22 December 2005

REVISED 13 April 2006

To: Committee on Educational Programs
From: Gerald Figal, Acting Director, East Asian Studies Program
Re: Proposal for New Minor in Chinese Language and Culture; Proposal of Changes in East Asian Studies Minor and Minor in Japanese Language and Culture

I submit for your consideration the following proposal for the establishment of a new Minor in Chinese Language and Culture and proposals for revisions to the existing Minors in East Asian Studies and in Japanese Language and Culture. These are initiatives that are long overdue, especially given the combination of heightened interest among students in China and the recent additions of faculty who teach in East Asian areas. I offer these proposals as a comprehensive package to rationalize the minors offered under the East Asian Studies Program. Rationale for these proposals are collectively presented first, followed by the details for each minor in a form ready for publication in the college catalog. Of course, the Committee may approve or disapprove each of these proposals on a separate basis; they are offered as a package here only to impress upon the Committee the care that has been taken to polish, update, and coordinate offerings under the East Asian Studies Program.

My fellow East Asian Studies colleagues and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these proposals and any feedback you may have concerning them. You may direct any concerns or questions to me and I will be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Gerald Figal
Acting Director, East Asian Studies Program
**Rationale for Proposals**

**Proposal for Minor in Chinese Language and Culture**

During the past ten years—and even more so during the past two—China has attracted increasing attention globally, nationally, and locally. This is not only because China plays a very important role on the world’s political and economic stage and is key in American foreign policy; its language and culture are also intriguing to students. As a result, Chinese language enrollments at Vanderbilt University have doubled over the past year, demand for Chinese culture-related courses has risen, and more and more graduates from Vanderbilt University are engaged in research and business exchanges related to China. Most recently, dozens of students have clamored for a Chinese Studies minor comparable to what exists for Japanese Studies. With the present critical mass of China-related faculty on campus, there really is no reason not to offer such a minor. In order to interact with, understand, and develop insight into this area, students need to be educated about its language, the society, the cultural diversity and its traditional influence. The proposed Minor in Chinese Language and Culture strives to meet growing need and to satisfy the increasing demand among students for a Chinese Studies minor. In addition, this proposed minor would well parallel the two existing minors (East Asian Studies Minor and Japanese Language and Culture Minor) under the East Asian Studies Program.

**Proposal for Changes in the East Asian Studies Minor and Minor in Japanese Language and Culture.**

Revisions to East Asian Studies Minor and Minor in Japanese Language and Culture are being simultaneously submitted with this proposal for a new Minor in Chinese Language and Culture. The intent of these revisions is to update course offerings stemming from the addition of new faculty and to better streamline the structure of these minors as a coherent unit within the East Asian Studies Program. I encourage the Committee on Education Programs to consider the proposal for the new Chinese minor in light of this overall rationalization of the minors the East Asian Studies Program currently offers.

**Costs and Impact of Proposals**

Neither the proposal for a new Minor in Chinese Language and Culture nor the proposed revisions to the East Asian Minor and the Minor in Japanese Language and Culture would entail any new costs or impact on staffing or facilities.
Proposed Requirement for Minor in Chinese Language and Culture

The minor in Chinese Language and Culture requires a minimum of 19 hours of coursework, anchored by a firm foundation in language study that is complemented by electives in art, history, literature, film, politics, and religion. Chinese 201 and 202 do not count toward the minor.

Students electing two or more minors in East Asian Studies must present at least 12 credit hours in each minor not being counted toward any other minor or major.

1. Required Courses (13 hours):

Chinese 214, 216, and 241

2. Elective Courses from the following list (at least 6 hours):

Art History 251, 252.
East Asian Studies 294a-b (Special Topics, upon approval by the Director of the East Asian Studies Program).
History 154, 155, 156, 246, 247, 248, 295 (as appropriate).
Political Science 216.
Religious Studies 244.

Other China-related courses not listed here—such as those in study abroad programs, First-Year Writing Seminars and Independent Studies—may be applied toward the minor upon approval by the Director of the East Asian Studies Program.
**Proposed Revisions to the Minor in Japanese Language and Culture**

The minor in Japanese Language and Culture requires a minimum of 19 hours of coursework, anchored by a firm foundation in language study that is complemented by electives in art, history, literature, film, politics, and religion. Japanese 201 and 202 do not count toward the minor.

Students electing two or more minors in East Asian Studies must present at least 12 credit hours in each minor not being counted toward any other minor or major.

1. **Required Courses (13 hours):**

Japanese 211, 212, and 241

2. **Elective Courses from the following list (at least 6 hours):**

Art History 253, 254.
East Asian Studies 211, 212, 240, 294a-b (Special Topics: upon approval by the Director of the East Asian Studies Program).
History 157, 249, 250, 251, 295 (as appropriate).
Political Science 214.
Religious Studies 132.

Other Japan-related courses not listed here—such as those in study abroad programs, First-Year Writing Seminars and Independent Studies—may be applied toward the minor upon approval by the Director of the East Asian Studies Program.
Proposed Revisions to the Minor in East Asian Studies

The minor in East Asian Studies requires a minimum of 19 hours of course work and provides a broad knowledge of the languages and literature, politics, history, arts, and religions of China and Japan. Chinese 201-202 and Japanese 201-202 do not count toward the minor.

Students electing two or more minors in East Asian Studies must present at least 12 credit hours in each minor not being counted toward any other minor or major.

1. Required courses (6 hours):

History 152 or 154 or 155
AND History 157

2. Elective Courses (at least 13 hours):

Students must fulfill the remaining hours with courses from the following list, selecting at least one from each of A, B, and C:

GROUP A: East Asian Studies 240; History 152, 154, 155, 157, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 295 (Senior Seminar, as appropriate); Political Science 214, 216.

GROUP B: Art History 120, 251, 252, 253, 254; History 156; Religious Studies 130, 132, 133, 231, 244, 249; East Asian Studies 211, 212, 294a-b (Special Topics, as appropriate).

GROUP C: Chinese 214 (5 hours), 216 (5 hours), 231 (1 hour) 241, 242; Japanese 211 (5 hours), 212 (5 hours), 241, 242, 251, 252; 289a-289b (Independent Study, as appropriate).

Other East Asia-related courses not listed here—such as those in study abroad programs, First-Year Writing Seminars and Independent Studies—may be applied toward the minor upon approval by the Director of the East Asian Studies Program.