

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. Depending on the mode of transportation, students may be issued money for the purchase of tickets. 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 a simultaneous interpreter. The use of the Japanese language to communicate basic needs will be encouraged. In the pre-trip meetings, students will be introduced to basic Japanese.

Credits

Students will earn 3 credits in global studies (F credits) for completion of this course.

Insurance

The cost of an International Student ID card is included in the trip cost. Students should visit the International Studies Program office and have their card issued before the trip. The card 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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Minnesota State University Moorhead

HIROSHIMA

Peace Studies Tour

March 10th - 18th, 2006

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One hundred years ago, Albert Einstein wrote the famous paper that included the formula $E=mc^2$ and revealed the enormous energy that can be released when atomic nuclei split apart. Forty years later, the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending World War II.

This Hiroshima Peace Studies Tour is an interdisciplinary course worth 3 F credits, and is planned around a nine day trip to Hiroshima, Japan, where the first atomic bomb was dropped in August 1945. Topics will include: the science of radiation and nuclear weapons; the experiences of those who lived through the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; how these experiences are relevant to the rest of humanity; and Japanese history, language, and culture. Students will pursue individual projects, and perform field work assignments in Hiroshima.

CLASS:

Pre-trip meeting dates:

January 23, 6-9 p.m.

February 6, 7-8 p.m.

February 13, 7-8 p.m.

February 20, 7-8 p.m.

February 27, 7-8 p.m.

March 6, 7-8 p.m.

Travel to Hiroshima:

Friday, March 10 - Saturday, March 18, 2006
(Spring Break)

FACULTY

Professor Takanori Mita is chair of the Department of Languages and Cultures. He's originally from Tokyo and teaches courses in Japanese language and culture.

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

COURSE GOALS

The goals of the course include understanding the physical, social, and psychological effects of nuclear weapons through fieldwork performed in Hiroshima, Japan.

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 people who experienced the atomic bombing, 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
- Web postings
- 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, to record their 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 10-15 page final paper on a suitable peace studies theme. The paper should draw on the student's experiences from the trip.

Grading

The typed travel journal and final paper will each be worth 50% of the overall grade. They will be due finals week 2006, the exact date to be announced.

Course grades will be assigned on an absolute scale according to:

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

Policies

1. Pre-trip meetings are mandatory. Missed meetings may result in student being excluded from the trip.
2. Attendance at all scheduled events in Hiroshima is mandatory.
3. Academic honesty policy will be strictly followed, and may be viewed at www.mnstate.edu/sthandbook
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 / TRIP ITINERARY

Monday, January 23, 2006, 6-9 p.m.

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

Monday, February 6, 7-8 p.m.

Atoms, nuclei, and radioactivity. This introductory lecture will explain the science behind the tremendous energy released in nuclear processes.

Monday, February 13, 7-8 p.m.

Effects of nuclear weapons. This lecture will introduce the main effects of nuclear weapons, and discuss the relevance of the pre-trip reading material on peace issues.

Monday February 20, 7-8 p.m.

Basic Japanese language instruction. This session will help participants to build situational oral and reading skills for the trip, such as reading signs, ordering food, and using public transportation.

Monday, February 27, 7-8 p.m.

Japanese culture exploration. This session covers behavioral and non-behavioral aspects of Japanese society, some different viewpoints of wartime Japan, and its quick post-war recovery.

Monday, March 6, 7-8 p.m.

Final trip preparations.

Friday, March 10-Saturday, March 11

Participants will depart from Fargo, fly to Osaka, Japan, take a bullet train to Hiroshima, arrive in the early evening, and check in to the Aster Plaza Hotel.

Sunday, March 12

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 13

- 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



Tuesday, March 14

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



Wednesday, March 15

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



Thursday, March 16

- Visit Miyajima
- Visit Hiroshima Castle
- Perform fieldwork assignments

Friday, March 17

- Free day to complete fieldwork and explore the city.



Saturday, March 18

- Return to Fargo

GENERAL INFORMATION

Application deadline

The application deadline is October 28, 2005. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required with reservation form and will be applied toward the trip cost. The program is limited to 20 participants, with first priority going to students in physics, honors, and Japanese language/culture programs.

Cost

Air fare	\$1,197
Accommodations	\$241
Meals	\$229
Ground transportation	\$265
Other program related costs	\$331
ID card	\$22

Total (not including tuition)	\$2,285
Tuition	\$597

Students taking the course for credit may apply for financial aid after September 15. Students not requesting financial aid will be billed by the Business Office.

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.

Cancellation and refunds

Please make all cancellations in writing. The \$100 deposit is non-refundable. Airline tickets will be ordered from the travel agency November 18. After the ticket is issued, it becomes the responsibility of the participant to pursue 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. Each morning the students will be issued a meal allowance. Usually, students will be free to find dining options that suit their tastes. Within a 15-minute walk of the hotel are noodle shops, sushi bars, Western-style family restaurants, and ethnic restaurants.

- Come to the informational meeting
September 12th, 7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
King Hall room 110.