

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES



Photo by Kristupa Saragih

2008-2009

ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

Web: www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc

A diverse and illustrious group of nine faculty members in six departments promotes the study and appreciation of the politics, economics, and cultures of Southeast Asia at the University of Pittsburgh. Southeast Asia includes the modern nation-states of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor, and Vietnam. As one of the most dynamic and influential regions in the world today, Southeast Asia is recognized as an integral component of the Asian Studies program at Pitt.



Photo by Jesslee Cuizon

Faculty in Southeast Asian Studies have research and teaching interests relevant to the entire region. Recent and current faculty projects include research on Filipino domestic workers in Hong Kong; economic policy and political culture in Indonesia; sound systems of Hmong-Mien and Tibeto-Burman language families; and the cultural politics of Indonesian popular music, among others. The faculty encourages interdisciplinary research, and facilitates the exchange of ideas and information through courses, seminars, conferences, outreach activities, and cultural events.

The University of Pittsburgh is home to one of the largest gamelan programs in the country. Established in 1995, the gamelan performance program at Pitt has introduced hundreds of students to new ways of thinking about, practicing, performing, and composing music.

The annual artist-in-residence program brings guest artists from Indonesia to teach, present workshops and lectures or demonstrations, and perform in concerts for the university community, K-12 area schools, as well as for the larger Pittsburgh community.

Courses

• Undergraduate

Tribal Societies and Anthropological Theory
(*Anthropology*)
Gender Perspectives (*Anthropology*)
Music in Southeast Asia (*Music*)
University Gamelan (*Music*)
Literature in Southeast Asia (*English*)

• Graduate

Globalization and Welfare (*GSPIA*)
Gender and Transnationalism (*Anthropology*)
Music and Islam in Southeast Asia (*Music*)
Seminar in Southeast Asia (*GSPIA*)
Literature in Southeast Asia (*English*)



Faculty

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Photo by E. Dutillos

Asian Studies Center

Web: www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc

The countries of the Pacific Rim are playing an increasingly important role in a rapidly globalizing world. Because this region impacts our lives daily, it is of critical importance to understand its peoples and cultures. At present there are over 300 graduate and undergraduate students making a major commitment to the study of Asian and Pacific languages and cultures. ASC is committed to the basic goals of enriching the international dimension of education for all students at Pitt, providing opportunities for students to study abroad and attain proficiency in Asian and Pacific languages and to gain familiarity with Asian and Pacific cultures and societies.

The ASC holds several Asia-Pacific academic and cultural events each academic year, , as well as many informal talks by guests, faculty, and graduate students during the weekly Asia Over Lunch lecture series on Thursdays at noon during fall and spring semesters. For more information on upcoming events, please contact the Asian Studies Center or visit: <http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/asc/news/>

Certificate Program

Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Pittsburgh is housed within the Asian Studies Center. Students enrolled in BA, BS, MA or PhD programs in any department or professional school at Pitt may earn a Certificate in Asian Studies with a focus on Pacific Islands Studies. The certificate is another academic credential for students who want to intensify their study of Southeast Asia. Upon graduation, both the academic degree and the Certificate in Asian Studies with specialization in Southeast Asian Studies are posted on the student's transcript.



Photo by Michele Heryford

Certificate Program Requirements

Requirements for the undergraduate certificate include four courses (12 credits) on Southeast Asia or Asia-related topics, two years (four terms) of a Southeast Asian language, and/or an individually designed research project in the region. Graduate students must complete five courses (15 credits) of coursework. Among the benefits to students of enrolling in the certificate program are:



Photo by Andrew Hux

- Eligibility to apply for research, conference and scholarship funds. Forms and information are automatically sent to certificate students.
- Monthly Asian Studies Newsletters and frequent mailings announcing the many lectures, seminars, guest speakers, and activities sponsored by the Center.
- Special booklets produced each term that identify and describe classes with Southeast Asian or Asian content from throughout the University.

Less Commonly Taught Languages (LCTL)

Web: www.linguistics.pitt.edu/lctl/index.htm

Housed in the Department of Linguistics, the Less-Commonly-Taught Languages (LCTL) Center exists to broaden the range of options in foreign language instruction at the University of Pittsburgh. In any given semester, 350-500 students may be enrolled in their 40-50 course sections, with class sizes ranging from small independent study groups with two or three students to larger sections with up to 20 students.

Students often pursue instruction in the LCTL Center because they are engaged in research on a particular area of the world, because knowledge of a LCTL will enhance their academic program, or because they have a personal interest in one of the countries where the language is spoken. Many students in this latter group have friends, family, or ancestors who are or were speakers of a particular language. The Center will consider the development of a course for study for any modern language for which adequate instructional materials exist, including many languages of Southeast Asia.



Libraries

Web: www.pitt.edu/libraries.html

The University Library System is the 26th-largest academic research library in all of North America and the 16th-largest among the prestigious public libraries of the Association of American Universities. It provides a large array of innovative, world-class services. Pitt's collection of electronic resources is growing rapidly and now includes thousands of databases, more than 5,500 electronic journals, and more than 147,000 electronic books.



FURTHER INFORMATION

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