

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN

Program Name: Asian Studies Department: NA
Assessment Year: 2007-2008 / 2008-2009
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I. MISSION, SCOPE, AND ACTIVITIES

I. A. Mission Statement

Asian Studies is a multidisciplinary area studies program drawing on the expertise of faculty in the languages, arts, and social sciences from more than a dozen departments across SUNY New Paltz. Our undergraduate major and minor curricula demonstrate the strengths of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LA&S) and the Fine and Performing Arts (F&PA) in the college. Students completing the major in Asian Studies have a firm grounding in at least one language and culture in a regional context. Students are also encouraged to combine their study of the Asia region with another major or minor in a discipline, and to study abroad. The broader mission of the Asian Studies Program is to promote greater awareness and understanding of East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Asia Pacific, and Asian diasporas, through teaching, research, and service.

I.B. Scope of the Asian Studies Program

The Asian Studies Program Faculty coordinates the multidisciplinary undergraduate major and minor curricula. More than a dozen Core Faculty regularly teach courses with substantial Asia content each year, meet regularly, and contribute to student advising and activities relating to Asian Studies. The Program also has Affiliated Faculty (from LA&S, F&PA, Business, Education, along with emeritus faculty), who supplement and enrich the program through occasional participation, research, and/or teaching contributions relating to Asia.

Altogether, over 75 different courses on East Asia (China, Japan, Korea), Southeast Asia, South Asia (west to Pakistan), the Asia Pacific and Asian diasporas, are offered by these faculty in various rotations. Each semester during the academic year, students can choose from 20-35 sections of Asia courses. The Asian Languages taught on a regular basis are Chinese and Japanese. These courses form the mainstay of the Program's major and minor requirements. Broad comparative courses with at least 1/3 Asia content may also be considered for inclusion in the Asian Studies major and minor.

Majors in Asian Studies gain intermediate-level proficiency in language combined with a cultural understanding of Asia's diversity as it is understood through various disciplines and perspectives, through a balance of coursework in the social sciences and the arts. Minors gain a foundational understanding of the region through at least one year of language study along with elective courses on Asia. We encourage student persistence, recognize academic excellence, and encourage study abroad through scholarship awards.

As a community of scholars, the Asian Studies Program promotes research relating to Asia, fosters conversations about Asia across the disciplines, and helps bring these innovations into our teaching. Faculty discuss ongoing research projects in regular meetings, publish our findings, and provide an annual report of our scholarly activities annually. Finally, we host conferences and co-sponsor grant applications, consortia, and other collaborations with other Asia programs in the region such as Bard, Marist, and Vassar.

Asian Studies functions as a campus and community resource, organizing out-of-class activities, events, and other programs that bring together students, faculty, and alumni with common interests in Asia. The program also provides an internal campus structure whereby new Asia courses in a wide variety of disciplines may be considered for crosslisting in Asian Studies, enabling students to understand Asia with greater perspective on regional comparisons and interactions.

The director and faculty of Asian Studies work closely with the Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean to identify curricular needs within schools, departments, and the General Education program that may benefit from increased attention to Asia. (In the past two years, such coordination has resulted in new full-time faculty hires in six different departments.) The Asian Studies Program also supports overseas programs and strongly encourages study abroad in Asia through SUNY and other institutions. In addition to maintaining regular contact with Departments and Deans, the Asian Studies Program also collaborates closely with a wide range of units on campus:

- o Alumni Affairs
- o Center for International Programs
- o Development / New Paltz Foundation
- o Career Advising / Major Connections

- Sponsored Funds
- Student Association organizations

Beyond this scope - Asian Studies is *not* a department; there are currently no dedicated faculty lines within Asian Studies. We do not generally offer courses “based” exclusively in Asian Studies. (One such course has been taught in the recent past; others may be developed in future where pedagogically desirable and structurally feasible.) The present scope of the program does not focus on Russia, Southwest / Central Asia, the Middle East, or Australia. (We do examine comparisons and interactions between those regions and Asia, where relevant.) At present, we do not currently offer Korean or South / Southeast Asian languages; we do view these as potential areas for future development.

I.C. Activities/processes contributing to the Asian Studies Program

The following activities promote the objectives of the Program:

Teaching, Curriculum Design, and Development

- We enhance the *international outlook of SUNY New Paltz students* by teaching *General Education courses on Asia* in Languages, World, Diversity, and Aesthetic Expression.
- We provide *greater global range to future teachers* of elementary and secondary school who are concentrating in the fields of Art History, Foreign Languages, Humanities, and Social Studies.
- We offer, through the *major in Asian Studies*, an *integrated approach* to the study of language and culture through a balanced roster of courses on Asia.
- We enable students who are specializing in other fields to develop an *area focus* through the *minor* and *double major* in Asian Studies.
- We *train students in using library resources on Asia*, in conjunction with the Sojourner Truth Library. Instruction is augmented by the library collection of books and periodicals on Asia. (The library has strengths in East Asia. Areas for greater development include South and Southeast Asia, and audiovisual resources.)
- We encourage student persistence and *recognize academic excellence* through *scholarship awards*.

Research on Asia

- Faculty pursue *original research*, often using Asian language sources and/or overseas archives, and discuss our ongoing research regularly in meetings of the Asian Studies faculty.
- Faculty *communicate new findings* on Asia, through teaching, publications, presentations, and conferences locally, regionally, nationally, and overseas.
- Faculty work closely with the Sojourner Truth Library on *new acquisitions of library resources on Asia*, and on providing training for students in conducting library and database research on Asia.
- Faculty serve as a base for the *New York Conference on Asian Studies* (NYCAS), one of eight regional conferences of the Association for Asian Studies, and we hold annual meetings designed to bring together all persons interested in Asia for discussion sessions and presentations of Asia's music, dance, and art.
- The Program encourages and rewards *faculty research and development* through modest awards supported by the Friends of Asian Studies Endowment.

Advising, Outreach, and Overseas Programs

- Faculty ***provide academic advising*** for majors and minors, in helping them define their goals and develop a balanced plan of study that allows them to meet these goals, and advise students interested in study abroad and teaching in Asia.
- Faculty ***mentor*** students interested in ***graduate study of Asia*** and in professions requiring an understanding of the Asia region.
- Faculty help ***develop new overseas programs in Asia***, working with the Center for International Programs and SUNY.
- Faculty ***communicate with area high schools*** and related programs, to bridge the teaching of Asian languages and cultures at the secondary and college levels.

Campus Programs & Events

- The Program ***organizes stimulating campus events*** such as film screenings, roundtable discussions, lecture series, and an Annual Spring Festival, to encourage student-faculty interaction and awareness of Asia.
- The Program serves as a ***liaison with Asia-related campus and student organizations*** seeking to work with faculty and students in Asian Studies.
- The Program works with ***Alumni, Sponsored Programs, and Development*** to enhance opportunities for students and faculty who have an interest in Asia.
- The Program functions as a ***nexus for new campus initiatives on Asia***, involving the LA&S, F&PA, Business, and Education.
- The Program ***coordinates with regional and area institutions*** on new Asia programs.
- The Program ***oversees the Friends of Asian Studies Endowment***, established with the generous support of alumni, faculty, and friends of the program to support Asia initiatives and reward student excellence.

II. GOALS AND OUTCOME PERFORMANCES

II. A. *Priority goals for the next five years*

1. *We want Asian Studies graduates to be able to:*

- Speak, read, and write at least one Asian language
- Recognize what unifies, and distinguishes, the countries and diverse cultures comprising Asia, through a range of national and cultural perspectives
- Demonstrate an integrated, balanced understanding of the region in the arts and in the social sciences
- Understand the main principles and issues currently informing the interdisciplinary field of Asian Studies, and the specific methods employed by a range of disciplines to understand the region
- Conduct library research on Asia effectively
- Appreciate the value of greater cultural exposure in their intellectual development, and pursue advanced study abroad wherever feasible
- Focus their interests in Asia, for breadth or depth, by language or by discipline, and find meaningful ways of applying their linguistic and cultural understanding in future endeavors

2. *The goals for the Asian Studies Program are to:*

- Maintain excellence in faculty teaching, research, and service
- Maintain productive collaborations across departments, schools, and units on campus
- Maintain a coherent, integrated curriculum with diverse range of course offerings
- Maintain effective advising procedures
- Recruit and retain students for Asian language study, particularly early in their college career
- Engage students in co-curricular, out-of-class experiences relating to Asia
- Continue encouraging greater cultural exposure, and whenever feasible, study abroad
- Continue enhancing awareness and understanding of Asia on campus and in the broader community

II. B. *Desired performance outcomes reflecting our progress in meeting the above goals*

1. *Student Learning Performance Outcomes*

By completion of the 37-credit major, Asian Studies majors should be able to:

- A. Speak, read, and write at least one Asian language at the Intermediate level or higher - in preparation for potential advanced study.
- B. Recognize the factors that unify and distinguish the countries and diverse cultures comprising Asia, and understand the main principles currently informing the field of Asian Studies
- C. Pursue study abroad whenever feasible, particularly for Advanced level language study.
- D. Strive for academic excellence in the study of Asia.
- E. Appreciate the value of greater cultural exposure in their intellectual development, and find meaningful ways of applying their linguistic and cultural understanding in future endeavors

2. *Program Performances*

The Asian Studies Program should be able to:

- A. Maintain excellence in faculty teaching, research, and service
- B. Maintain and advance a coherent, integrated curriculum with diverse range of course offerings
- C. Maintain effective advising procedures
- D. Continue encouraging greater cultural exposure and study abroad

III. METHODOLOGY

Measures from Students	5 year timeline
<i>Asian Studies Scholarship Applications</i> – will be reviewed annually for level of student excellence, number of applications, ability to meet and exceed program goals, and overall level of achievement may all be assessed through these applications.	2008.05 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05
<i>Portfolios of Graduating Students</i> – will be reviewed annually for completion of language requirements, ability to recognize the unifying and distinguishing features of Asia and understand principles informing Asian Studies, study abroad and appreciation of cultural exposure, and effective advising in helping students identify and meet their goals in Asian Studies. (See Appendix B, below, describing supporting material in the folders.)	2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05 2013.05
<i>Asian Studies Alumni News Webpage</i> – will be reviewed every five years as part of the Program Self Study, to better understand the role of Asian Studies for a self-selected group of graduates.	2012-2013
<i>Asian Studies Alumni Survey</i> * – will be developed and sent via email to all Asian Studies alumni who received their BA in Asian Studies in the past 6 years, to help us better understand how a broader group of graduates have applied their study of Asia and learning objectives in their endeavors after graduation.	2012-2013

Measures from Faculty	5 year timeline
<i>Current master list of courses on Asia & New Course Proposals</i> – will be updated each semester and reviewed biennially for regular frequency of offerings requirements fulfilled by each course	2008.05 2010.05 2012.05
<i>GE3 assessment data</i> – provided by Foreign Languages Department on Asian languages courses – will be reviewed for how well Asian Studies majors meet standards of intermediate level language training	On regular GE3 assessment cycle
<i>Asian Studies Perspectives Course Syllabi, and related information.</i> AS Program will review the ASP course syllabi and any related information from faculty biennially, for effectiveness in meeting Program goals (See Appendix B, below, describing Asian Studies Perspectives Courses)	2009.05 2011.05 2013.05
<i>Asian Studies Student Database</i> – will be updated annually by the office, and reviewed every 5 years for the Program Self Study, percentage of majors and minors who study abroad in each language, and trends	2012-2013
<i>Asian Studies Program Annual Reports and Meeting Minutes</i> – will be reviewed for faculty excellence, as well as for cultural activities and special events sponsored by the Asian Studies program, in terms of frequency, participation levels, and overall effectiveness. Results will be reported in Program Self-Study	2012-2013
<i>Asian Studies Major Plan & Annual Reports of the Asian Studies Assessment Committee</i> – Will be reviewed for how well the curriculum meets program goals, and faculty suggestions for modifications and improvements will be discussed. Faculty may then rank the options in terms of priority. Results will be reported in Program Self-Study	2012-2013

Step Three: Describe your methodology

II. B. 1 and 2 Desired Performance Outcomes	III. A. Aspects to be measured	III. B. Means of gathering & evaluating data	III. C. Start of Assessment	III. C. Assessment Coordination
1. Student Learning Performance:	* = criteria / rubric to be developed.			
A. Speak, read, and write at least one Asian language at the Intermediate level or higher - in preparation for potential advanced study.	<p>1. Students' ability to speak, read, and write an Asian Language, as evinced by successful completion of Elementary I & II and Intermediate I & II language courses, or their equivalent; number of years studied and consistency in grades over time; any prior language proficiency, overseas study, or additional languages studied. *</p> <p>(Students with prior proficiency in Chinese or Japanese are encouraged to complete coursework in an alternate Asian Language. They may also apply for a language waiver, by meeting with the Asian Language Coordinator in the Department of Foreign Languages. Where necessary, they complete an examination to determine the appropriate level of language coursework or waiver. Results should be noted on the AS Major Plan. Students with waivers substitute content courses to complete the total of 37 credits required for the major.)</p>	Portfolios of Graduating Students & progress reports	Annually, at end of academic year 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05 2013.05	AS Assessment Committee reviews folders, and notes any suggestions for language faculty.

	2. Students' ability to meet Intermediate level course standards of speaking, reading, writing, and cultural understanding, as evinced by GE3 standards.	GE3 assessment data from Foreign Languages on Asian languages courses	On regular GE3 assessment cycle.	Department of Foreign Languages Chair or Asian Languages Coordinator collages GE3 course assessment data and conveys to AS Program Director. AS Committee reviews the data and notes any suggestions.
B. Recognize the factors that unify and distinguish the countries and diverse cultures comprising Asia, and understand the main principles currently informing the field of Asian Studies	1. In the overall major, how well students come to recognize the diversity of countries and cultures comprising Asia, what unifies Asia as a region, and the main principles currently informing Asian Studies, as evinced by completion of one or more ASP courses, and at least one course on an area beyond China or Japan *	Portfolios of Graduating Students – Progress reports, Exit essays & Examples of best written work submitted by student.	Annually, at end of academic year 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05 2013.05	AS Assessment Committee. Program Director includes findings in Self-Study.
C. Pursue study abroad whenever feasible, particularly for Advanced level language study.	1. Students who have studied abroad: coursework range, level, and grades overseas; self-described value of overall cultural exposure and experience. *	Portfolios of Graduating Students: Progress reports and exit essays.	Annually, at end of academic year 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05 2013.05	AS Assessment Committee reviews graduating students' exit essays and progress reports, and notes any ways to enhance study abroad, particularly at the Advanced Level.
D. Strive for academic excellence in the study of Asia.	1. Student evidence of academic excellence in the study of Asian languages and cultures, and commitment to the field. *	Asian Studies Scholarship Award Applications (statement and recommendations)	Annually, at end of academic year 2008.05 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05	AS Scholarship Committee reviews applications and reports findings to AS Assessment Committee

<p>E. Appreciate the value of greater cultural exposure in their intellectual development, and find meaningful ways of applying their linguistic and cultural understanding in future endeavors</p>	<p>1. Graduating Students' self-reflection on cultural exposure and intellectual development *</p>	<p>Portfolios of Graduating Students: review student's development from statement of intent (at declaration of major) to Exit Essay (upon applying for graduation); and examples of written work by student on file.</p>	<p>Annually, at end of academic year 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05 2013.05</p>	<p>Asian Studies Faculty Advisors. AS Assessment Committee reviews completed major plans for graduating students. AS Program Director includes findings in Self-Study.</p>
	<p>2. Alumni self-reflection on how they have applied linguistic and cultural understanding gained in Asian Studies, and how meaningful their experience of studying Asia has been for their lives and work. *</p>	<p>Asian Studies alumni news webpage Alumni Survey *</p>	<p>Every 5 years, for Program Self Study 2012-2013</p>	<p>AS Alumni Committee, reporting to AS Assessment Committee. AS Assessment Committee reviews findings and notes any ways to augment cultural exposure and intellectual development. AS Program Director includes findings in Self-Study.</p>

<p>2.Program Performances</p>				
<p>A. Maintain excellence in faculty teaching, research, and service</p>	<p>1. Contributions to scholarship on Asia, effective teaching on Asia, and service to the Asian Studies community, on-campus and off-campus.</p>	<p>Asian Studies Program Annual Reports; Asian Studies Program Faculty Meeting Minutes; Reports of classroom observations by faculty peers.</p>	<p>Review every 5 years, for Program Self Study 2012-2013</p>	<p>AS faculty pursue individual research agendas, teaching responsibilities, and service to the institution and community, providing individual Annual Reports for previous calendar year to AS Director each Spring. AS faculty and director observe and assess teaching of peers upon request. AS Director reviews Annual Reports and records; compiles annual AS Program Report. AS Program Director includes aggregate findings in Self-Study.</p>

<p>B. Maintain and advance a coherent, integrated curriculum with diverse range of course offerings</p>	<p>1. Regular offerings of major requirements, especially Asian-language courses, ASP courses; additionally, how many Asia courses regularly fulfill GE requirements (esp Writing Intensive, World, Diversity), and other constituencies such as Freshman Interest Groups and Honors Program.</p>	<p>Current master list of courses on Asia showing requirements each course fulfills and frequency of offerings New Course Proposals</p>	<p>Update list every semester Biennial review & full update of list 2008.05 2010.05 2012.05</p>	<p>Asian Studies Director updates list, in consultation with Asian Studies faculty, Department Chairs, LA&S Dean; and distributes to all above + registrar AS Assessment Committee reviews list biennially and notes suggestions or innovations; distribute update to all above + Provost</p>
	<p>2. Effectiveness of ASP requirement in meeting program goals *</p>	<p>Review of ASP course syllabi. Optional brief reports or other information from faculty on how the ASP course serves program goals - what works well, what needs to be improved.</p>	<p>Biennial review 2009.05 2011.05 2013.05</p>	<p>AS faculty provide syllabi and any other information to show how ASP courses meet Program goals, to AS Assessment Committee AS Assessment Committee reviews this material; discusses any needed revisions to curriculum / requirement. AS Program Director includes findings in Self-Study.</p>

	3. Effectiveness of curriculum requirements in meeting program goals *	Meet to review Major plan and AS Assessment Committee Reports on Student and Program Performance.	Every 5 years, for Program Self Study 2012-2013	AS Assessment Committee reviews and records suggestions for requirements or revisions to curriculum. AS Program Director includes findings in Self-Study.
C. Maintain effective advising procedures	1. Effectiveness of advising in helping students develop a balanced, coherent, and concentrated plan of study that focuses their goals and interests (for breadth or depth, by language or by discipline, by a complementary minor or double major in a discipline or area, as appropriate to their goals and interests) *	Portfolios of Graduating Students: review progress reports, major plan of study, exit essay, advising logs	Annually, at end of academic year 2009.05 2010.05 2011.05 2012.05 2013.05	AS Faculty Advisors, each semester. AS Assessment Committee annually reviews Graduating Students' completed major plans, and records suggestions for advising.
D. Continue encouraging greater cultural exposure and study abroad	1. Percentage of graduates in each language who have studied abroad during college, and the location and year of overseas study.	Asian Studies Student Database of majors and minors, noting location of study abroad and year.	Office updates annually Review every 5 years, for Program Self Study 2012-2013	Annually, Program Secretary notes study abroad location and year for all graduating students into database accessible to AS Program Faculty and Director. AS Program Director includes aggregate findings in Self-Study.
	2. Frequency of special events and cultural activities sponsored by the Asian Studies program, and participation levels of students and faculty	Records of our events and activities, especially the Asian Studies Program Annual Reports and Minutes of the Asian Studies Program Faculty	Review every 5 years, for Program Self Study 2012-2013	AS Assessment Committee reviews records of our events and activities AS Program Director includes aggregate findings in Self-Study.

IV. RESOURCES NEEDED

Without dedicated lines in Asian Studies, faculty are already performing assessment for their own departments. Thus, faculty service in assessment activities for Asian Studies should merit recognition in the Discretionary Salary Increase process.

For part-time faculty to participate, stipends or DSI recognition would be needed.

New assessment activities for our program will be limited to 1-2 meetings per year due to time constraints on faculty. As our courses and students continue to grow in number, some aspects of our plan may become unwieldy for a committee of the whole, and in that case we will need to form a smaller committee that reports to the faculty.

Photocopying and additional materials (paper, toner, etc) may require increases in the supplies budget.

In developing assessment instruments for criteria marked *, it would be beneficial to have examples of other assessment instruments that have been proven effective.

Appendix A. Graduating Student Advising Folders

Major Plan of Study, Advising Log, and Progress Report. Show the level and range of languages studied; overall consistency in grades; breadth or depth in terms of language or discipline focus; area range in taking courses beyond the core languages offered (Chinese and Japanese); courses taken to fulfill the Asian Studies Perspectives requirement; location, courses, and grades for any overseas study.

The Statement of Intent, submitted to the Asian Studies Director upon declaration of the major, explains the student's basis for interest in studying Asia; the focus of their academic work on Asia to date, and any related extracurricular activities; and immediate plans and long-term expectations for the future. (200-400 words)

The Exit Essay, submitted to the Asian Studies Faculty Advisor when applying to graduate, reflects on any academic or personal changes experienced since the initial Personal Statement submitted when the major had been declared; comments on how the overall Asian Studies major, and their specific coursework on Asia, have contributed to their development academically and/or personally; and explains immediate plans and long-term expectations following graduation. (400-800 words)

Example(s) of the student's best written work. Submitted for the advising folder when applying to graduate.

Appendix B. Asian Studies Perspectives Courses

Since Asian Studies Majors take courses in a diverse range of disciplines and methodologies, several courses have been tailored to help ground students in a fundamental knowledge base and research skills specific to Asian Studies as a field. Each major is required to select at least one course (minimum *3 credits*) from the current list of *Asian Studies Perspectives Courses*. These courses are drawn from various disciplines in the arts or social sciences, and a variety of national and cultural perspectives.

Purpose: ASP offers all Majors the opportunity to explore common points of focus and concern, and develop a common set of skills in pursuing research on Asia. The hope is that students can then carry over this knowledge and skills base into other Asian Studies work. In addition to reinforcing program goals for our Majors, ASP courses also provide entry points for non-majors to recognize the value of area studies training, and promotes conversation among Asian Studies faculty from diverse disciplines about our respective methods in the study of Asia and our collective mission.

Principles informing ASP courses: Asian Studies Faculty have determined a set of principles and skills that dynamically inform the study of Asia across the disciplines. Courses that are infused with these principles offer students a foundation in:

- A) *Fundamental knowledge about Asia* -- these courses provide a brief introduction to the key concepts and issues currently informing Asian Studies, in conceptualizing "Asia" and "Asian Traditions" (ASP courses include at least 2-3 sessions of lectures, readings, and/or assignments that emphasize what unifies and distinguishes the countries and diverse cultures comprising Asia, and enable students to apply concepts, methods and critical approaches, to better understand the countries and diverse cultures comprising Asia)
- and*
- B) *Asia information literacy* -- these courses help students develop basic research skills by providing training in accessing sources on Asia through the library and online databases. (ASP courses include dedicated library sessions in which students learn to conduct research on Asia effectively using library resources and database skills.)

ASP Designation process: Faculty who integrate these principles and skills into a portion of their course syllabus submit the syllabus to the Asian Studies faculty for consideration. After discussion and review, approved courses are designated as ASP on the master list of Asia courses. Asian Studies Program Faculty meet periodically to make new designations and review *Perspectives* criteria.