

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 04/18/2026
From: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez
Through: Associate Dean, Charles Boehmer.
To: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Chair, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee
Proposal Title: Asian Studies Minor update

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

- New program or Program Change
 - Bachelor's
 - Master's
 - Doctoral/Professional
 - Certificate
 - Fast Track
 - Minor
 - Concentration/Track
- New Course
- Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)
- Change
 - CIP Code
 - Program/certificate SCH
 - Course Title
 - Course Description
 - Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale:

The Asian Studies minor is designed to provide students with focused, region-specific knowledge of Asia. To maintain the integrity and academic coherence of the program, it is essential that included courses demonstrate clear and direct engagement with Asian societies, cultures, histories, and political systems. Courses that emphasize broadly comparative or global perspectives without sufficient depth in Asia do not fully support this objective and may limit students' ability to develop meaningful regional expertise. All courses within the minor should align closely with the program's learning outcomes, particularly the development of historically grounded and culturally informed understanding of Asia. Retaining courses without a substantive Asian focus risks diluting the intellectual identity of the minor and may lead to inconsistencies in student preparation and learning experiences.

updated 07.04.25

The core area of the minor is also being updated to include exclusively courses focused on Asia and Asian diasporas, further strengthening the program's regional emphasis. At the same time, previously included courses will continue to be available as electives, allowing students some flexibility while preserving the central focus of the curriculum.

Curricular sustainability is also an important consideration. A strong minor should be built around regularly offered courses with demonstrable relevance to Asia, ensuring that students have reliable pathways to completion and that advising remains clear and effective. Additionally, courses that are restricted to majors in other colleges offer limited accessibility, as those majors are often not eligible to pursue minors within our college. Including such courses therefore does not effectively serve the broader student population intended for the Asian Studies minor.

Based on these considerations, the following courses are recommended for removal from the minor: POLS 3332, POLS 4314, POLS 4348, POLS 4365, ECON 4325, MGMT 4325, ENG 3317, and ENG 3331.

Furthermore, courses such as PLS 3334 and HIST 3390 may be included in the minor only when their specific topics directly address Asia or Asian diasporas, ensuring alignment with the program's core objectives.

Asian Studies minor

~~Students must take nine (9) hours of courses from the following list that constitutes the minor's core. At least three (3) disciplines must be represented by the core courses. The remaining nine hours can be taken from the core courses not taken to satisfy the core requirement or from the list of optional courses. No more than nine (9) hours (total of core and optional) can be taken from any one discipline. No more than six (6) hours can be taken from a student's major area.~~

Degree Plan

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
Select three courses of the following:		9
ASIA 3300	Intro to Asian Studies	
ASIA 2300	Asian American Studies	
POLS 3339 ASIA 3350	Comparative Political Systems Special Topics- Asian Studies	
RS 3340 ASIA/HIST 3353	Major World Religions Asian Diasporas – Latin America	
POLS 3339	Comparative Political Systems	
Optional Courses		
Select three courses of the following: ¹		9
ANTH 3306	Cultural Diversity	
ASIA 2300	Asian American Studies	
ASIA 3300	Intro to Asian Studies	
ASIA/RS 3314	Buddhism	
ASIA/RS 3316	Confucianism and Daoism	
ASIA/POLS 3326	Politics of East Asia	
ASIA/HIST 3334	History of Premodern East Asia	
ASIA/HIST 3335	History of Modern East Asia	
ASIA/HIST 3338	History of Modern China	
ASIA/HIST 3339	Pyramids & Prophets	
ASIA/PHIL 3340	Asian Philosophies	
ASIA 3350	Special Topics-Asian Studies	
ASIA/HIST 3353	Asian Diasporas Latin America	
ASIA/POLS 4328	Politics of China	
ARAB 1301	Arabic One	
ARAB 1302	Arabic Two	

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updated 07.04.25

Code	Title	Hours
CHIN 1301	Elementary Chinese I	
CHIN 1302	Elementary Chinese II	
ECON 4325	International Economics	
ENGL 3347	Postcolonial Literature	
ENGL 3331	World Literature	
HIST 2301	World History to 1500	
HIST 2302	World History Since 1500	
HIST 3338	History of Modern China	
HIST 3339	Pyramids & Prophets	
HIST 3390	History, Special Topics	
MGMT 4325	International Management	
POLS/ASIA 3326	Politics of East Asia	
POLS 3332	Political Geography	
POLS 3334	Politics in World Regions	
POLS 3339	Comparative Political Systems	
POLS 3360	International Relations	
POLS 4314	Women, Power and Politics	
POLS/ASIA 4328	Politics of China	
POLS 4348	Politics/Developing Countries	
POLS 4364	Internat'l Political Economy	
POLS 4365	International Organizations	
RS 3310	Major World Religions	
RS 3350	Spec Topics-Religious Studies	
Total Hours		18

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Other applicable credit hours toward this minor include courses focused on Asia, among them those in Asian languages. Students may earn credit for only one section of a cross-listed course. Once a cross-listed course has been successfully completed with a grade of D or higher, it may not be repeated under a different course prefix. [Special Topics courses such as HIST 3390, RS 3350, or POLS 3334 will count toward this minor only when they focus on Asia or Asian diasporas.](#)

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Flores, Julianne

From: Chew-Melendez, Selfa A
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 3:16 PM
To: Flores, Julianne
Subject: FW: ENG 3317 and 3331

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The other.

Thanks.

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From: Ortiz, Joseph M <jmortiz7@utep.edu>
Date: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 12:09 PM
To: Chew-Melendez, Selfa A <sachewsmithart@utep.edu>
Subject: Re: ENG 3317 and 3331

Dear Selfa,

Thank you for letting me know.

All best,
Joe

Joseph M. Ortiz
Department Chair
Dorrance D. Roderick Professor of English
Department of English
University of Texas at El Paso
jmortiz7@utep.edu

From: Chew-Melendez, Selfa A <sachewsmithart@utep.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Ortiz, Joseph M <jmortiz7@utep.edu>
Subject: ENG 3317 and 3331

Dear Joe:

The Asian Studies minor is being updated to include only courses that focus specifically on Asia and its diasporas. As a result, ENG 3317 and ENG 3331 will be removed from the degree plan. Given the

relatively small number of students in the minor, this curricular change is not expected to significantly affect your department.

Best regards,

Selfa



Selfa A. Chew Meléndez, PhD, MFA

She/her pronouns

College of Liberal Arts

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

BMS/BAAS Programs Director

Asian Studies Program Coordinator

Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee Chair

Professor of Instruction

Department of History

The University of Texas at El Paso

Office: 915-747-5781

sachewsmithart@utep.edu

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment Statement

As members of the University of Texas at El Paso community, we acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Indigenous land. We would like to recognize and pay our respects to the Indigenous people with long ties to the immediate region. We also acknowledge the nations whose territories include present day Texas. Finally, we recognize all of the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories here in Paso del Norte, on Turtle Island. The University of Texas at El Paso honors your history and cultures and we seek greater awareness of the myriad ways in which your legacy can guide us in fruitful partnerships and mutually fulfilling relationships.

From: Villalobos, Jose De Jesus <jdvillalobos2@utep.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 9:51 AM

To: Chew-Melendez, Selfa A <sachewsmithart@utep.edu>; Villalobos, Jose De Jesus <jdvillalobos2@utep.edu>

Subject: Course changes for PSPA/Asian Studies

Dear Selfa,

Thanks as always for your time. Below is a summary of the course changes as I described over the phone...

Changes in course offerings for PSPA and the Asian Studies Minor:

POLS 3332: Political Geography (will be deactivated)

POLS 3334: Politics in World Regions (PSPA is keeping as a “special topics” option, will notify Asian Studies if any applicable section arises in the future)

POLS 4365: International Organizations (will be deactivated)

POLS 4314: Women, Power and Politics (PSPA is keeping with Pena and others available to teach, PSPA understands its removal from Asian Studies)

Strong courses to continue for both PSPA and Asian Studies Minor (FYI – ALL four of these are being offered in the Fall 2026 semester):

POLS 3339: Comparative Political Systems

POLS 3360: International Relations

POLS 4348: Politics/Developing Countries

POLS 4364: International Political Economy

I hope that all looks good. Let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to your message that you mentioned... Should I go ahead and email to Julie with you cc'd about the two deactivations for POLS 3332 and POLS 4365?

Best wishes,

--Jose



José D. Villalobos, Ph.D.

Chair and Professor

UTEP Distinguished Teaching Professor

Political Science and Public Administration

The University of Texas at El Paso

[faculty webpage](#)

Latest book:

[*Analyzing American Democracy: Politics and Political Science, 6th edition*](#) (Routledge 2026, with Jon R. Bond and Lydia M. Andrade)

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From: Chew-Melendez, Selfa A <sachewsmithart@utep.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 5:40 AM

To: Villalobos, Jose De Jesus <jdvillalobos2@utep.edu>

Cc: Weber, Ronald <rweber@utep.edu>

Subject: POLS courses in Asian Studies Minor

Dear José:

I hope you are doing well. The Asian Studies Program is in the process of reviewing and streamlining the Asian Studies Program minor and will be proposing the removal of courses that have not been offered in the past five terms. Could you please review the attached list and confirm which courses fall into this category?

At this stage, we are also considering the removal of *Women, Power and Politics* (POLS 4314) from the minor. While the topic is valuable, the course does not maintain a primary or sustained focus on gender in Asian contexts, which is essential for curricular coherence within the program.

To clarify the rationale for this proposed change:

- The Asian Studies minor should prioritize courses with a clear and direct engagement with Asia, ensuring that students develop region-specific knowledge rather than broadly comparative or global perspectives without sufficient depth in Asia.
- Courses included in the minor should align with the program's learning outcomes, particularly the development of historical, cultural, political, and social understanding grounded in Asian societies.
- Retaining courses without a substantive Asian focus may dilute the intellectual identity of the minor and create inconsistencies in student preparation.
- From a curricular sustainability standpoint, regularly offered courses with demonstrable relevance to Asia strengthen the minor's structure and facilitate clearer advising pathways.
- Gender and women's studies remain important areas of inquiry; however, their inclusion in this minor should be contingent upon a demonstrated focus on Asian

contexts (e.g., courses specifically addressing gender in East Asia, South Asia, or Asian diasporas).

I would welcome your thoughts on the course list provided here, particularly in regard to the frequency with which they are not regularly scheduled.

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POLS 3332	Political Geography
POLS 3334	Politics in World Regions
POLS 3339	Comparative Political Systems
POLS 3360	International Relations
POLS 4314	Women, Power and Politics
POLS 4348	Politics/Developing Countries
POLS 4364	Internat'l Political Economy
POLS 4365	International Organizations

Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, PhD

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

College of Liberal Arts

Director, Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies and Bachelor of Applied Arts Science

Asian Studies Program Coordinator

Professor of Instruction

Department of History

University of Texas at El Paso

m: Chew-Melendez, Selfa A
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 4:00 PM
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