

Asian Studies Program

Statement of Learning Outcomes

1. Mission Statement of the Asian Studies Undergraduate Program

The central mission of the Asian Studies undergraduate program is to provide students with information and methods to understand and analyze Asian civilizations and contemporary societies, as well as the Asian experience in other parts of the world, particularly the United States. Asian Studies courses help students develop language proficiency, acquire cultural knowledge, and appreciate non-Western perspectives. In addition, as a rigorous liberal arts major, the program cultivates students' ability to analyze texts, develop and evaluate arguments, write and speak clearly, and understand and apply various disciplinary theories and approaches. This combination of Asia content, interdisciplinary methods, and practical skills will help prepare our majors for life in the twenty-first century and for careers in Asia and with people from the countries and regions of Asia.

2. Learning Outcomes for the Asian Studies major

The Asian Studies Program at the University at Buffalo has developed the following statement of learning outcomes, which encapsulate the current goals of the major as it has developed over the last decade. They indicate the skills our majors should develop, the broad content areas they should be knowledgeable about, and the intellectual and personal growth they should experience.

Upon completion of the Asian Studies major, graduating seniors should be able to:

1. Communicate clearly and persuasively in written and spoken English
2. Read and analyze texts and non-print sources carefully and critically
3. Use primary and secondary sources to develop original arguments and analysis—including sources in a language other than their native language
4. Speak, listen, read, and write proficiently in an Asian language other than their native language at the intermediate level or higher
5. Analyze how specific historical developments, cultural norms, socioeconomic and geographic contexts, etc. have shaped perceptions, practices, and products of individuals in specific Asian cultures, including Asian diaspora in the United States
6. Articulate connections and differences among the countries and peoples of Asia
7. Compare and contrast historical developments, philosophical traditions, cultural practices, and social and economic structures and norms of an Asian target country with those of the United States
8. Demonstrate specialized, interdisciplinary knowledge of one Asian country or region (normally the country or region of the second language studied)

9. Understand the terminology and methodologies of different disciplinary approaches to the study of Asia
10. Appreciate the value of greater cultural exposure to one's intellectual, professional, and personal development

3. Basic Curriculum Mapping according to AS Major Requirements

As an interdisciplinary program, Asian Studies is largely dependent on other departments to offer courses that fulfill requirements of our major. Nevertheless, the expected learning outcomes for Asian Studies majors are likely to be similar in many ways to those of other liberal arts departments, so we assume UB faculty in other departments who are teaching courses that fulfill requirements of the Asian Studies major will be teaching toward similar learning outcomes.

	Learning Outcomes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Communicate clearly in written and spoken English	Read and analyze sources	Use primary sources in original research	Demonstrate proficiency in Asian language	Analyze contexts that shape perceptions, practices	Articulate connections & differences within Asia	Compare with US developments/norms	Show specialized knowledge of Asian country/region	Understand disciplinary approaches	Appreciate cultural exposure for personal development
AS 101	x	x			x	x	x		x	x
AS 110	x	x			x		x		x	x
AS 221	x	x			x	x			x	x
AS 229	x	x			x	x	x		x	
HIS 181/182	x	x			x	x	x		x	
Language study		x		x	x			x		x
AS special topics courses	x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x
Country/culture-specific electives	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	
Pan-Asia electives	x	x	x		x	x			x	
Senior research ¹	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

¹ A satisfactory senior thesis must show awareness and evidence of development of at least 5 of the 10 learning outcomes for Asian Studies majors. Among the 5 must be at least some use of primary sources in an Asian language other than their native language (outcome #3).