

The Program for Teaching East Asia at the University of Colorado Boulder

TEA News

August 2015

Featuring opportunities for educators,
updates, and resources

TEA National Programs

National Opportunities

Colorado Programs

NCTA State and Local Opportunities

Featured Resources

The Program for Teaching East Asia

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TEA National Programs

Four TEA-NCTA Fall Online Courses Registering Now!

Precarious Japan: Global Issues in Contemporary Japan. September 17-December 2. **Application deadline: Wednesday, September 9.** In this 20-hour course, secondary classroom teachers nationwide will look at how crucial social, economic, and security issues are affecting and being addressed in contemporary Japan. Participants will discuss instruction about these issues as they explore a variety of secondary and Japanese primary sources, including TV dramas and short stories, and hold video conversations with Japanese preservice teachers. **Details and application.**

China Under Mao: Modernization, Mobilization, and Mass Campaigns. September 21-December 21. Open to secondary classroom teachers nationwide who teach about modern China, this five-module online seminar examines the social, cultural, political, and economic changes in China under the leadership of Mao Zedong by looking at two of his most far-reaching and impactful mass campaigns: the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution. The seminar will provide essential background, contemporary scholarship, and primary sources to better understand and more effectively teach the causes and effects of these campaigns. **Details and registration.**

Note: Take two! Plan now to take NCTA's Winter 2016 "companion course"—an online book group *Chinese Literature: Literature of the Cultural Revolution*.

NCTA Book Group: *China in Ten Words*, by Yu Hua. October 5-December 12. Yu Hua's novel *To Live* is a classic used in many secondary classrooms. Explore a different side of this controversial Chinese writer by exploring the critical and contentious essays in his 2011 publication *China in Ten Words*. Yu writes about life in the PRC as it undergoes rapid changes, growing social and economic divides, and reform campaigns and their underlying issues. Due to the essays' content, book group preference will be given to high school social studies and literature teachers who teach about China. **Details and registration.**

NCTA Book Group: *Modern Chinese Literature 1980-2000*. September 16-October 21. Emerging from the Mao era, during which artistic creativity was hindered and punished, the early 1980s opened up new avenues of expression for authors who experimented with new forms, themes, and voices. Explore the rapid changes that took place in the first 20 years of China's reforms through short stories that can be read with students to delve into this period of social, political, and ideological change. Co-sponsored by the NCTA sites at TEA and Asia for Educators at Columbia University, this book group will consider approximately 12 short stories in five one-week sessions. Register **here.**

New Online Curriculum on Early 20th-Century Japan

TEA announces a new collection of teacher-developed lessons—***Becoming Modern:***

Early 20th-Century Japan through Primary Sources. The collection, available [here](#), offers secondary teachers seven lessons that examine a critical period in Japanese and world history: the period of Japan's modernization and international expansion from the 1880s through the 1920s. The lessons draw upon a range of historical source materials—including art, literature, memoir, interviews, board games, and government documents—to teach Japanese history using pedagogical approaches that address national content standards and Common Core skills. This curriculum is a project of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) at the Program for Teaching East Asia (TEA), University of Colorado.

National Opportunities

Cheng and Tsui Professional Development Grant. Application deadline: Thursday, September 10, 2015. Applications are open for the 2015 Cheng and Tsui Professional Development grants. At least two Japanese language teachers will be awarded grants of up to \$500 to attend a conference or workshop, collaborate with a mentor teacher, or participate in another inservice training experience. Information about applying is online at the American Association of Teachers of Japanese [website](#).

Nominations Open for AATJ Awards. Nomination deadline: Sunday, September 20. Nominate a colleague for a 2015 American Association for Teachers of Japanese (AATJ) teacher award. Awards are given in two categories: K-12 level and community college/college/university level. The awards recognize teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching, advocacy, and leadership in Japanese education. For complete information and nomination forms, visit the AATJ [website](#).

Online Book Group for Middle Level: *Heart of a Samurai*. September 20-November 4. *Heart of a Samurai* is the true story of a shipwrecked 14-year-old boy from Japan who traveled to Fairhaven, MA, with the whaling ship that rescued him in 1841; in 1854, he played a role in the establishment of relations between Japan and the United States. Offered by the Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia and NCTA at Columbia University, the book group consists of five weeklong sessions (one section of the book per week) and offers 10 professional development hours. Register [here](#).

Applications Available for 2016-2017 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching. Application deadline: Wednesday, November 4. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Institute of International Education, this program allows teachers to go abroad for three to six months to take classes at an international university, observe classes, offer seminars in local schools, and complete a project of their own design. Areas in Asia to which U.S. teachers may travel include India, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. More information is available from [IIE](#).

Special Strand on 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference. November 13-15, 2015 in New Orleans. Plan now to attend a memorable NCSS annual conference. Highlights of the special strand on Hiroshima and Nagasaki include the following:

Friday, November 13

- Conference featured speaker: Masaya Nemoto, “Sufferings of Survivors, Actions for Peace: Hiroshima Atomic Bomb.” Mr. Nemoto is an ethnographic researcher at Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, studying atomic bomb survivors in Japan and the United States. Sponsored by the Asia Community.

- Conference featured speaker: Masahiro Sasaki. Mr. Sasaki, a Hiroshima *hibakusha* and brother of Sadako Sasaki, is the founder of the Sadako Legacy, which extends Sadako's message of "*omoiyari no kokoro*," or compassionate heart, as an agent of peace and reconciliation. He will be speaking about his work in Japan and around the world. Sponsored by NCTA and the Japan Society.

Saturday, November 14

- Asia Community Breakfast. Learn about Asia Community activities; get involved in promoting education about Asia through the NCSS Asia Community.
- Conference featured speakers: Masahiro Sasaki and Clifton Truman Daniels. Mr. Daniels, grandson of Harry Truman, is active in promoting the legacy of his grandfather and is currently working on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Sasaki and Daniels will speak on the legacy of Hiroshima and their work for peace education. Sponsored by NCTA and the Japan Society.

Sunday, November 15

- *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard* documentary screening. Sponsored by Asian Educational Media Services

Colorado Programs

Shodo Workshop with Mamiko Ikeda. Saturday, August 22, and Saturday, August 29. 9 am - 12:30 pm. The Japan American Society of Colorado is sponsoring this calligraphy workshop with artist Mamiko Ikeda. Participants will learn basic calligraphy strokes, as well as semi-cursive and free style brush movements. For more information about the workshop, to be held in Denver's Sakura Square, visit the JASC [website](#).

***Connecting the Pieces: Dialogues on the Amache Archaeology Collection.* Through Friday, September 18, 2015.** This student- and community-curated exhibit at the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology presents objects from the DU Amache Research Project. The objects help tell the story of Japanese American internment during World War II. The free exhibit is open from 9 am-4 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information, call 303-871-2687.

NCTA State and Local Opportunities

NCTA Local Seminars Now Enrolling in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Schenectady

***Seeing and Reading East Asia: Approaches for the K-12 Classroom.* September 5-December 5. Application deadline: August 15.** This seminar will be offered at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; meetings will be on eight Saturday mornings (9 am-1 pm). The course will encourage both teaching and learning about East Asian political, social, and cultural history through written and visual primary sources. More information and application flyer are [here](#).

***Intersections: East Asia and the Curriculum.* September 8-December 1. Application deadline: August 15.** This seminar will meet on Tuesday evenings (5:30-8:30 pm) at the University of Pittsburgh. The course will introduce the cultures of China, Japan, and Korea, with special emphasis on the arts and ideas that have driven the development of

these three nations. More information and application flyer are [here](#).

Teaching East Asia. October 3, 2015-February 6, 2016. Application deadline: September 15. This seminar will take place at Union College in Schenectady, NY; meetings will be the first Saturday of every month (9 am-3 pm), with an additional meeting in January 2016. The seminar will provide in-depth information and materials on geography, philosophy, religion, history, literature, and art. **More information** and **application flyer** are available via the Five College Center for East Asian Studies.

Featured Resources

New NCTA Class App: *Using Samurai to Teach Critical Thinking*. Professor Ethan Segal suggests that samurai offer an excellent case study for developing critical thinking skills because students can analyze the media sources of their own knowledge as well as historical primary and secondary sources, comparing and contrasting the information presented. In this Class App, Professor Segal offers a five-question template for interrogating sources. He applies those questions as he suggests a variety of print and visual sources that can be used in the classroom to engage students in historical inquiry and analysis of samurai culture in the medieval period. Segal concludes with a case study of the film *The Last Samurai*. This new Class App is available [here](#).

Check out the complete collection of NCTA **Class Apps**. Class Apps are short classroom-applicable video presentations available from NCTA. Each “App” focuses on a timely topic or “best practice” presented by an NCTA consulting scholar, seminar leader, teacher alum, or author. Currently, 13 titles are available to be used as:

- A “quick course” on a current topic you can integrate into your teaching.
- A video to show in class.
- Inspiration for using new resources successfully.
- A source for learning how authors think their books can be used in the classroom.

***East Asia and the World: An Introduction*, edited by Anne Prescott.** This new text, edited by NCTA National Co-director Anne Prescott, offers a fresh, comprehensive, multidisciplinary entry point to East Asia, with an emphasis on globalization. The volume combines chapters addressing essentials of East Asian history and overviews of the region’s languages, economic development, and global connections with case studies that explore key aspects of the cultural, economic, and political life in specific countries, resulting in a rich interdisciplinary portrait of the region. Students are guided through the material with relevant maps and resources that support further independent exploration of the topics at hand. The book is available from **Routledge**.

Resources on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki occurring this month, the media are featuring stories about the bombings and new resources are being published. For example, the *Washington Post* recently published an op-ed on ***Five Myths about the Atomic Bomb***. Written by diplomatic historian Gregg Herken, the **essay** debunks such beliefs as that the bombing ended the war and saved hundreds of thousands of American lives. Younger students will enjoy ***The Peace Tree from Hiroshima: The Little Bonsai with a Big Story***, by Sandra Moore, illustrated by Kazumi Wilds. Published by Tuttle, the book is based on the true story of an almost 400-year-old bonsai that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. More information is available [here](#).

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