japanese and Korean Studies and Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a widely published and well-regarded Japan scholar, who, with Jane Spalding, successfully co-led the first six Seminars. Jane R. Spalding is Director of U.S. UMAP (University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific), an international exchange project involving some 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Hurst and Spalding will work with the teams throughout the project, both at a distance, as the participants perform their on-campus study, and in person at three points during the project.

The Seminar

The Seminar will begin in January 2006 and conclude in January 2007. It will start with a mandatory two-day orientation meeting for selected teams conducted by Hurst and Spalding January 28 and 29, 2006, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Between February and early June, participants will work on their home campuses. They will complete and discuss each week a set of core readings, and, via a project listserv, share

“The yearlong Japan Seminar is crafted with a degree of intelligence, attention to detail, and rigor that is truly remarkable. It is hard to imagine how a Japan Seminar could be better designed or better executed.”

-Professor Jeanne Maracek, Swarthmore College

“The Japan Seminar is the finest and most effective faculty development effort with which I have ever been associated...The [Seminar's] three components worked together to produce results for Oglethorpe University that are profound and long lasting.” -Professor Ronald Carlisle, Oglethorpe University

their questions and thinking with the Seminar leaders and other participants. Topics of study will include the language, culture, history, philosophy, religion, literature and arts of Japan, as well as that nation's course of modernization, its foreign policy and political economy, its education system, issues pertaining to family, gender, and work in Japan, and the country's sense of its uniqueness. The Seminar leaders will also work with individuals to help them identify readings and other resources relating to their scholarly and teaching interests as well as other Seminar participants who might share these.

In July 2006, the Seminar will embark on an intensively programmed three-week trip to Japan. Participants will visit three or four major areas, including Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tokyo, and explore traditional, industrial, political, economic and regional aspects of Japan. They will meet as a group with a variety of academic colleagues and other leaders in Japan and have an opportunity to explore individual research interests as well.

In the fall 2006, Seminar participants will begin work individually and with campus colleagues to develop new course units, courses and course sequences involving study of Japan. The project listserv will become in this period a forum for the discussion of curricular ideas, syllabi, and related topics. Each team will be expected to develop and share a plan for the wider infusion of Japan-related topics in the curriculum. And all participants will collaborate in the development and critique of course syllabi. The final meeting of the Seminar will be held in Philadelphia in January 2007. At this gathering, teams will share and critique ideas, report on progress toward implementation, and plan continuing communication and collaboration.

Application Procedure

The Seminar is not intended for Japan specialists or for faculty with substantial Japan-related experience, but for faculty in any discipline who, with this study and experience, will be equipped to give attention to Japan in their courses. It is open

to faculty members in the full range of fields taught at the undergraduate level, including the arts and sciences and professional disciplines. However, it is our experience that humanities and social science faculty benefit most from participation. Institutions are therefore asked to nominate three team members from three different disciplines, plus one alternate.

Because external funding to cover the majority of project costs has been secured, the basic contribution required of the five selected schools will be held to \$13,000 each, due March 3, 2006. Expenses related to the teams' attendance at the two project meetings are also the institution's responsibility. As additional evidence of institutional commitment, it is strongly suggested that institutions consider providing participating faculty stipends or released time.

Included here are the materials needed to make application to the Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan—a cover sheet and guidelines for a required narrative statement. Should you have questions, you may wish to contact either Jane Spalding at <janespalding@earthlink.net> or Cameron Hurst at <gchurst@sas.upenn.edu>. Please note that applications may be submitted at any time before Monday, December 5, 2005. Successful applicants are assured a response by Friday, December 9, and all other applicants by the year's end.

Please complete the cover sheet and attach it to a narrative statement conforming to the guidelines below. Two copies of the entire application should be sent to:

2006 Japan Seminar
Center for East Asian Studies
642 Williams Hall/6305
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305

*“Many faculty development programs begin and end with faculty members. However, the Japan Seminar ends with students.”
-Professor Louis Le Blanc, Berry College*

Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan Cover Sheet

Please complete this cover sheet and attach it to a narrative statement conforming to the guidelines on the reverse of this sheet. Two copies of the entire application should be sent to: 2006 Japan Seminar, Center for East Asian Studies, 642 Williams Hall/6305, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305. Applications may be submitted at any time before Monday, December 5, 2006. All successful applicants are assured a response by Friday, December 9, and all other applicants by year's end.

Institution _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

Team Members:

1. Name: _____ Title: _____
Campus Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

2. Name: _____ Title: _____
Campus Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

3. Name: _____ Title: _____
Campus Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Alternate:

1. Name: _____ Title: _____
Campus Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

If selected, my institution will take part in the Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan and meet all terms of participation set forth in the accompanying materials.

Signed: _____
(president or chief executive officer)

Guidelines for Narrative Statement

The narrative part of the application should be clear and concise (between three and four pages in length); it should include no appendices. Questions you might wish to address include:

- What is stimulating institutional desire for greater attention to international education and to Japan in particular? What evidence is there of institutional commitment to faculty and curriculum development of the kind this Seminar will foster? What work already has been undertaken? By whom? What results have been achieved so far?
- On what kinds of tasks, and in what areas of the curriculum, would you expect your institutional team to work? How would the accomplishment of these tasks further your institution's international agenda?
- What do you believe your institution can contribute to the Seminar?

Selection Process

Each application will be judged principally on the evidence it presents demonstrating that the Seminar will assist the applying institution. The selection panel, however, also will balance a number of other considerations to ensure a representative group of participants. To the extent possible, the five institutions selected will represent a range of institutional types and geographic regions.

“The president and dean of faculty at my college were so impressed by the Japan Seminar that they asked me to arrange a similar seminar on China for the faculty of our college. In this case, imitation is the most sincere form of flattery.” -Professor Robert Foster, Berea College

“I participated in the 2000 Japan Seminar and consider this experience one of the most important of my academic career.” - Associate Dean Frieda Blackwell, Baylor University

“I believe that this seminar has provided faculty members from across the U.S. with a knowledge of Japan that can't be replicated in any other such program. I have participated in two other faculty development seminars that paled in comparison.” -Professor Dan Messerschmidt, Lynchburg College

“The Japan Seminar is an exemplary program and one of the most rewarding and enriching that I have participated in during my career. Moreover, it was one of the few endeavors, if not the only such endeavor, I have participated in that actually managed to deliver the interdisciplinary dialogue that is often promised in academia.” -Professor Larry Poos, The Catholic University of American

*“The impact of the Japan Seminar on our student body is colossal. It has produced the most sought after Senior Honors Seminar ever. Your efforts are a great success and a special service to the nation.”
-Professor Emmanuel Babatunde, Lincoln University*