

# TEA News

August 2014

Featuring opportunities for educators,  
updates, and resources

## TEA Programs

### National Opportunities

### Registering Now! Fall 2014 TEA National Online Courses through NCTA and J-OPP

### Colorado Programs

### Featured Resources

All of the professional development courses listed below are open to teachers nationwide. Thanks to grants from the Freeman Foundation and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, these NCTA and J-OPP courses are free to inservice teachers, and each offers incentives such as a completion stipend and materials. Courses over 20 hours offer the option of graduate credit. See details of each course for specific information.

The Program for  
Teaching East Asia  
University of  
Colorado Boulder  
595 UCB  
Boulder, CO 80309

(303) 735-5122



**J-OPP/NCTA Online Seminar: *Cracking the Samurai Code: Separating Fact from Fiction in Teaching about Samurai*. Application deadline: Friday, September 12, 2014 (or when course fills).** From Hollywood to video games, samurai are among the most recognizable – and most misinterpreted – of Japanese historical figures. How can this high-interest “hook” be used to effectively and accurately explore Japanese history and culture? With an emphasis on primary source readings, this course offers historical context, resources, and a forum for discussing strategies for teaching about Japan through case studies of samurai over time. This three-module asynchronous course is open to middle and high school teachers, with preference to teachers west of the Mississippi. The course runs from September 26 – November 13. See [full details and course registration](#) on the TEA website.

**Online Seminar: *Teaching about China's Political System*. Application deadline: Thursday, September 4, 2014 (or when course fills).** Offered by the NCTA National Coordinating Site at TEA, University of Colorado Boulder, this online seminar was co-developed by political scientists with expertise on China in consultation with AP comparative government teachers. The fall 2014 offering runs from September 20 – December 7. The 25-hour asynchronous seminar addresses instructional objectives of the AP comparative government course and provides essential background to all teachers who cover contemporary China in their courses. See [full details and registration instructions](#) on the TEA website.

**Online Seminar: *Cultural Encounters: Japan's Diverse Past and Present*. Application deadline: Thursday, September 4, 2014 (or when course fills).** This online course for middle and high school teachers of world history examines episodes in Japan's international and intercultural relations from the Nara period to the present, with special attention to Japanese approaches and responses to cross-border movement of peoples, ideas, and materials. Content will address the World History Content Standards and AP World History Course Guidelines. The course runs from September 11 – December 11. See [full details and registration instructions](#) on the TEA website.

**NCTA Book Group: *Chinese Characters: Profiles of Fast-Changing Lives in a Fast-Changing Land*. Application deadline: Saturday, September 20, 2014 (or when course fills).** Open to high school teachers, this book group will focus on the publication

*Chinese Characters* (2012), edited by Angilee Shah and Jeffrey Wasserstrom. The book presents profiles of 15 diverse Chinese citizens making their way in a nation on the move. These short biographies challenge oversimplified views of China and present a more multifaceted portrait of a country undergoing extraordinary transformations. Participants in this online book group will read and discuss selected case studies from the book, consider themes and issues raised through the profiles, and share ideas for using the highlighted individuals and their stories in the classroom. The book group consists of three online reading and discussion sessions running from October 6 – November 23, with an additional 10 days to prepare and submit a teaching plan. See **full details and course registration** on the TEA website. Priority will be given to high school social studies teachers who teach about China.

## National Opportunities

**Asian Art Museum Offers Webinar on *The Arts of Tea*. Saturday, August 30, 2014, 10:30 am PDT.** San Francisco's Asian Art Museum, in collaboration with World Savvy and the University of California Berkeley, offers this free webinar facilitated by museum staff, a scholar with knowledge of Medieval Japan, and a curriculum specialist. The webinar will last approximately one hour, and **preregistration** is required.

**Applications for Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program Now Available. Application deadline: November 1, 2014.** Elementary and secondary educators are eligible to apply for the chance to study in another country for three to six months during the 2015-2016 school year. Winners of these Fulbright Awards will conduct research abroad, gaining cultural knowledge and global perspectives, as well as learning new instructional methods and assessment techniques. They also have the opportunity to share best practices with international colleagues and students. Educators can travel to the following areas in Asia (additional countries may be added): Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, and India. For more information, click **here**.

**Children's Book Author Holly Thompson Available for School Visits This Fall.** During fall 2014, Holly Thompson, author of numerous children's and young adult books about Japan and a frequent presenter at TEA events, is available for interactive presentations for grades K-12. She will tailor her presentations to fit a teacher's curriculum and will work with up to five classes per day. Charges are \$500/day plus transportation from Boston and accommodation if needed. For more information and a list of Thompson's books, visit her **website**.

**National Geographic Offers Young Explorers Grants.** Teachers early in their careers or high school seniors may be interested in this program, which provides young people aged 18 through 25 grants of up to \$5000 for field research, exploration, conservation, filmmaking, and journalism. At present, National Geographic is especially interested in projects in East and Southeast Asia. For more information, visit the Young Explorers **website**.

## Colorado Programs

**Center for Asian Studies Hosts Korean Consul General for Presentation on *Korea Now*. Thursday, September 4, 4 pm.** Consul General Dong Man Han of the Consulate General of Korea in San Francisco will discuss *Korea Now*. The event will be held in Humanities, Room 250, on the University of Colorado Boulder campus. For more

information, visit the CAS [website](#).

**Explore *The Basis of Effective Japanese Pedagogy* with Professor Yoshikazu Kawaguchi. Friday, September 19, 3 pm.** The Center for Asian Studies is hosting this session in which Dr. Kawaguchi, recently retired from Waseda University in Tokyo, will examine the foundations of Japanese teaching methods. The presentation will be held in Humanities, Room 370, on the University of Colorado Boulder campus. For more information, click [here](#).

**Denver Public Library Hosts Norihito's Kiri-e Exhibit. Through Sunday, September 28, 2014.** Kiri-e involves cutting intricate designs in paper to create delicate artwork. This exhibit, presented in partnership with Denver's sister city of Takayama, features the work of artist Norihito Yoshimoto. The exhibit is presented on the fifth floor of the Central Library at 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway during regular library hours. Visit the Library [website](#) for more information.

### Featured Resources

The Japan National Tourism Organization is the government agency that promotes travel to Japan. To assist teachers wishing to plan school trips to Japan, JNTO publishes *Experience Japan Beyond the Classroom*, an eight-page planning resource. The brochure includes information on volunteer guide services, organizations that arrange home stays, universities with thriving exchange programs, and exchange programs coordinated by prefectural governments. For a free copy, contact JNTO's [Los Angeles](#) or [New York](#) office.

*New Books in Asian Studies* presents podcasts of in-depth interviews with authors of new scholarly works in Asian Studies. The works featured are far-ranging; recent interviews have included Gregory Smits, author of two books on earthquakes and seismology in Japan; Craig Clunas, who has written about royal art and power in Ming China; and Christina Laffin, who has studied women in medieval Japan. The [site](#) is hosted by Carla Nappi, an assistant professor of Chinese history at the University of British Columbia.

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