**LETTER OF NOTIFICATION – 3**

NEW OPTION, EMPHASIS, CONCENTRATION, or MINOR

(Maximum 21 semester credit hours of theory courses and 6 credit hours of practicum courses)

1. Institution submitting request: University of Arkansas Fayetteville

1. Contact person/title: Dr. Terry Martin, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
2. Phone number/e-mail address: (479) 575-2151/tmartin@uark.edu
3. Proposed effective date: Fall 2019
4. Title of existing degree program:

(Indicate if the degree listed above is approved for distance delivery)

1. CIP Code: 05.0104 – East Asian Studies
2. Degree Code: NA
3. Proposed name of new option/emphasis/concentration/minor: East Asian History and Politics Minor
4. Reason for proposed action:

The growth of the AIST program justifies the need for the creation of a minor in East Asian history and politics with an emphasis on the humanities and social sciences. Currently, students of disciplinary majors are taking more and more courses focusing on China and Japan. Developing such a minor will cater to the need of this group, both allowing them to demonstrate their training in this field to future employers and increasing their competitiveness in graduate schools.   
Furthermore, currently the Asian Studies (AIST) program offers both a major and a minor in Asian Studies. Both the AIST major and minor require students to demonstrate fluency in an Asian language at the intermediate level. However, we increasingly have a growing number of students who have taken a relatively large number of upper-level Asian Studies, in particular East Asian history and politics content courses during their junior and senior years but are unable to obtain any credential for the coursework they have completed due to the lack of necessary language preparation. The creation of an East Asian history and politics minor will help to remedy this situation and potentially help to increase enrollment in the program by allowing us to accommodate students interested in the study of East Asia from various academic backgrounds.

1. New option/emphasis/concentration/minor objective:

Provide students with in-depth understanding of East Asian history and politics as well the background and tools for further academic study or for business and other professional careers related to East Asia.

1. Provide the following:
   1. Curriculum outline - List of courses in new option/concentration/emphasis/minor – Underline required courses

*Required courses (6 hours):*

PLSC 3503 Government and Politics of East Asia

HIST 3523 Modern China

E*lectives (9 hours):*

AIST 4003/4003H Asian Studies Colloquium

CHIN 3103 Chinese Culture and Film

CHIN 4313 Culture and Society in China

HIST 3513 History of China to 1644

HIST 4403 Islam in Asia

HIST 4553 The Recluse in Early East Asia

HIST 4633/4633H Heian Japan (794-1192)

HIST 4853 Early Chinese Empires: Mythology, Archeology, and Historiography

HIST 4863 Classical Thought in East Asia

HIST 4903/4903H Music and the Arts of Edo Japan 1600-1868

HIST 4913/4913H Reading Japanese Noh as Cultural History

HIST 4923/4923H Song China 960-1279

HIST 4933/4933H Ad Paradisum: Utopias, imaginary places, and the afterlife in East Asia

JAPN 4313/4313 H Language and Society of Japan

PLSC 4583 Political Economy of East Asia

PLSC 4823 Foreign Policy of East Asia

Students can apply up to 3 hours of upper level Chinese or Japanese language courses and 3 hours in an approved study abroad program toward the minor.

* 1. Provide degree plan that includes new option/emphasis/concentration/minor

N/A

* 1. Total semester credit hours required for option/emphasis/concentration/minor

(Option range: 9–27 semester credit hours)

15 credit hours

* 1. New courses and new course descriptions

The proposed program will not involve any new courses.

* 1. Goals and objectives of program option/emphasis/concentration/minor

This minor aims to provide students with in-depth knowledge of East Asian history and politics and the necessary tools to understand and critically engage East Asia at a time of the region’s rapid emergence in the international system. Program graduates are expected to have a thorough understanding of the complex historical, cultural, economic, political, and social contexts that shape East Asia’s behavior on the contemporary world stage. They will also learn to appreciate their own positions vis-a-vis the challenges faced by East Asian countries. It is the ultimate objective of the program to provide students with the knowledge, background, and tools for further academic study or for business and other professional careers related to East Asia.

* 1. Expected student learning outcomes

The proposed minor has the following learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of East Asian history, culture, politics, and society.

2. Students are expected to demonstrate competency in East Asian studies that spans more than one academic discipline.

3. Students will be able to apply one or more specific theoretical approaches and research methodologies to produce a written analysis of some aspect of East Asian culture or society.

4. Students will develop the analytical, critical thinking, and research skills needed to make sense of East Asia’s complex social reality.

* 1. Documentation that program option/emphasis/concentration/minor meets employer needs

The East Asian history and politics minor seeks to provide students with deep knowledge of the culture, history, and customs of the East Asian region. As such, it responds to growing demands both in the State and throughout the country for individuals who both understand the region and can effectively interact in business, governmental, and other professional settings that require knowledge of the region.

Indeed, the State of Arkansas has witnessed growing economic ties with major East Asian countries such as China and Japan in the past decades. For example, six of Arkansas’ top 20 trading partners in 2014 are based in East Asia. These six trading partners (i.e., China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan) account for 21.47% of all exports from Arkansas.[[1]](#footnote-1) In addition, between 2006 and 2016, Arkansas’ exports to China has increased by 89%, compared to 27% in the growth of Arkansas’s exports to the rest of the world. In 2014, China was Arkansas’s second largest export market, absorbing about $1.3 billion of Arkansas’ total exports. Arkansas’ exports to China supported 6,100 American jobs in 2015.[[2]](#footnote-2) As a result, local businesses have started to develop substantial business ties with China. Wal-Mart, whose headquarter is located just 20 miles from our campus, has increasingly sourced its products from China so that it contributes to about one percent of China’s gross national product (GDP) today. Another local Fortune 500 company, Tyson Foods, Inc. has been providing food to consumers in China since 1971. Since 2001, the company has developed poultry operations in the country and has strengthened partnerships with local businesses and communities in an effort to expand the product lines it offers to Chinese consumers. Another major local business, J.B. Hunt, has also been expanding its container shipment from China. In addition to rapidly growing trade relationships with China, the State has also witnessed growing Chinese investment in the recent years. For example, in 2016, Sun Paper, a China-based company has made a $1 billion investment in a new bio-products paper plant in Arkedelphia, making it one of the largest private investments in the State’s history.

Other East Asian countries also have a significant presence in the Arkansas economy. Currently there are 16 Japanese companies with 19 locations in State. These companies, which focus on the production of heating and refrigeration equipment, steel and automotive parts, employ approximately 5,300 workers. South Korea has two companies in Arkansas employing over 300 Arkansas workers.[[3]](#footnote-3)

More generally, as the United States’ economic ties with the East Asian region deepen, we will likely witness growing demand for professionals in a wide variety of fields with knowledge about East Asia’s historical, social, and cultural contexts. The State’s rapidly expanding business ties with East Asian countries and the growing economic interdependence between the United States and the region are therefore likely to generate robust demands for program graduates both locally and nationally. Our graduates will be sought after not only by local businesses with commercial interests in Asia, but also by social services, government, nonprofit organizations, and local schools, etc. The creation of this minor should therefore go a long way toward servicing the need of local businesses and organizations interested in expanding their ties with the East Asian region.

* 1. Student demand (projected enrollment) for program option/emphasis/ concentration/minor

Projected student enrollment for the minor is 10-20 students a year

* 1. Name of institutions offering similar program option/emphasis/concentration/ minor and the institution(s) used as a model to develop the proposed program option/emphasis/concentration/minor (if applicable)

We used the East Asian history minor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore as a model in developing the proposed program option. The East Asian history minor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore “gives concrete recognition to students who have achieved a broad understanding of East Asia through the completion of the required program. It will provide excellent preparation for students pursuing careers in international affairs, education, journalism, business and law.” Specifically, the program requires students to complete 6 hours of required courses and 12 hours of electives related to China and Japan.[[4]](#footnote-4)

The East Asian Studies minors at Stanford University and Cornell University are also similar to our proposed program option. The East Asian Studies minor at Cornell University requires students to complete five courses with a minimum of 18 credits, including at least one East Asian intro courses, while the minor at Stanford University is designed to provide students with a broad background in East Asian culture as a whole, while allowing them to focus on a geographical or temporal aspect of East Asia. The program requires six courses and a minimum of 20 units.[[5]](#footnote-5) Our proposed minor is similar to the above programs in terms of both structure and requirements.

1. Institutional curriculum committee review/approval date: November 14, 2018
2. Will the new option/emphasis/concentration/minor be offered via distance delivery? If yes, indicate mode of distance delivery: No.
3. Explain in detail the distance delivery methods/procedures to be used: N/A
4. Specify the amount of additional costs required for program implementation, the source of funds, and how funds will be used.

No additional costs will be required for program implementation.

1. Provide additional program information if requested by ADHE staff.

President/Chancellor Approval Date: January 21, 2019

Board of Trustees Notification Date: March 28, 2019

Chief Academic Officer: James S. Coleman Date: January 10, 2019

1. Arkansas Economic Development Commission, *Arkansas International Business Report 2015*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The U.S.-China Business Council, “Arkansas’ Exports to China,” 2017. Available at <https://www.uschina.org/sites/default/files/uscbc_arkansas_state_report_2017.pdf>; Business Roundtable, “How Arkansas’ Economy Benefits from International Trade and Investment.” Available at <https://arwtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/BRT_TRADE_2015_Arkansas.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Arkansas Economic Development Commission, *Arkansas International Business Report 2015*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. For detailed requirements for the East Asian history minor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, see

   <http://catalog.umbc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=15&poid=2722>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For detailed requirements for the East Asian Studies minors at Cornell University and at Stanford University, see, <http://asianstudies.cornell.edu/minors> and <https://ealc.stanford.edu/undergraduate-program/minor-requirements>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)