

Minnesota State University Moorhead Hiroshima Peace Studies Tour, Spring 2008

Course Description:

Is war inherent to human nature? Is targeting civilians in war ever ethical? Is the use of nuclear weapons ethical? How do other countries view the possession and use of nuclear weapons? How do advances in science and technology affect the conduct of war? Students will have an opportunity to explore and discuss these questions, and more.

This interdisciplinary course is worth 3 credits (Dragon Core 8, Global Perspectives; or Liberal Studies F, Global Studies). It is planned around a one week trip to Hiroshima, Japan, where the world's first nuclear weapons were dropped in August 1945, changing the nature of war forever. Students will pursue individual projects, and perform field work assignments in Hiroshima. This course develops the following dragon core competencies, allowing students to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of our universal human concerns.
- Discuss global perspectives and world views by giving attention to the perceptions of peoples of various regions of the world as well as difference stemming from cultures, arts, ideologies, and institutions.
- Demonstrate the critical thinking skills necessary for participation in the global community.
- Demonstrate an understanding of more than one language.

Class:

Hagen Hall, Room 325

Pre-trip meeting dates:

Wednesday, January 9, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 16, 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, January 23, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 6, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20, 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 27, 7-9 p.m.

Travel to Hiroshima:

February 29, 2008 – March 8 (Spring Break)

Post trip discussion:

Wednesday, March 19, 7-9 p.m.

Final report and journal due:

Thursday, May 1

Faculty:

Professor Takanori Mita is chair of the Department of Languages and Culture. He comes originally from Tokyo, and teaches courses in Japanese language and culture.

Professor Ananda Shastri teaches in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He teaches physics courses at all levels, and has taught a course called “Issues of the Nuclear Age” for the Honors Program.

Course Goals:

- To study the science and history of nuclear weapons, and issues of peace, using resources, speakers, and institutes in Hiroshima.
- To develop skills for thinking reflectively and analytically.
- To learn about Japanese language and culture.

Overview:

After pre-trip preparatory meetings to lay scientific, historical, and cultural foundations, the class will travel to Hiroshima, Japan during Spring Break. The class will visit the Peace Park and Peace Museum, as well as the Radiation Effects Research Center (RERF). Talks by scholars from Hiroshima University on peace studies topics, by *hibakusha* on their experiences of the atomic bomb, and by RERF scientists on research topics, will be presented. The rich culture of Japan will also be discussed through visits to historical and cultural sites, such as Hiroshima Castle, and the island of Miyajima. Participants will be required to make daily journal entries. The final course paper will address an appropriate topic developed during the trip, and encompass the interdisciplinary nature of the course.

Course Information

Required Readings:

- Course packet
- War: The Lethal Custom, by Gwynne Dyer
- Web postings

Course Web Page: <http://physweb.mnstate.edu/Hiroshima>.

Journal:

Students will keep a journal of their experiences. A journal is a thoughtful reflection on, and integration of, individual experiences into a broader perspective. It is suggested that students buy a composition notebook, available from the bookstore, in which to record journal entries. Students may also wish to purchase a small tape recorder to take notes, and then transcribe them to the notebook later. A final, typed version of the travel journal will be submitted for a grade. The journal will also contain exercises called “fieldwork assignments.” Fieldwork will require use of facilities or resources in Hiroshima, and time will be given during the trip for students to perform these assignments.

Paper:

Students will be expected to write a well organized, focused final paper on a suitable peace studies theme, no longer than 10 double-spaced pages.

Grading:

Your typed travel journal and final paper will each be worth 50% of your overall grade. They will be due finals week 2008, the exact date to be announced. Course grades will be assigned on an absolute scale shown below:

A-/A+	B-/B+	C-/C+
90-100%	80-90%	70-80%
D-/D+	F	
60-70%	Below 60%	

Policies:

1. Pre- and post- trip meetings are mandatory. Missed meetings may result in a reduction of course grade.
2. Attendance at all scheduled events in Hiroshima is mandatory.
3. Academic honesty policy will be strictly followed, and may be viewed at <http://www.mnstate.edu/sthandbook/POLICY/index.htm>.
4. This trip may require strenuous walking and hiking. Participants must be able to negotiate a steep climb with or without accommodations. Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Coordinator of Disability Services at 477-5859 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 222 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Academic Program and Trip Itinerary**Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 7-9 p.m.**

Thinking about war and peace. This lecture will look at the history of war with a focus on how technological advances and historical forces altered the treatment of civilians in war. This will be followed by a discussion, and a Japanese language activity.

Wednesday, January 16, 6-9 p.m (Note the earlier start time).

View the film *Hiroshima*, which gives an account of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Wednesday, January 23, 7-9 p.m.

Discussion of film *Hiroshima* and assigned reading. This will be followed by a Japanese language activity.

Wednesday February 6, 7-9 p.m.

Group discussions: Is war inherent to human nature, and other big questions. This will be followed by a Japanese language activity.

Wednesday, February 13, 7-9 p.m.

Japanese perspectives. This lecture will focus on the complex feelings Japanese people have regarding the targeting of civilians during World War II. This will be followed by a discussion, and a Japanese language activity.

Wednesday, February 20, 7-9 p.m.

Nuclear physics and the effects of nuclear weapons. This interactive presentation will explain the science behind the tremendous energy released in nuclear processes, and introduce the main effects of nuclear weapons. This will be followed by a Japanese language activity.

Wednesday, February 27, 7-9 p.m.

Final discussions and trip preparations.

Friday, February 29-Saturday, March 1 Participants will depart from Fargo, fly to Osaka, Japan, take a bullet train to Hiroshima, arrive in early evening, and check in to the Aster Plaza Hotel.

Sunday, March 2

Participants will undergo orientation to the area, including how to use public transportation, the location of restaurants, and other survival skills necessary for the tour.

Monday, March 3

- Visit Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation
- Listen to speaker on peace studies issues
- Visit Peace Museum and Peace Park
- Visit Hall of Remembrance
- Perform fieldwork assignments

(insert picture of HPCF here)

Tuesday, March 4

- Tour Radiation Effects Research Foundation
- Talk by scientist
- Perform fieldwork assignments

(insert picture of RERF here)

Wednesday, March 5

- Hear talk by a-bomb survivor
- Hear talks by peace studies scholars
- Perform fieldwork assignments

(insert picture of workstations here)

Thursday, March 6

- Visit Miyajima
- Visit Hiroshima Castle
- Perform fieldwork assignments

(insert pictures of Miyajima here)

Friday, March 7

- Free day to complete fieldwork and explore the city.
(insert picture of city here)

Saturday, March 8

- Return to Fargo

Wednesday, March 19, 7-9 p.m.

Post trip informal discussion, sharing of experiences, course evaluations.

General Information

Cost:

Air fare	\$1,340
Accommodations	\$241
Meals	\$229
Ground transportation	\$267
Conference/Museum fees	\$10
Program related costs	\$374
Total (not including tuition)	\$2,461
Tuition*	\$508

*Tuition applies only if the course is taken for credit.

All quoted prices are based on prices and currency exchanges at the time of printing, and are subject to change accordingly. In the event that the tour does not fill with 20 participants, the cost will increase.

Application Deadline:

Submit the application form (found on website or in International Programs Office) and a (non-refundable) \$200 deposit no later than October 19, 2007. The program is limited to 20 participants, with first priority going to students in physics, honors, and Japanese language/culture programs. You will be notified whether you are accepted into the course or placed on a waiting list.

Financial Aid:

Students taking the course for credit may apply for financial aid after September 10.

Payment Deadlines:

Students not using financial aid to pay for the trip must make the minimum installments listed below by the deadlines indicated. Failure to make a payment may result in elimination from the tour and loss of fees.

Date	Payment
October 19	\$200 (deposit) +\$600
November 16	\$800
December 14	\$400
January 14	\$461

Cancellation and Refunds:

Please make all cancellations in writing. Cancellation before November 16 will result in loss of the \$200 deposit. After tickets are ordered on November 16, there will be no refunds. It becomes the responsibility of the participant to negotiate exchanges or refunds with the airline.

Travel Documents:

Participants are responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents before departure. A passport is required of all U.S. citizens. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. If you are not a U.S. citizen please call the International Programs office to determine if you need to apply for a visa.

Accommodations:

Students will stay in the Aster Plaza Hotel, which is conveniently located a 10 minute walk away from the Peace Park and Peace Museum, and lies in the heart of downtown Hiroshima. The hotel is close to a 7-11 convenience store, is across the street from a bank and post office, and is near coffee shops. Students may choose between a Japanese-style room for three, or a Western-style room for one person. Space is limited for the Japanese-style rooms.

Meals:

Cost of meals is included in the trip fee. Usually, students will be free to find dining options that suit their tastes. Within a 15 minute walk of the hotel are noodle shops, a 7-11 convenience store, sushi bars, Western-style family restaurants, and ethnic restaurants.

Transportation:

The trip fee covers the cost of all transportation associated with the course. Students will travel by plane, taxi, street car, bus, train, and ferry. Use of the Japanese language will be encouraged, and instructions in the use of public transportation will be given during orientation.

Language:

Lectures and talks will be in English, or translated by an interpreter. In the pre-trip meetings, students will be introduced to basic Japanese.

Insurance:

Insurance covers evacuation and repatriation of remains. Students are encouraged to purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance, which is not included in the overall fee.

Contact Information:

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Want to learn more? Attend the information meeting on September 5, 2007, from 7-8 p.m. in Hagen Hall 325.