

University of Indianapolis
ST 299-Hiroshima Peace Study
Department of English
Spring Term 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This 3-credit-hour interdisciplinary course fulfills the social responsibility aspect of UIndy's learning goals as outlined in the strategic plan. It is planned around a week trip to Hiroshima, Japan, the site of the first atomic bomb attack. Students will read literary works addressing the a-bomb aftermath, pursue individual projects that examine or interpret a-bomb experiences, perform field work assignments and volunteer work at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park. Through the presentations at the end of the semester (and participation in the Service-Learning Expo in December 2010), the students will participate in the dissemination of Hiroshima's peace message.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *Black Rain* by Masuji Ibuse
- *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses* by Tamiki Hara, Yoko Ota, and Sankichi Toge

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand our universal human concerns and to become a responsible global citizen
- To become a critical thinker who can participate in the global community
- To understand how the *hibakusha's* (victims') experiences have been interpreted in literature
- To demonstrate a beginning understanding of Japanese literature, particularly a-bomb literature, and culture

TEACHING METHOD: To accomplish the above-mentioned course objectives, this course will be taught mainly by class discussion and field experience in Hiroshima.

FEE: \$3,000 for travel (including airfare and accommodations)

FIELD EXPERIENCE: Osaka (airport), Hiroshima, Miyajima (an island nearby Hiroshima city—it is famous for its shrine) and Kyoto, Japan

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance:** I will expect you to be on time and be prepared to discuss the work. You must participate in the field experience. I will not do "make up" work with students who cannot provide sufficient explanations for their absences. Consider two absences as a maximum. After

that, your grade will be affected. I will consider excusing absences in extreme situations if you contact me before class.

2. Cell phones and similar devices should not be seen or heard during class time. Do not text-message during class time either. I advise you not to use your cell phone while in Japan even if you get the signal. International call using a cell phone is very expensive.
3. Response essays: You must write a 2-page, typed, double-spaced essay responding to the reading assignment each day of the class. This response should not be a mere summary of what you read, but should record your thoughts and reactions to the reading.
4. Journal: While you are in Japan, you will keep a journal of your experience. This should not be a mere list of what you did and what you saw, but should be a thoughtful reflection of your activities, including field (research) work and/or volunteering.
5. Field (research) work/volunteering: Field (research) work/volunteering activities are a required element of the course. These activities should be carefully recorded in your journal.
6. Final Paper: You will write a 4 to 6 page essay based on your field work in Hiroshima. Your essay should participate in the dissemination of Hiroshima's peace message and demonstrate your understanding of human concerns. If you choose a creative writing option, your writing must demonstrate your understanding of Hiroshima's peace message and/or a-bomb literature.
7. Presentation: Your presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long and should be based on your final paper.

GRADES

I will not discuss your grade by phone or e-mail, but if you give me a written permission, I can discuss your grade by e-mail. If you have any questions, please come see me.

Response Essay	20%	
Journal	20%	
Field (research) work/Volunteering	10%	
Final Paper	30%	
Presentation	10%	
Participation/attendance	10%	Total: 100%

CONFERENCES: If you have problems or concerns, see me individually during my office hours or arrange a time for a special meeting. I especially encourage you to bring the draft of your final paper to me with specific questions before the final paper is due.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when you pass off someone else's words or ideas as your own, and it is a form of stealing. I don't expect to see plagiarism in this class. If I do, each case will be dealt with on an individual

basis. For a first time offense, the minimum penalty will be failure for the assignment in question. If you turn in plagiarized work a second time, you will fail the course. For additional details about this process, please consult the English department website. All confirmed cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Director of Campus Life, and Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, as required by the University handbook. If you are doing research and are unsure how to incorporate someone else's work/idea into your own in a valid manner, please ask—I will be more than happy to help you out so that there's no danger of confusion.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The trip and field work in Hiroshima may require walking and hiking, and Japanese buildings are often not so accommodating to people with physical disabilities. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please inform me immediately so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. Students with a disability must register with the Services for Students with Disabilities office (SSD) in Schwitzer Center 206 (317-788-6153/www.uindy.edu/ssd) for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. You are responsible for initiating arrangements for accommodations for tests and other assignments in collaboration with the SSD and the faculty.

POTENTIAL FIELD RESEARCH TOPIC/FINAL PROJECT

- Write a children's story to disseminate Hiroshima's peace message
- Write an original, creative work, using Hiroshima as a setting and a-bomb as a topic (painting, photography, etc.)
- Interview visitors (probably international visitors who speak English) about their impression of Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park; write a profile essay on the place
- If we have a chance to talk to the victims, you may want to work on an oral history project, recording the victims' personal stories.

Schedule

May 3 (M)	Introduction to the course and a brief history of Japan View a film and discussion
May 4 (T)	Response essay due Introduction of Hiroshima and discussion on <i>Black Rain</i>
May 5 (W)	Response essay due Discussion on Tamiki Hara and a brief language lesson
May 6 (R)	Response essay due

	Discussion on Yoko Ota and a brief lesson on Japanese culture, language lesson continues; field work planning
May 7 (F)	Response essay due
	Discussion on Sankichi Toge and preparation for the trip to Japan, language lesson and field work planning continues
May 8 (S)	Leave for Japan
May 9 (S)	Arrive in Osaka, Japan; orientation; visit the Osaka castle
May 10 (M)	Travel to Hiroshima by <i>Shinkansen</i> -bullet train; Visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park
May 11 (T)	Field research/volunteering*
May 12 (W)	Field research/volunteering*
May 13 (R)	Field research/volunteering*
May 14 (F)	A short trip to Miyajima in the morning; Leave for Kyoto; Visit the Golden Pavilion
May 15 (S)	Visit the Kiyomizu temple, etc.; leave for Osaka
May 16 (S)	Leave for/arrive at Indianapolis
May 17 (M)	No meeting
May 18 (T)	No meeting
May 19 (W)	Post-trip meeting; discussion
May 20 (R)	Finish up the final paper; peer review
May 21 (F)	Final paper and journal due
	Presentations and course evaluation

* We may have an opportunity to listen to the *Hibakusha's* (A-bomb victim's) story and/or to interact with the students from a local university.