Eastern Illinois University
New Course Proposal
ENG 3907, Asian Literatures

Please check one: ☒ New course ☐ Revised course

PART I: CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Course prefix and number, such as ART 1000: ENG 3907
2. Title (may not exceed 30 characters, including spaces): Asian Literatures
3. Long title, if any (may not exceed 100 characters, including spaces): Asian Literatures
4. Class hours per week, lab hours per week, and credit [e.g., (3-0-3)]: 3-0-3
5. Term(s) to be offered: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☒ On demand
6. Initial term of offering: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☒ Year: 2009
7. Course description (not to exceed four lines): In-depth study of Asian literature in translation. Representative literatures include, but are not limited to, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese.
8. Registration restrictions:
   a. Identify any equivalent courses (e.g., cross-listed course, non-honors version of an honors course). N/A
   b. Prerequisite(s), including required test scores, courses, grades in courses, and technical skills. Indicate whether any prerequisite course(s) MAY be taken concurrently with the proposed/revised course. ENG 1001G, 1002G
   c. Who can waive the prerequisite(s)?
      ☐ No one ☒ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (Please specify)
   d. Co-requisites (course(s) which MUST be taken concurrently with this one): N/A
   e. Repeat status:
      ☐ Course may not be repeated.
      ☒ Course may be repeated once with permission of the Department Chairperson.
   f. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class to which registration in the course is restricted, if any: N/A
   g. Degree, college, major(s), level, or class to be excluded from the course, if any: N/A
9. Special course attributes [cultural diversity, general education (indicate component), honors, remedial, writing centered or writing intensive] ENG 3907 will be a writing-intensive course.
10. Grading methods (check all that apply): ☒ Standard letter ☐ C/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC (“Standard letter”—i.e., ABCDF--is assumed to be the default grading method unless the course description indicates otherwise.)
11. Instructional delivery method: ☒ lecture ☐ lab ☐ lecture/lab combined ☐ independent study/research
    ☐ internship ☐ performance ☐ practicum or clinical ☐ study abroad ☐ other
Part II: Assurance of Student Learning

1. Learning Objectives of This Course

The objectives for undergraduate students will be to:

a. Identify and interpret major works from the canon of an Asian literature.

b. Understand diverse philosophic and aesthetic points of view.

c. Recognize how Asian literary texts portray such cultural issues as class, gender, and political power.

d. Produce texts of their own, demonstrating accomplishment of objectives a to c.

2. & 3. Sample Assignments/Activities and Determination of Grades:

- Reading Quizzes (short answer, administered during first 5 minutes of class): 10%
- Two 3-5 page essays: 30%
- Translation Exercise: 10%
- Research Paper: 20%
- Participation/Discussion: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%

4. N/A

5. N/A

6. This course is writing intensive. Several writing assignments and writing activities are required, at least 35% of the final grade will be based on the quality of the student writing, and students will have the opportunity to revise one of their 3-5 page essays.

Part III: Outline of the Course

Class will meet for fifteen weeks, with either three 50-minute class sessions per week (MWF) or two 75-minute class sessions (TR) or one 150-minute session in the evening (3-0-3).

For illustrative purposes, the following course outline addresses Chinese Literature.


**Week 3-4:** The Traditional World, 2: Cosmology. Daoism, Laozi, Liehzi and Zhuangzi. Doctrine of Correspondences, the Yijing. Feng shui, Traditional aesthetics as seen in *The Mustard Seed Garden of Painting*. Reference to Needham’s *Science and Civilization in Ancient China*.


Week 10. *Yuan/Ming* Drama. Origins of the “Beijing Opera.” The *Yuan/Ming* stage. Chinese vs. European notions of theatricality/representation. Role of song, dance, etc. What constitutes dramatic “plot” and “character.” Possible viewing of work available on video.


Part IV: Purpose and Need

1. **Department Rationale for Course.** Asia offers us one of the world’s oldest continuous bodies of literatures and rich cultural traditions for students to study. Currently, the English Department offers no course in Asian literature. The department’s ongoing commitment to multicultural and world literatures justifies this new course in Asian literature, as does the pressing need for a literary component to the university’s new interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies. English 3907 would, by any measure, be a key course in the minor.

Especially since the Second World War, the literatures of Asia have profoundly influenced writing in the English-speaking world. The work of cultural figures as diverse as Gary Snyder, Annie Dillard and John Cage, for example, bears the imprint of their contact with China. Kyoto has been a center of American expatriate writing since the 1950s, when it hosted a wide range of Americans interested in Buddhism, poetry, print-making, and traditional crafts. American literature has been and is increasingly informed by the writing of immigrants of Asian heritage and their descendents. Important and influential American literary figures today would include Maxine Hong Kingston (*Woman Warrior*), John Okada’s (*No-Bo Boy*), and Chang-Rae Lee (*Native Speaker, A Gesture Life*), writers of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean ancestry, respectively. The impact of South and Southeast Asia has been no less profound; one need only think of Arundhati Roy, Duong Thu Huong, and Trinh Minh Ha. Eastern students who hope to understand these ongoing contributions to a diverse American civilization require the background offered by a course in Asian literature.
2. **Course Level and Prerequisites.** English 3907 is a 3000-level course. As is consistent with previous practice in the English Department regarding advanced literature courses, English 1001G and English 1002G are appropriate prerequisites.

3. **Similarity to Existing Courses.** English 3907 is not similar to any existing courses. Courses with a global emphasis currently taught in the English Department include English 2850, English 3809, and English 4850. However, these courses are very different from the proposed English 3907. They focus on issues of post colonialism or on Anglophone literatures or on literatures of the Third World. Reading selections from these courses do not include Chinese, Japanese, or Korean texts. English 3110 (Cultural Foundations II) takes up two Asian cultures from a broader perspective. Although English 3110 may address some materials foundational to the proposed course of Asian Literature (e.g., Confucius and Laozi), the course is not focused on a specifically literary tradition.

4. **Impact on Program.** The addition of English 3907 will not cause a change in the English major or minors, nor will it impact other university programs other than the Asian Studies minor. English 3907 will be included in Group 2 of the department’s curriculum.

**Part V: Implementation**

1. Faculty who will initially teach the course include: Martone, Park, Nonaka, Engles, Panjwani, Searle
2. There are no additional costs to students.
3. Sample texts and supplementary materials to be used (for sample course outline on Chinese Literature)

   **Sample Texts:**
   - Chan, Wing Tsit. *Chinese Philosophy*.
   - Lu Xun. *Diary of a Madman and Other Stories*.

**Part VI: Community College Transfer:** A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

**Part VII: Approvals**

Date approved by the department or school: 1/23/08

Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 2/13/08

Date approved by CAA: 3/5/08