Certificate Program in Asian Studies

The Certificate in Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to explore Asia’s varied nations, cultures, languages, peoples and histories. Asia is a vast continent whose peoples extend from the islands of Japan, to the “stans” (Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Afghanistan) in the west, and from India and Indonesia along the Indian Ocean to Mongolia and Siberia in the north. In addition, Asian peoples, cultures, trade links, and political ties have long extended far beyond mere geographic boundaries. From the Silk Road and spice trade of antiquity to immigrant communities and the Internet, Asian influences and peoples are central to understanding a global story.

Given America’s increasing involvement with Asia, educational and occupational opportunities with Asian focus will inevitably increase, and the certificate will provide students a valuable background to take advantage of the world’s changing dynamics. Developments in the past decade have radically transformed America’s relationship to the nations of the Asian Rim. Not only has North American trade with Asia changed radically, we have become deeply involved as a nation in its social and political dynamics. A certificate encourages potential employers and graduate admissions committees to focus on the fact that the student has made the extra effort to go beyond major and degree requirements and develop and focus their studies in a serious way on aspects of the Asian world.

Certificate Requirements:

The certificate program entails a study of one of three languages (Chinese, Japanese, or Russian) and five additional courses.

Language: A major purpose of the certificate is a serious exposure to Asian languages. Basic knowledge of an Asian language is a key component of the certificate, and a minimum of 10 hours of language (typically, 1st and 2nd semester introductory levels) is essential for achieving an appropriate minimum level of competency in these languages. The language not only provides significant depth to their understanding Asian culture, but develops communication skills future employers and study programs will value. Language courses are sequenced, but Asian Studies courses may be taken prior to, concurrently with, or after language classes.

Other Requirements:

15 hours of courses with significant Asian content (one-third or greater). Specific decisions about appropriateness of content will be decided by Certificate Coordinators. Students will be encouraged to take an interdisciplinary approach and will not be permitted to count toward Certificate completion more than two courses in any one department. Appropriate Special Topics and Directed Readings classes will be accepted at the Coordinators’ discretion. Eligible courses are offered with sufficient frequency that students should be able to complete Certificate requirements within four years.
Completion requirements and degree overlap:

Students will be expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 for all courses counting toward the certificate, with no grades below C. Students may count both degree-requirement courses and general education courses toward the Certificate. A maximum of ten hours of transfer credit will be allowed, at the discretion of the Coordinators.

This certificate program is not eligible for Title IV (federal financial aid) funding unless the certificate is part of the degree program you are pursuing or the certificate has been specified as a Gainful Employment (aid eligible) program.

Please see the WSU Undergraduate Catalogue for a complete list of requirements and additional information.

Coordinators:

For information and application procedures please contact

Dr. Robert Feleppa (978 3125, robert.feleppa@wichita.edu), or
Dr. Helen Hundley (978 7745, helen.hundley@wichita.edu)