

THE ASIAN STUDIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AN OVERVIEW

HISTORY

There has been general acknowledgment within the higher education community of the need to infuse Asian studies into the undergraduate curriculum, but there are few resources available for such initiatives, particularly for the majority of two-year and four-year colleges and minority-serving colleges. In order to address this challenge, the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP) was established in 1990. Designed to assist colleges with the goal of infusing content on Asia into the undergraduate core curriculum, ASDP was initiated as a joint project of the University of Hawai'i, the East-West Center, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In 1992, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) joined the ASDP consortium.

Using the extensive Asian studies resources and expertise at the East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i, the goal of ASDP is to improve the long-term capacity of American higher education to teach about Asian cultures. ASDP promotes a comparative approach to infusing Asian material into the undergraduate curriculum, especially core courses, believing that in this way, not only do students come to understand more about other cultures, they better understand their own. ASDP does this through a variety of programs aimed at faculty, curriculum and institutional development, offering on-going support for faculty and institutions so that they are able to continue their efforts to infuse Asian content on a sustained basis. This means helping colleges with on-campus faculty workshops, acquisition of teaching resources and syllabi, clarification and articulation of institutional goals, identifying visiting speakers, library development, and so on. Currently nearly 400 colleges in 48 states are included in the ASDP network.

ACTIVITIES

ASDP provides a multi-year, multifaceted program for college faculty. Through its three components--summer institutes for faculty, field seminars in Asia, and developing regional center programs--ASDP is designed to take a college through the process of assessing specific needs of students, community and faculty; identifying areas of strength; developing faculty expertise and curricular offerings; and implementing and assessing curriculum changes. Demonstrated institutional commitment is a necessary condition for participation.

SUMMER INSTITUTES

ASDP summer residential institutes include one or more of the following programs:

- Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum Institutes (three-week program in Honolulu)
- Korean Culture and Society (three-week program in Korea and Honolulu)
- NEH Sponsored Institutes on Asian Cultures and Civilizations (five-week program in Honolulu)
- China and the United States Faculty Exchange Program (three-week programs in China or the U.S.)

Summer institutes are open to university or college humanities and social science faculty who teach primarily at the undergraduate level. Participants are primarily non-Asianists who want to enhance the Asian content of their courses. In keeping with ASDP's objective to expand the pool of faculty and staff sensitive to and informed about Asia, selection criterion for the applicants include an assessment of:

- the level of commitment at the applicant's home institution for infusing Asian studies into the undergraduate curriculum;
- the detail and scope of the applicant's commitment to integrating institute topics into their courses, and their expressed interest in continuing work on the development of Asian studies curriculum components;
- the applicant's ability and desire to work on Asian studies activities with other faculty from their own and nearby campuses.

Information about upcoming institutes and application procedures can be secured from the East-West Center web site (www.eastwestcenter.org) or by contacting the ASDP secretariat (808-944-7337). Announcements of ASDP activities are disseminated through the very active ASDP listserve.

Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum

The first summer residential institute--a three-week program on Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum--was held in 1991 for forty faculty including deans. Teams of two and three faculty members from 15 mainland U.S. colleges and universities were selected for participation. On the basis of a detailed review, it was judged by Institute participants and presenters to have been an enormous success. On this record, the three-week summer institute became an annual program—the eighteenth annual three-week institute was held in the summer of 2008.

These three-week long institutes have typically focused on East Asia, emphasizing culture and the relationships between culture and contemporary social phenomena. The 2002 Institute concentrated on Southeast Asia and the 2003 program solely on China. The institutes are multi-disciplinary in content, including seminars in the geography, religion, philosophy, history, literature, arts, political economy, and social practices of the region. In addition to the seminar sessions, institute activities include screening of selected Asian films, group discussions, and field trips to the Honolulu Academy of Art and local cultural and historical sites related to Asia.

In keeping with the aim of ASDP, participant teams for the three-week institutes are responsible for developing a written prospectus for infusing Asian content into the undergraduate curriculum at their home institutions. Individual participants in the institute are expected to develop a course syllabus or course module with significant Asian content.

Korea Foundation-Funded Institutes on Korean Culture and Society

Since its inception in 1991, the Infusing Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum summer institute series has focused on East Asia, but with overwhelming attention given to Japan and China. As a corrective, and much inspired by the late Marshall Pihl, ASDP conceived a series of institutes devoted to exploring the role of Korea as the nexus of East Asia.

With Korea Foundation funding, the first Korean Culture and Society Summer Institute were hosted in 1997. The program included two weeks of lectures at the East-West Center in Honolulu on Korean history, literature, religion, politics and film, and two weeks of field study in Seoul and other cultural sites throughout South Korea. Throughout the institute, particular attention was given to placing Korea in dynamic interaction with its neighbors in East Asia. Four subsequent institutes in this series were hosted in the summers of 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2007.

NEH-Funded Institutes on Asia Cultures and Civilizations

On the basis of our experience in the three-week institutes, ASDP recognized the need for longer institutes that could focus more intensely on the basic philosophical and religious underpinnings of major cultural areas of Asia, their traditional arts and literatures, as well as modern forms of representation such as film. With NEH funding, this need is being met with a series of five-week Institutes: *Chinese Culture and Civilization* in 1993; *South Asian Culture and Civilization Institute* in 1994; *Japanese Culture and Civilization Institute* in 1995; *Southeast Asian Cultures* in 1997; *Religion and Philosophy in China: Texts and Contexts* in 1998; *Religions, Philosophies, and Culture in India: Conflicts and Negotiations* in 2000; *Continuities and Crises: The Interplay of Religion and Politics in China* in 2001; *Empowering Relationships: Ways of Authority in Japanese Culture* in

2002; *Religion and Politics in India: Culture, History and the Contemporary Experience* in 2004; and *Southeast Asia: The Interplay of Indigenous Cultures and Outside Influences* in 2005, *The Silk Road: Early Globalization and Chinese Cultural Identity* in 2006, and *The Real and the Ideal: Arcs of Change in Chinese Culture* in 2007.

Like the three-week Infusing institutes, the five-week programs are multidisciplinary in content. However, the longer institute allows a more detailed exploration of culture and history of the region and a more substantial engagement of contemporary issues. Each institute includes a four-film cinema series, musical and dance performances, and visits to local museums and appropriate cultural and historical sites.

Participants in the institutes are expected to carry on individual research projects and to produce a course syllabus or course module with significant Asian content related to the focus of the particular institute.

Teaching About China and the United States

This Institute is part of a cooperative two-year exploration of how Chinese and American faculty can better teach about each others' countries and cultures and is conducted by ASDP in collaboration with Peking University and the Chinese Ministry of Education. The two-year program includes one institute hosted in the U.S. (which took place during summer 2001) and one hosted in China (2002). These institutes focus on cultural values, historical and contemporary experiences, and the complex dynamics, which shape social, cultural, and educational practices in China and the U.S. In the summer of 2004, the Institute comprised two groups and took place in both China and the U.S.; it concluded in Honolulu with several days of discussion where the two groups had the opportunity to compare their experiences and observations. In the summer of 2007 the U.S. once again hosted a group of Chinese educators who traveled to Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Honolulu.

This Institute series was initiated with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation and it is hoped that it will remain an ongoing part of the ASDP summer program.

FIELD SEMINARS

While faculty development institutes can go a long way toward preparing college and university teachers for infusing Asian content into their courses, ASDP believes that field seminars in Asia can prove instrumental in the success and longevity of these efforts. Beginning in 1993, ASDP has offered one or two field seminars each summer to selected Asian countries. Fulbright grants have enabled us to take groups of 14-16 participants on five-week long field seminars to China (1993 and 1994) and India (1995), and SE Asia (1997 and 2004) . Two and three-week seminars are frequently held in China and Japan. The Freeman Foundation has funded field seminars to China, Korea, and Southeast Asia.

All ASDP field study seminars include lectures and panel discussions at leading Asian colleges and universities; visits to scenic locales, cultural sites and museums; and tours of socially important sites, factories, rural villages, and urban centers.

ASDP Regional Workshop Series

Regional workshops have been funded by the NEH and The Freeman Foundation, as well as The East-West Center. These two or three days, intensive faculty development workshop are interdisciplinary in nature and stress the relevance of Asian content in the undergraduate classroom. While culture and the humanities are the focus of the regional workshop series, each workshop's specific Asian culture content is tailored to meet the particular needs and interests of the host campus and other colleges in the region as well as the local community. Presentation, panels, and discussions focus on curriculum development and evening programs are open to all faculty, students, and the general public.

In the last few years, ASDP organized a series of workshops with the broad focus of Islam in Asia. Six workshops were hosted in the spring and fall of 2005-6 and continued into 2007. These workshops, at mainland U.S. college campuses, address the current need for more and better learning on this topic.

REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAMS

Realizing that resources for curricular changes and faculty development are often limited in American colleges and universities, ASDP has from the outset stressed the development of consortia of alumni institutions. In order to facilitate the networking process, ASDP has (as of spring 2009) established formal relationships with 19 colleges and universities as regional centers for the infusion of Asian content into the American undergraduate curriculum. These centers serve as model mentor institutions for their geographical areas: Central Washington University; Johnson County Community College (KS); University of Alaska; Middlesex Community College (MA); City College of San Francisco (CA); Slippery Rock University (PA); Paradise Valley Community College (AZ); College of DuPage (ILL); Black Hawk College (ILL); Belmont University (TN); Tulsa Community College (OK); Community College of Philadelphia (PA); Morgan State University (MD); Kapiolani Community College (HI); University of Central Arkansas; Trident Technical College (SC); Eckerd College (FL); University of Redlands (CA); and Missouri State University (MO).

The Association of ASDP Regional Centers (ARC) meets regularly. AEC plans and organizes the ASDP Annual National Conferences, which are attended by more than 150 ASDP alumni and other interested faculty. The 15th Annual conference was held in Chicago in 2008, and the 2009 Conference was held in Philadelphia. ASDP regional centers host, on an ongoing basis, topical

seminars and workshops related to teaching about Asia. Out of each national conference a refereed publication is produced by ARC, entitled *East-West Connections: Reviews of Asian Studies*.

RESOURCES

As part of its commitment to fostering the infusion of Asian content into the undergraduate curriculum in American two- and four-year colleges and universities, ASDP has developed the following resources and services:

- ASDP Internet Discussion List
- ASIA: Asian Studies in America, the newsletter of the Asian Studies Development Program

ASDP INTERNET DISCUSSION LIST

In addition to this world-wide-web site, ASDP maintains a free, on-line Internet discussion group, open to all ASDP alumni and other interested teaching faculty in the U.S. and abroad. Daily postings on the list include news from the East-West Center, articles about Asian Studies internet resources, calls for papers, conference announcements, and discussions of texts, films and grant opportunities relevant to research on and teaching about Asia. The list is moderated by David Jones at Kennesaw State University.

The address is: ASDP-L@H-NET.MSU.EDU

ASIA: ASIAN STUDIES IN AMERICA

ASIA is the newsletter of the Asian Studies Development Program. ASIA is published annually under the auspices of both the East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i. Each eight-page issue includes news about ASDP and its programs, feature articles related to the ASDP mission of infusing Asian content into the undergraduate curriculum, and reviews of relevant books and films.

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