

ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS IN JAPAN

A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR SECONDARY TEACHERS

JANUARY 22 - MARCH 11, 2025

The role of the natural environment is a recent scholarly lens providing new perspectives and understandings of early modern and modern Japanese history, geography, and culture. Applying this focus, this course critically analyzes the popular notion of Japanese harmony with nature, investigates the theme of people being shaped by and shaping their environment, and explores how Japan can be referred to as both the “green” and “toxic” archipelago. Grounded in the concept of “environmental relations” participating teachers will consider how nature and culture constitute Japan in time and place and continually reconstitute it. Features primary and secondary sources and addresses themes that encompass the disciplines of world history, geography, literature and art.

Course Format and Expectations:

Each module is two weeks long, divided as follows: 1) a one-week reading period; 2) a live hour-long webinar with a specialist on the topic; and 3) a second week for asynchronous online discussion with an NCTA instructor, focusing on classroom integration. The course begins with an Intro Week, Jan 22. The three two-week modules run Jan 29-Feb 11, Feb 12-25, and Feb 26-Mar 11. Participants must be able to attend the live Zoom webinars: February 4, February 18, and March 4 all at 7 pm ET, and participate in the week-long asynchronous discussion period following each live meeting. The Curriculum Implementation Plan (CIP) and evaluation are due March 25.

Benefits:

24 instructional contact hours including reading and discussion with specialists and fellow educators. Upon submission of all assignments, a certificate of completion for 24 professional development hours, & a \$100 completion stipend.

Eligibility:

Secondary teachers nationwide are invited to apply. Priority will be given to contract world history and humanities teachers whose required curriculum includes Japan. Course size caps at 25 and closes January 20 or when course fills.

For inquiries:

catherine.ishida@colorado.edu

APPLY ONLINE AT:

tinyurl.com/TEAcourseregistration



This course is made possible through funding from the Freeman Foundation to the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, Program for Teaching East Asia, University of Colorado Boulder.