

#### **JAPAN** MY BEFORE AND AFTER

HONORS CONTRACT DELIVERABLE

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## MY LEARNING OBJECTIVE

- Student Learning Outcome: Awareness of Cultural Diversity
- This topic ended this spring, split into three
- <u>Outcome</u>: "Students will acknowledge and understand the concept of diversity and demonstrate the ability to critically analyze dimensions and perspectives of diversity."
- My personal objective, to grow as a person and learn about diversity in the world

## THE BEFORE

• I had only seen Japan through anime and videos online

- I knew I loved their food and what I thought Japanese culture to be
- I heard amount strong misogynism belittling women

Point I wanted to observe

- Was Japan really as clean as tourists claimed?
- Were Japanese trains truly as impressive as I heard?
- How kind are Japanese citizens compared to Americans?
- What things would catch me by surprise?

# THE FIRST NIGHT

- Immediate first impressions, dipping my toe into the water
- Was very nervous after getting through TSA (money, directions, etc.)
  - Was my first time ever leaving America
- The trains systems are very versatile and convenient
- There are so many things to do on the street
- The hotel room was tiny, but I expected this
- Night life was unexpected
  - Very bright, loads of buildings with multiple floors, people out exploring on a weeknight



## SANITATION IN JAPAN

- Garbage cans are very rare compared to America
  - I used my backpack as a temporary garbage
- Certain stores won't allow garbage from others
  - Convenience stores would put stickers on your purchases
- Japan was very clean despite how many people there are
  - An exception being some parts of Osaka
- Certain rules that should be follow
  - Rewrap gum, don't blow your nose or spit in public, etc



## TRANSIT AND TRAINS IN JAPAN

- Very big on public transport (my feet could not keep up)
- Driving gets more common in suburban areas like Toyota
- Japanese subways are sophisticated but simple
  - Easy to navigate trains, not so much else
- I learned so much about trains, every day it became easier
  - How different lines work, what you could use, how to get to your train, and so on
- Some shocks about their transit system:
  - Such young children navigate and ride all alone
  - People WILL make room on the train
  - Subway stations are like mini-malls



## BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE IN JAPAN

- Japanese citizens truly were very polite people, helping me on multiple occasions
- Bowing is extremely common, a small gesture I wish was more popular everywhere
- They start and end some talk with "arigato-gozaimasu", a polite touch
- At Universal Studios, I saw someone picking rocks out of a water grate
  - This is a great example of their work ethic
- This mentality fostered in Japan comes from things like...
  - Parental traditions, schooling, seeing others in society, etc
- I hadn't witnessed this, but even organized crime follows some strict rules

#### **PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS**

#### THE SAME DIFFERENCE

- 6300 miles
- 14+ hour of flying
- We live so far, yet are so similar
- Japanese citizens live the same life we do
- They go to school, work, watch tv



## JAPANESE RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

- There were shrines all over the place
- Specific steps you are to follow if you want to be proper
  - A kind lady helped teach me how to clean my hands the proper way
- The shrines look very similar
  - Containing things like tori gates or Shide
- The prayer sites were very clean and cared for



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR HISTORY

- Many historical sites in Japan are strictly upkept
- They rebuild if damaged, refurbish if in need of furbishing, and protect when susceptible
- Fushimi Inari (1000 tori gates), Meiji Jingu, Osaka Castle, Himeji Castle
- Multiple museums ranging in different topics
  - Some of the actual locations had museums built it
- The crowds at these loctations were very large, portraying interest



## THE AFTER

- After arriving back from Japan, I was a different person
  - Traveling across the world for multiple weeks might have that effect
- Seeing people, the same as me but different, living the same lives as me but different was a very important observation ["Small world"]
- Japan completely lived up to my expectations and then some
- The friends and memories I made along the trip will follow me forever
- I still find myself subconsciously doing small bows in public
- Most importantly, I am wondering when I get to go again

### **MY FAVORITE PICTURES**











## BONUS TEACHER APPRECIATION SLIDE!!

Thank you again for such am amazing experience, I know I speak for everyone when I say I will remember this trip for the rest of my life. You two put in much of your own time for our own benefit, so I really want to ensure my appreciation gets across. I hope to see you sometime again before I graduate.