

ASIAN STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS

2005.10.30

NEW ASIAN STUDIES MAJOR

Be one of the first to declare the new major in Asian Studies! With the recent approval of the new major, New Paltz has become the **first** University College in the SUNY system to offer a major in the field. (Elsewhere in SUNY, Asian Studies can be pursued as a major only at the four University Centers Albany, Buffalo, Binghamton, or Stony Brook.)

The major in Asian Studies requires two years of language, plus additional coursework on Asia, to total 37 credits:

Innovations to enrich students' experience include:

- a) Strong encouragement for Study Abroad
- b) Training in basic library research & resources on Asia
- c) Exposure to a range of perspectives on Asia
- c) Emphasis on individual experience & development in Asian Studies

Students in Asian Studies are always urged to consider ways of combining their work on Asia with a minor or double major in a discipline. This brings greater range to your studies and intellectual development, while attracting the attention of prospective employers!

The Asian Studies minor is one year of language study, plus additional coursework on Asia, to total 18 credits.

To learn more, just visit the Asian Studies program office at JFT 922 anytime during the coming months to pick up the Plan of Study available outside the office and see the sign-up sheet for appointments.

PRACTICE CHINESE LANGUAGE & HAVE FUN!

Beginning this spring, we will organize a weekly time where anyone interested in improving his or her spoken language skills in Mandarin is welcome. This will be an opportunity for everyone to practice speaking and communicating in Chinese. We will aim to have refreshments, and invite special guests/films/activities on occasion. More news will come as we schedule the location and time. Suggestions are very welcome!

SPOKEN MANDARIN CHINESE

Spoken Mandarin is a 3-credit course designed for students who wish to improve their communication skills in Mandarin -- particularly for students who speak other Chinese dialects and wish to develop their spoken Mandarin.

LIBRARY ASSISTANCE

Asian Studies has a new Library Liaison -- Megan Coder. Megan can help students & faculty seeking advice or guidance in library research involving Asia. Megan can be reached via email at coderm@newpaltz.edu.

NEW COURSE -- spring 2006

Geography of East Asia (48308) (3 credits) -- This course examines the physical and cultural geography of China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Using case studies, the course focuses on rural and urban landscapes, natural resource distributions, population dynamics, economic development, and natural disasters. Professor Ron Knapp has authored numerous books about vernacular architecture in China, Chinese Houses, China's Walled Cities, China's Living Houses, Chinese Bridges, and other titles. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/search-handle-form/102-5202405-3759361>

STUDY ABROAD

CHINA -- Study Mission in May 2006 (6 credits) -- Political Science Professor Jonathan Schwartz will lead this two-week study trip to China. Interested students may contact him at schwartj@newpaltz.edu. More details will be announced during Spring semester.

JAPAN -- Language study abroad and teaching ESL, for current students, and students preparing to graduate. Scholarships are available. See Foreign Languages Professor Chris Robins robinsc@newpaltz.edu

TRENDS

Recent developments in education and business suggest that study of Mandarin Chinese will be **highly beneficial** to future graduates. Visit the reports below for full details.

UPI Report -- October 15 2005:

http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=00fac0f052ca142e205281aab8f70f7c&_docnum=89&wchp=dGLbVzb-zSkVA&_md5=79b29d700b78d4562be5265aa12b8131

Boston Globe Report -- June 2005:

http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=0b0749fde46bff907399df0ab6ab12cf&_docnum=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVb&_md5=85e22e42cf50999540b7da859161ffa3
NY Times Report -- October 2005:

http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=00fac0f052ca142e205281aab8f70f7c&_docnum=88&wchp=dGLbVzb-zSkVA&_md5=ea17ef7d1973d7569556623414c23fd6

SPECIAL EVENTS

To celebrate the new major, the Asian Studies program is planning several events for the Spring 2006 semester:

-- "Spring Festival" gathering in early February, to celebrate the New Year

-- Special guest speakers who are also alums -- learn what can be done with skills in Asia

Details will be announced as the time approaches.