



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME

ASIA 302 SELECTED TOPIC: DIRECTED INDIVIDUAL STUDY

TRIMESTER 2 2012

16 July to 17 November 2012

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012

Study week: 22–26 October 2012

Examination/Assessment period: 26 October to 17 November 2012

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Names and contact details

**Course Coordinator
and Lecturer:**

Dr Stephen Epstein

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Staff are available for student consultation at times indicated on the doors of their offices.

Administrators:

Nina Cuccurullo

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Reception Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Maori
& Pasifika Students**

Dr Ross Woods

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**Contact Person for
Students with Disabilities**

Dr Carolina Miranda

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Class times and locations

Students enrolled in this course must establish with their individual supervisors a mutually agreed schedule of meetings to discuss their progress.

Teaching learning summary

As a directed individual study, students are expected to work independently for the most part but also to attend regular meetings with their supervisors at times to be mutually determined.

Communication of additional information

The Asian Studies noticeboard is in the corridor between rooms vZ717 and vZ718. As an individual study, additional information or information on changes will generally be conveyed to students via meetings with supervisors or email

Course prescription

A supervised programme of research and study on selected themes in Asian Studies.

Course content

The general aims of the Asian Studies Programme are to teach students to think critically and creatively about "Asian" life and thought within the context of the University and about "our own culture(s)" in the light of Asian life and thought, to integrate these knowledges and practices, and to incorporate these integrated knowledges and practices into university education. In keeping with these aims, ASIA 302 provides students with the opportunity to undertake a supervised programme of individual research and study on a theme agreed upon between the student and an appropriate supervisor.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course, students should:

- i. have honed their research skills generally, and more specifically within the context of Asian Studies;
- ii. have a deepened critical understanding of a particular area of research within Asian Studies;
- iii. be further equipped to consider issues in Asian Studies from at least one or more disciplinary perspectives.

Expected workload

The University Assessment Handbook has laid down guidelines as to the number of hours per week which students are expected to devote to a course in order to maintain satisfactory progress. Students enrolling in a 300-level one-trimester 20-point course should work on average 13 hours per week including contact hours.

Readings

As this paper is based on an individual research topic, there is no textbook or course reader as such. Students may find it useful to purchase texts that have a specific relevance to their area of focus. Appropriate readings will be determined in conjunction with the student's supervisor. Students are expected to engage in an ongoing and wide range of reading that will be incorporated into their essay(s) for the course.

Assessment requirements

This paper is entirely internally assessed. The assessment, which is designed to test how well you have responded to the objectives of the course and have developed research skills within Asian Studies consists of the following:

- 1) Course essay prospectus (10%), Week 4 (August 6-10)
- 2) Preliminary annotated bibliography for essay (10%), Week 7 (September 10-14)
- 3) Course essay (80%), 5000 words, Week 12 or Study Week (October 15-26)

The precise due dates for these assignments may be varied within the specified weeks upon consultation with your individual supervisor(s), but in no case may the final essay be accepted later than the last day of the trimester's study week. As a paper of directed individual research, there is no exam in ASIA302. All assignments must be handed in at the deadlines arranged with supervisor(s) to avoid penalties. Papers should be handed in directly to the supervisor electronically and a paper copy delivered to the SLC office on the 6th floor of Von Zedlitz.

Students will not be able to attain an aegrotat for this course as assessment is dependent on the successful completion of the assigned essay for independent study.

Below is further detail on each piece of assessment:

1. Course essay prospectus (10%) due Week 4 (August 6-10)

In order to help assist you in planning your essay, you are required to produce a prospectus of 500- 1000 words, which will allow your supervisor(s) to help guide you in your work and to encourage you to get an early start. Although there is no fixed set template that you have to follow, what we are looking for is an indication of the issues you will write about, along with a tentative outline of arguments you may be making (or perhaps better put, hypotheses you will be testing, as your thoughts will grow and change as your research deepens). You are welcome to use parts of your prospectus in the final version of your essay, but part of your final grade will be dependent on how well you incorporate any feedback you are given.

2. Preliminary annotated bibliography for essay (10%), due Week 7 (September 10-14)

An essential part of the research process is reading through and taking notes on the sources you will draw on in creating your argument. Again, to help guide you, we ask you to prepare a list of several of the sources you expect to use and to annotate them. Although again there is no fixed set template that you have to follow, you should treat between roughly 15 to 25 sources (this will vary depending on the nature of your project and the length of the sources you are using), with approximately three to five sentences each (you may also create a set of extended bullet points upon agreement with your supervisor), summing up their main arguments, points of particular note to you and an overall assessment of the piece and its usefulness to you. This exercise will also help you with preparation of your bibliography for your final essay.

3. Course essay (80%), 5000 words, due Week 12 or Study Week (October 15-26)

The essay length is 5000 words (excluding bibliography and notes; please include a word count; essays that fall outside of a 10% limit on either side, 4500-5500 words, can expect to lose marks in proportion to the severity of the shortfall or excess). Please include the word count and be sure to type it double-spaced to allow room for comment.

In writing your essay, develop an argument carefully, and be sure to use carefully chosen examples to back up your points. You will need to refer to credible secondary sources, but do not rely upon them to make your argument for you. We are interested in what you think just as much as what learned colleagues think. When you refer to secondary sources in support of your argument, provide accurate quotations and references as well as a bibliography for the books cited. The bibliography should contain references only for those books you actually cite in your essay and may well depart from your preliminary annotated bibliography as your research develops.

Essays are to be carefully edited and proofread before submission. Be sure to keep up your writing throughout the trimester and leave ample time for revisions. Be sure to use a spelling and grammar check!

In addition to meetings with your supervisor(s), you may feel free to consult with the course co-ordinator if you have general questions about the writing and research process.

Penalties

The due dates for the assignments given in the Course Programme must be adhered to. Although work may be accepted late in special circumstances, your supervisor and the Course Co-ordinator always be contacted on or before the due dates if there is a problem. The penalty for work presented late without prior approval is a 5% deduction per day (counting an individual piece of work as 100%). In addition, please note that up to a maximum of 5% may be deducted for poorly presented assignments. Please note that no work for assessment will be accepted after 26 October.

Mandatory course requirements

There are no attendance requirements as such, but it is fully expected that students will attend all scheduled meetings with their supervisors on a regular basis, and contact them beforehand if for some reason they cannot make an arranged appointment. Students must hand in all written work in order to pass this course.

Class representative

If warranted from class size, a class representative will be elected, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the other students enrolled in ASIA302. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will attend a meeting with the head of school to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that you may have. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

Do you want to...

- ...further improve your language skills outside of class time?
- ...access digital material for your course?
- ...watch the latest foreign language movies or television between classes?
- ...use exciting software tools to practice reading, writing, listening, and speaking?
- ...get together with your classmates and practise conversation in a foreign language?
- ...become a language buddy?
- ...learn about useful tips and strategies that can help you with your language learning?

Then visit us and immerse yourself in the language of your choice in a friendly and supportive environment. For opening hours, upcoming events, and useful external links, check out our website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/llc

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.

Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.