Proposal for a Graduate Certificate Program in Asian Studies

Submitted by Ruth Rogaski, (Associate Professor, History and Asian Studies)
on behalf of the Asian Studies Program

Revised April 16, 2015

Introduction to the Asian Studies Program: The Asian Studies Program has been the College of Arts & Science’s center for the study of Asian cultures since its founding in 1967. Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program, but also functions as Vanderbilt’s de-facto department of Asian language and literatures:

• The Program is the home for instruction in Asian languages at Vanderbilt. Each year, our staff of seven lecturers offers instruction in Chinese and Japanese at all levels to over 300 students. The Program hopes to extend its language instruction offerings to include Hindi and Korean in the near future.

• In addition to language lecturers, there are two tenured/tenure track professors with primary appointments in Asian Studies: Rob Campany, Professor of Chinese religions; and Ben Tran, Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian literature. The program will add an assistant professor of Chinese literature in the fall of 2015. We also hope to expand primary appointment faculty to include tenure-track faculty in other Asian literatures and humanities in the near future.

• In addition to these ‘in-house’ faculty, there are fourteen faculty from different departments around the College who have secondary appointments in Asian Studies or are actively affiliated with the Program. These professors work in a wide range of disciplines, from political science to art history, and all have in-depth knowledge of the languages and societies of specific Asian countries.

• Drawing from courses taught by these professors, the interdisciplinary Asian Studies curriculum equips students with a broad knowledge of the traditions, cultures, and societies of South, East, and Southeast Asia.

• For a full list of faculty and more information about the program, please see our website at http://as.vanderbilt.edu/asianstudies/.

Rationale for Certificate: It is widely recognized that the twenty-first century will be strongly influenced by nations, trends, and events in Asia. Asia is home to the world’s most populous countries and dynamic economies. It is the most linguistically and culturally diverse region of the world, encompassing over 2,000 languages, the world’s oldest contiguous civilizations, and all of the world’s major religious traditions. Finally, Asia is the globe’s most politically complex region, with destabilizing conflict stretching from the Persian Gulf to the Korean peninsula. Asian Studies’ goal is to prepare Vanderbilt students to thrive in the challenges of this new Asian century.

Holding a certificate in Asian Studies signals that the student has gained 1) competence in an Asian language and 2) a perspective on Asian societies that goes beyond the student’s particular disciplinary specialization. Through the certificate program, Asian Studies will help prepare graduate students to undertake career opportunities in Asia, or work in a field
related to Asian countries, institutions, or populations. The certificate will benefit graduate students who wish to teach about Asia or do scholarly research in Asia. An Asian Studies certificate will also allow students in professional schools to take advantage of the many global opportunities opening up in business, law, education, and health care. Ultimately, the certificate will increase Vanderbilt’s competitiveness for globally-minded graduate and professional students vis a vis our peers.

Certificates at Other Institutions: Several peer institutions offer similar language-and-culture centered interdisciplinary certificates. Some of these universities are particularly strong in international relations/policy, or have institutes that foster interdisciplinary research and training on Asian topics. Examples below:

- **Georgetown University: Asian Studies Program Graduate Certificate**
  - Language proficiency in an Asian language equivalent to completion of second year of study at Georgetown (through coursework or testing)
  - 15 credits (5 courses) including one ‘gateway’ course and four courses in at least two areas of study (such as history, economics, sociology, etc).
  - [http://asianstudies.georgetown.edu/academics/graduate](http://asianstudies.georgetown.edu/academics/graduate)

- **Duke University Asia-Pacific Studies Institute: Graduate Certificate for East Asian Studies**
  - Language proficiency in Chinese, Japanese or Korean, equivalent to completion of second year of study at Duke (through coursework or testing)
  - 4 courses in at least two areas of study from an approved listing of East Asia-related classes
  - [https://web.duke.edu/apsi/academics/gradEA.html](https://web.duke.edu/apsi/academics/gradEA.html)

- **Rutgers University: Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies**
  - “Reading proficiency” in an Asian language
  - a minimum of two semester courses related to Asia in the student’s primary field and two semester courses in cognate fields;
  - completion of a masters thesis or a research paper on topic related to Asia
  - [http://asianlanguages.rutgers.edu/graduate/graduate-certificate-in-asian-studies](http://asianlanguages.rutgers.edu/graduate/graduate-certificate-in-asian-studies)
Requirements for the Asian Studies Program Certificate: The proposed certificate structure is in compliance with requirements of the Graduate School and also takes into consideration the requirements found in similar certificates offered by our peer institutions.

The graduate certificate in Asian Studies is open to any student enrolled in graduate study at Vanderbilt University and requires the following three components:

1. **At least 12 credit hours of graduate-level coursework.** Coursework must be focused on a specific theme and together form an intellectually coherent whole. Courses may include those offered directly by the Asian Studies program, as well as graduate courses from other departments that have been approved by the Director of the Asian Studies program. Independent-study reading courses taught by Asian Studies-affiliated faculty, as well as research-related courses that include Asian Studies-affiliated faculty, may qualify if approved by the Director of the Asian Studies Program. No more than 6 credit hours of specifically named courses required for the primary degree may be applied toward the certificate.

Graduate courses successfully completed at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the program may be counted toward the certificate requirements with the approval of the director of the program if the course can satisfy one of the curriculum requirements of the program. An undergraduate course may be substituted for a graduate course required by the program’s curriculum, with the approval of the director of the program and the Graduate School.

2. **Proficiency (both oral and written) in an Asian language, assessed through testing.** Tests will be administered by a Vanderbilt Professor or Lecturer (not a graduate student) following ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) guidelines. Students must achieve a score indicating an “intermediate-mid” level of proficiency.

3. **Attendance at a minimum of 5 events sponsored by Asian Studies** during the student’s period of graduate study at Vanderbilt. Students will submit to the Certificate coordinator a short paper reflecting on the insights gained from attending the event.

**Administration:** Students wishing to enroll must complete an “Intent to Enroll” form, which must be signed by the student, the coordinator of the Asian Studies Certificate Program, and the Director of Graduate Studies for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form has to be submitted to the Graduate School and to the University Registrar’s Office.

Ruth Rogaski (Associate Professor, History and Asian Studies) will coordinate the Certificate program, enroll students, monitor their progress, and certify their fulfillment of the requirements.
ASIAN STUDIES GRADUATE CATALOG TEXT

Vanderbilt University’s Asian Studies Program offers a graduate certificate in the interdisciplinary study of the societies and cultures of Asia. The certificate offers graduate students a perspective on Asia that goes beyond the student’s particular disciplinary specialization, and signals that the student has achieved competence in an Asian language. The certificate offers a valuable credential for students who wish to undertake career opportunities in Asia, or work in a field related to Asian countries, institutions, or populations. An Asian Studies certificate will also allow students in professional schools to take advantage of the many global opportunities opening up in business, law, education, and health care.

The certificate in Asian Studies is open to any student enrolled in graduate study at Vanderbilt University. The certificate is awarded upon fulfillment of the following three categories of requirements:

1) Completion of at least 12 credit hours of interrelated graduate-level coursework (see below)

2) Demonstrated language competency in an Asian language, and

3) Attendance at a minimum of five academic events.

Courses may include those offered directly by the Asian Studies program, as well as graduate courses from other departments that have been approved by the Director of the Asian Studies program. Coursework must be focused on a specific theme and together form an intellectually coherent whole. Up to 6 credit hours of specifically named required courses of a student’s primary degree program may count toward the certificate. At least 6 credit hours must come from outside the student’s home discipline. Graduate courses successfully completed at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the program may be counted toward the certificate requirements with the approval of the director of the program. An undergraduate course may be substituted for a graduate course required by the program's curriculum, with the approval of the director of the program and the Graduate School.

Students wishing to enroll must complete an “Intent to Enroll” form, which must be signed by the student, the director of the Asian Studies Certificate Program, and the director of the Graduate Program (DGS) for the degree program in which the student is enrolled. A signed copy of the form has to be submitted to the Graduate School (richard.hoover@vanderbilt.edu) and to the University Registrar’s Office (university.registrar@vanderbilt.edu).
### I. Mission Statement

The graduate certificate in Asian Studies offers graduate students an interdisciplinary perspective on Asia that goes beyond the student’s particular area of specialization, and signals that the student has achieved competence in an Asian language. The certificate offers a valuable credential for students who wish to undertake career opportunities in Asia, or work in a field related to Asian countries, institutions, or populations.

### II. Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the complexity and diversity of Asia through interdisciplinary study in the social sciences and humanities. Coursework will be interrelated and focused on a particular theme, time-period, and/or region. Through coursework, students will be expected to produce two essays that demonstrate mastery of the interdisciplinary study of Asia.

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**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

**Assessment Plan for Graduate Certificates**

An assessment plan should be included as part of the approval process for new graduate certificates.

After a certificate is approved, please submit a copy of the final assessment plan to Vanderbilt Institutional Assessment at [via@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:via@vanderbilt.edu)

Please submit the plan in Microsoft Word format and include any documents/tools used as assessment measures.

**Certificate:** Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies

**Contact Person:** Ruth Rogaski  [ruth.rogaski@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ruth.rogaski@vanderbilt.edu)

**Date Submitted:** 4/3/15
2. Students will demonstrate oral and written proficiency in one Asian language.

3. Students will broaden their knowledge of Asia beyond their disciplinary specialization by attending a minimum of five extracurricular activities sponsored by Asian Studies.

III. Assessment Measures (Please provide rubrics or assessment tools if used)

Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 1
Students are required to take at least 12 credit hours of interrelated graduate-level coursework in Asian Studies as listed in the Graduate School Catalog, with at least 6 credit hours coming from outside the student’s home discipline. No more than 6 credit hours of specifically-named courses required for the primary degree may be applied toward the Certificate. The courses must form an intellectually cohesive whole.

Two final papers from each student will be evaluated by a committee of faculty reviewers who are affiliated with the Asian Studies program (see attached rubric). Students must receive a score of 80% or better.

Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 2
Oral and written language proficiency at the intermediate level in an Asian language will be assessed through an oral and written test administered by Vanderbilt Asian Studies affiliated faculty. Tests will be evaluated using the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) standards. Test scores must indicate an ACTFL standard of intermediate-mid level (see attached rubric).

Assessment Measure(s) for Student Learning Outcome 3
Students are required attend at least five Asian Studies events. Students will write a short reflection
essay for each event. Essays will be reviewed by the Graduate Certificate administrator.
Outline of Asian Studies Graduate Certificate Assessment Rubrics

LEARNING OUTCOME 1 Interdisciplinary Study

Papers will demonstrate that the student has achieved:

1) Understanding of the major events impacting the development of culture and society in the region of focus
2) Familiarity with recent scholarship and methodologies in the select field(s) of Asian studies
3) Ability to critically analyze the scholarly literature on the select field(s) of Asian studies
4) Ability to use and understand research sources in the target language

LEARNING OUTCOME 2 Language Proficiency, ACTFL Intermediate-Mid level

Through course-work or testing, students will demonstrate that they have achieved the following:

*Listening ability*
Able to sustain understanding over stretches of connected discourse on a topics related to the student's daily life and on a number of topics of the student's interest with native speakers.

*Speaking ability*
Able to handle some uncomplicated communicative tasks and social situations; and able to initiate, sustain, and close a general conversation with some strategies appropriate to a range of circumstances and topics with connected discourse.

*Reading ability*
Able to read consistently with a good understanding of uncomplicated texts about culture and society of the target language. The active vocabulary items should be around 1,200.

*Writing ability*
Able to meet most practical needs and limited social demands; ability to write letters, summaries of biographical data, and reflections on texts and selected newspaper articles with guidance.
APPROVALS FOR ASIAN STUDIES CERTIFICATE FROM CHAIRS OF HISTORY OF ART, HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, and RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENTS

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for sending the proposal for an Asian Studies Certificate. It goes without saying that Asian art and architecture are a key part of our undergraduate program already, as well as of our planned doctoral program. I certainly approve of the certificate program and am happy to assist with it in any way I can.

Yours,

Kevin

Kevin D. Murphy
Andrew W. Mellon Chair in the Humanities
Professor of History of Art
Chair, the Dept. of History of Art
Vanderbilt University
PMB 274
230 Appleton Pl.
Nashville, TN 37203-5721

From: Rogaski, Ruth
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:55 PM
To: Murphy, Kevin Dean
Cc: Miller, Tracy G
Subject: approval for Asian Studies certificate

Dear Professor Murphy —
I’m writing on behalf of Asian Studies to ask your assistance with an administrative procedure. Asian Studies is creating a proposal for a Certificate in Asian Studies (see attached). The certificate — a sort of “minor” for graduate/professional students, would require two courses in Asia-related topics taught by CAS faculty.

The Asian Studies program includes courses taught outside of Asian Studies, including courses taught by faculty with primary appointments in History of Art. The certificate approval process stipulates “approvals must be secured from the department chair(s) or program director(s) and dean(s) of any units offering courses likely to be used to fulfill the certificate requirements.”
We’d love to get your approval for our certificate — I know this is a very busy time of year, so a quick email indicating your approval will suffice!

Best,
Ruth

Ruth Rogaski, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies
Department of History
Vanderbilt University
PMB 351802
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235
(615) 322-5950
http://as.vanderbilt.edu/history/bio/ruth-rogaski

Dear Ruth,

I am delighted to approve our department's offerings for the graduate certificate in Asian Studies. With Nancy Lin, Bryan Lowe, Anand Taneja, and myself all teaching classes in Asian religions it is only natural and right that we participate.

All the best,
tony

Tony K. Stewart
Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in Humanities
Professor and Chair, Department of Religious Studies
Professor of Asian Studies
Professor of Islamic Studies
Professor of the History of Religions, Graduate Department of Religion
Vanderbilt University

On Mar 31, 2015, at 2:57 AM, Rogaski, Ruth <ruth.rogaski@Vanderbilt.Edu> wrote: Dear Tony —
I’m writing on behalf of Asian Studies to ask your assistance with an administrative procedure. Asian Studies is creating a proposal for a Certificate in Asian Studies (see attached). The certificate — a sort of “minor” for graduate/professional students, would require two courses in Asia-related topics taught by CAS faculty.

The Asian Studies program includes courses taught outside of Asian Studies, including courses taught by faculty with primary appointments in Religious Studies. The certificate approval process stipulates “approvals must be secured from the department chair(s) or program director(s) and dean(s) of any units
offering courses likely to be used to fulfill the certificate requirements.”

We’d love to get your approval for our certificate — I know this is a very busy time of year, so a quick email indicating your approval will suffice!

Best,
Ruth
Ruth Rogaski, PH.D.
Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies
Department of History
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Nashville, TN 37235
(615) 322-5950
http://as.vanderbilt.edu/history/bio/ruth-rogaski

<Proposal for a Graduate Certificate Program in Asian Studies DRAFT MARCH 2015.docx>

Ruth,

You bet. Happy to approve.

David

David E. Lewis, Interim Chair
William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor
Department of Political Science
Vanderbilt University

From: Rogaski, Ruth  Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 8:32 AM To: Lewis, David
Eric Subject: approval for Asian Studies certificate

Dear Professor Lewis,
I’m writing on behalf of Asian Studies to ask your assistance with an administrative procedure. Asian Studies is creating a proposal for a Certificate in Asian Studies (see attached). The certificate — a sort of “minor” for graduate/professional students, would require two courses in Asia-related topics taught by CAS faculty.

The Asian Studies program includes courses taught outside of Asian Studies, including courses taught by faculty with primary appointments in Political Science. The certificate approval process stipulates “approvals must be secured
from the department chair(s) or program director(s) and dean(s) of any units offering courses likely to be used to fulfill the certificate requirements.”

We’d love to get your approval for our certificate — I know this is a very busy time of year, so a quick email indicating your approval will suffice!

Best,
Ruth
Ruth Rogaski, PH.D. Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies Department of History
Vanderbilt University PMB 351802 2301 Vanderbilt Place Nashville, TN 37235 (615) 322-5950 http://as.vanderbilt.edu/history/bio/ruth-rogaski

Dear Ruth,

I’m very happy to offer my support as History chair for this certificate program. Would you be willing to say something about it at our next departmental meeting?

J

Joel F. Harrington
Vanderbilt University
615-322-2577

On Mar 30, 2015, at 4:57 PM, Rogaski, Ruth <ruth.rogaski@Vanderbilt.Edu> wrote:

Hi Joel (Hi Sarah) —
I’m writing in my capacity as the DGS (sort of) of Asian Studies. We actually don’t have a graduate program, but we are putting through a proposal for a Certificate in Asian Studies (see attached). The Asian Studies certificate would be available to graduate students and professional students from around Vanderbilt to certify their expertise in Asian societies. Our certificate is similar to the the Center for Latin American Studies certificate, which has been around for awhile and may be familiar to you.

As you know, the Asian Studies program includes courses taught outside of Asian Studies, including courses taught by faculty with primary appointments in History. The certificate approval process stipulates that”Approvals must be secured from the department chair(s) or program director(s) and dean(s) of any units offering courses likely to be used to fulfill the certificate requirements.”

I am seeking your blessing for our certificate. I don’t think that Asian Studies-affiliated faculty have too much in the way of formal classes that are offered for
graduate credit, but we are seeking your approval to make those classes available to certificate students. An email stating this will suffice —

I’m hoping to get the proposal in to the approval pipeline soon, so your speedy reply is much appreciated!
Best,
Ruth

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