**Annual Departmental Assessment Report – Graduate Program**

**Department or Program: Asian Studies Program**

**Academic Year of Report: Dec 2018**

**Department Contact Person for Assessment: Professor Tuong Vu, Program Director**

**Graduate Program Assessment**

Asian Studies offers an MA degree (no PhD), and below are our learning outcomes (LOs) and the ways the program generates these outcomes. In particular, having completed an MA in Asian Studies, a student will be able to:

*1. Exhibit broad knowledge and understanding of the Asia region, including its history, cultures and societies.*

This outcome is the result of seminars and classes that cover the entire region of Asia, such as AS 611, AS 612, AS 525, AS 580, PS 560 (East Asian Political Economy), PS 510 (War and Peace in East Asia), EALL 510 (East Asian Literature), HIST 507 (the Mongols), etc. Students are required to take 8 credits of coursework beyond the particular Asian country of their focus.

*2. Use multiple disciplinary approaches and perspectives to critically analyze, interpret, and contextualize major issues or themes in Asian cultures and societies.*

Students are required to take graduate coursework in history and at least two other disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences. This broadly interdisciplinary course of study is expected to produce this learning outcome.

*3. Exhibit familiarity with the current academic literature on at least one of the issues or themes in LO 2.*

Students are required to either choose a discipline or a theme as the focus of their study. The final project (either a thesis or two seminar papers) provides the opportunity for them to know the literature on their topic at some depth.

*4. Exhibit proficiency in at least one methodology (or approach such as literary or artistic criticism), in relation to issues or themes in LO 2.*

This outcome is expected from the completion of their final project (either a thesis or two seminar papers).

*5. Demonstrate effective written and verbal communication skills.*

Students have the opportunity to develop these skills through their class assignments and through their final project--either a thesis or two seminar papers.

*6. Demonstrate advanced language competence (3 years) in a major Asian language.*

Although the UO offers training only in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages, students can meet the language requirements for other Asian languages by taking summer courses offered by other universities. Many students in our program have successfully applied for advanced language training fellowship in Japan and China and spent the middle year in the MA program to study abroad.

**Graduate Degree Assessment Plan**

We made major changes to our graduate program last year that have been approved by the UO Curriculum Committee. In our newly revamped program, students are required to complete the following major requirements:

* Take 48 credits of coursework distributed across at least three disciplines and covering not only a core country but also region-wide topics.
* Take third-year language courses of an Asian language of the country of focus.
* Submit a final project (either two Asia-related seminar papers or a thesis), and successfully defend it.

We have had great success in placement for our MA graduates. Based on record that we began to collect since 2012, many have continued their studies in strong PhD programs, including:

Matthew Hayes (MA 2012): PhD student, UCLA, Buddhist Studies

Jesse Rodenbiker (MA 2013): PhD student, UC Berkeley, Geography

Rachel Wallner (MA 2014): PhD student, Northwestern, History

Sara Menton (MA 2014): Law student, University of Miami

Avi Conant (MA 2014): PhD student, UC Santa Cruz, Anthropology

Kathleen McAuliff (MA 2015): PhD, George Washington U., Political Science

Shuangting Xiong (MA 2017): PhD student, UO, E. Asian Languages & Literature

Brandon Folse (MA 2017): PhD student, UO, Sociology

Those who now work in business/non-profit careers are

Jing Pei Goh (MA 2012): business manager, Penang, Malaysia

Julie DePaulo (MA 2013): system analyst, Ohio State University

Matthew Kane (MA 2014): Zen Buddhist teacher, Eugene

Katherine Messer (MA 2016): English teacher, Taiyuan, Shaanxi, China

Feng Cheng (MA 2016): translator, Boston

Veronika Korovianska (MA 2017): translator, Seattle

Depei Song (MA 2017): program assistant, UO