Program: East Asian Studies
Assessment Coordinator: Massimiliano Tomasi

Program Mission:

The Center for East Asian Studies offers rigorous, multidisciplinary training in the study of East Asia and Inner Asia, providing an arena for vibrant intellectual cross-pollination from a variety of disciplines. With Asian economies, languages, cultures, and political realities continuing to rank high in global importance, diverse expertise in this region is an essential asset for any university. The Center's broad interdisciplinary program offers Western's students a chance to minor or major in East Asian Studies with choice of several specific academic focuses, including history, politics, economics, and cultural studies. The capstone course requires students to formulate an original research topic and write a detailed paper on that topic using primary and secondary sources.

Program Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, (Department or Program) majors will be able to:

1. Competency in an East Asian language: fluency in speaking, writing, reading and comprehension in an East Asian language at the intermediate level (primarily Chinese or Japanese, but also Korean or Mongolian by special arrangement).
2. Cultural literacy in an East Asian country: familiarity with history, politics, arts and literatures of China, Japan, Korean and/or Inner Asia, with strong academic expertise in at least one of those areas.
3. Ability to analyze historical and contemporary events connected with East Asia.
4. Development of skills needed to use primary source documents, library resources, and other sources of information to complete a full-length research paper on an original topic of inquiry, within the field of East Asian Studies.
5. General sensitivity to cultural differences and realities in the East Asian world.

GUR (liberal arts & sciences) Student Learning Outcomes:

6. __________
7. __________
**East Asian Studies (cont.)**

**Student Learning Outcomes (Departmental and GUR) Assessed This Year:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Measures</th>
<th>SLOs Assessed</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Written proficiency assessment test in Japn104: Review of Elementary Japanese</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>The primary objective was to assess if/how well Japn104 students were placed and to determine if they should have been placed at a lower level (i.e., Japn 101 or Japn 102). Results indicate that the overwhelming majority of the students had significant difficulty with the reading section, particularly with the kanji questions. The Japn104 prerequisite of 150 basic kanji was clearly not met, and a significant majority of the Japn104 students should have been placed at a lower level, at least in terms of kanji proficiency.</td>
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<td>Senior exit survey</td>
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<td>Students reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience at Western. They also reported that they were satisfied with the quality of instruction and expertise of faculty and that they were very satisfied with the effectiveness of their major advisor.</td>
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**Changes based on assessment findings:**

Based on the above results, the Japanese section needs to discuss possible changes to address the kanji issue. For example, the section may need to lower (or even eliminate) the current kanji prerequisite and spend a more significant amount of time covering them in Japn104. Unless this issue is corrected, it is predictable that Japn104 students might have difficulties in Japn 203, where they will be “merged” with the regular second-year Japanese students.