



***Nuclear Studies
Institute***

American University
Washington, D.C.

July 30 – August 11, 2009

Nuclear Studies Institute

Winner of the North American Association of Summer Sessions Award for Most Creative and Innovative Program

Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences
School of International Service

The Nuclear Studies Institute

Recent developments in India, Pakistan, Iran, North Korea, the United States, and the former Soviet Union remind Americans that, although the Cold War has ended, the threat posed by nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction continues. In preparing students to understand and help eliminate this threat, the award-winning Nuclear Studies Institute builds upon 14 years of successful cooperation among American University, Ritsumeikan University, and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The institute offers Americans the opportunity to study nuclear history and culture with students from Japan, Canada, and other nations on a study-abroad trip to Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Kyoto, Japan. Courses are also offered on the campus of American University in Washington, D.C. By exploring the history of nuclear weapons policy and the myriad ways people have dealt with and understood the threat of devastation, participants will be prepared to take leadership roles in building a more just and peaceful post-Cold War world.

Special Institute Features

Institute courses may be taken in any combination. Students who complete all four earn twelve undergraduate or graduate credits. The study-abroad course may also be taken under a noncredit option for reduced tuition.

American Culture in the Nuclear Age, taught by Peter Kuznick, professor of history in the College of Arts and Sciences, American University, examines the evolution of nuclear culture through literature, film, television, and music. Analyzing the symbols, images, and language depicting nuclear arms, energy, and war, the course explores the ways Americans have adjusted to and rebelled against living with the threat of nuclear annihilation since 1945. Professor Kuznick, the author of *Beyond the Laboratory: Scientists as Political Activists in 1930s America*, is a specialist in American culture.

Nuclear Weapons and American Democracy, taught by Robert Musil, former executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility, analyzes the development of American nuclear policy since the Manhattan Project, along with efforts on the part of international organizations and citizen activists to control these weapons. Topics include the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear testing, the Cuban missile crisis, efforts at arms control and disarmament, the dangers of nuclear proliferation, and nuclear terrorism. Guest experts offer specialized presentations. Dr. Musil has been a leader in national peace organizations, including the Professionals' Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control and SANE, since 1971.

The American Peace Movement 1954-2009, taught by Sanford Gottlieb, former

executive director of the Committee for a SANE Nuclear Policy, traces the growth and decline of the American peace movement through four key periods: the nuclear testing era, the Vietnam War, the Reagan Era, and the George W. Bush presidency. The course explores the role of pressure groups, public opinion, attitude change, and the obstacles facing the peace movement. It assesses the movements successes and failures and introduces students to movement leaders and other experts on the topic. Dr. Gottlieb has been a leader of the peace movement for five decades.

Study Tour in Japan

The study tour runs from July 30th to August 11th, 2009. Registration deadline for the study tour is June 1st, 2009. Participants in the study-abroad trip are encouraged, but not required, to take at least one of the on-campus courses.

Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Beyond, led by Professor Peter Kuznick, (3 credit hours) explores the human and physical devastation wrought by the atomic bombings, Japanese wartime aggression, current Japanese and international efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, and the building of close ties between the peoples of the United States and Japan. Students live and study with Japanese and other Asian, and Canadian students, professors, peace activists, and policy experts. Participants meet with atomic bomb survivors and Asian victims of Japanese atrocities and hear firsthand accounts of their experiences. They also participate in a broad range of Japanese commemorative events and visit peace museums and relevant cultural and historical sites in Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, including the Kyoto Museum for World Peace, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, the Oka Masaharu Museum, and peace parks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Although the course matter is serious, participants also have time to socialize and even attend a Hiroshima Carp baseball game.

Costs and Tuition

...may be found on the website: www.american.edu/nsi. The special course fee, which includes room & board, tickets to the museums, and the flights to and from Japan is \$3,000. If students arrange their own flights, the special course fee is \$1,500. This study-abroad course may also be taken as a noncredit option for reduced tuition; the special fee is the same for all students. Scholarship support may be available for tuition-paying students on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration and withdrawal deadlines may be found on the website for the on-campus courses and is June 1st for the study tour.

Important Information

COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTINGENCY PLAN:

A. Under normal conditions:

The program itinerary indicates where the group is (hotel name and telephone numbers, visits, etc.) on each day, in case a parent or other person needs or wants to contact the professor or a group member. Professor Kuznick will monitor his AU voice mail and e-

mail, in case of inquiries by parents or University officials. Professor Kuznick will also be reachable through Professor Atsushi Fujioka, his Japanese counterpart, who will carry his cell phone (japan--090-9995-3137). His full contact information is

Atsushi Fujioka,

Director of the Media & Resource Sector,

Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University,

Professor, College of Economics, Ritsumeikan University,

Kitaku Kyoto Japan 603-8577

E-Mail:fujioka@ec.ritsumei.ac.jp

Residence-phone & Fax:81-(0)75-431-4965

B. In case of an emergency:

In case of an emergency potentially affecting the entire group (i.e., a terrorist event), Professor Kuznick will contact the U.S. embassy in Japan to discuss the situation and assess the risk involved. He will also contact the relevant American University officials to discuss the situation and inform them of local conditions and of measures taken for the safety of the group. He will maintain close communication with the Department of History and CAS for instructions by the University, if any.

Students will be encouraged to contact their families or others to inform them of their safety.

Should the situation in any city become too dangerous for the group's safety, or if so advised by the U.S. embassy or by the University, Professor Kuznick will alter the scheduled itinerary to move to the next city or other, safer, location. In such a case, visits will be substituted with classroom time and/or appropriate briefings. Professor Kuznick will consult with the University when making such a decision.

Risk Assessment for Japan

Japan remains one of the safest countries in the world, despite recent figures indicating a countrywide increase in reported crimes. The nation's crime rate has risen approximately 50 percent since 1998. More than 60 percent of crimes have involved theft. The Justice Ministry partially blames the crime jump on the country's economic recession.

The most significant threat to expatriates is petty crime, which typically occurs at airports, bus stations, crowded shopping areas and tourist areas where pickpocket gangs are most active. Other crimes involve vandalism and personal disputes. Violent crime is rare.

Public transportation, including buses and trains, are safe and secure.

There is little threat from civil unrest or terrorism in Japan. Demonstrations and protests occur, but are usually well-planned and controlled by local authorities. For the most part, the few terrorist/extremist groups that exist in the country have little history of targeting foreign companies. Public frustration over Japan's involvement in Iraq has resulted in protests in the past and could trigger future rallies, particularly in major cities such as

Tokyo and Osaka. Growing questions about U.S. military presence in Japan might also inspire extremists to carry out anti-U.S. acts, although this seems unlikely to pose a significant threat to foreign-owned businesses.

In March 1995, the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult planted a number of toxic gas containers in the Tokyo subway system, resulting in 12 deaths and thousands of injuries. While Aum all but disappeared when most of its leaders were arrested after the subway attack, it has since made a slight comeback. The group now calls itself "Aleph" and is closely monitored by security authorities.

Japan is located on the infamous "ring of fire" and experiences several earthquakes every year. In November 2005, a 6.9 earthquake struck off the coast of Japan, triggering a small tsunami. It did not cause casualties or damage to buildings and structures. In 1995, the Great Hanshin Earthquake devastated much of Kobe and killed over 5,000 people. Another significant environmental factor in Japan is the typhoon season, which usually extends from June through September. During this period, expatriates should keep abreast of local weather conditions and avoid coastal areas if a typhoon is approaching.

For More Information

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