1. Executive Summary
1.1 Name of Unit:
Asian Studies Minor

1.2 Description of unit and its mission
The Asian Studies Minor is one year old. It is an interdisciplinary minor that synthesizes the study of the philosophies, religions, languages, and political systems of Asian nations to give students new insights into their own Western culture and lead them to an appreciation of the complexities of the social, religious, and political conflicts in the world today.

1.3 Assessment of the unit
Loyola has long had a diverse range of courses in Asian studies in its curriculum. These courses have been organized into a coherent minor. An introductory Japanese language course began in the spring semester of 1998 and was soon supplemented in the following years by intermediate and advanced Japanese language courses, Chinese, and Asian culture and history courses. In addition to courses offered by the Department of Foreign Languages, the Departments of Religious Studies, History, Philosophy, and Sociology have also incorporated various aspects of Asian studies into their respective curriculums.

1.4 Goals of the unit
The minor in Asian Studies will allow students to acquire new knowledge and wisdom from diverse cultural perspectives and learn to integrate what they learn with their own Western traditions to form a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world and its peoples.

1.5 Review of the past and current budgets
Current budget is adequate.

1.6 Resource needs/wants/reallocation
There is a need for a greater number of faculty in all departments of the university who are interested in teaching topics on Asia.

1.7 Summary of achievements
The addition of courses in Chinese language beginning in the fall of ’08 complemented the revived Japanese program to present an attractive minor to students.

The minor has encouraged interdepartmental team-teaching of new interdisciplinary courses and continued involvement with the Beijing Center program sponsored by the College of Business Administration and the Sophia University Study Abroad program directed by the Center for International Education.

The program has expanded our faculty’s areas of interest and competence by encouraging the development of new courses that focus on Asian issues.
2. Unit Identification or Profile Summary

2.1 Mission or purpose statement of the unit

The Asian Studies Program at Loyola University seeks to guide students to “an inquiry into other traditions, other regions, other religions” (Faculty Handbook, 1-3). The program aims to be an inter-college endeavor involving all the Colleges. Course offerings are to be organized into a coherent program that will serve as a starting point for new courses that will cover a broader range of contemporary international issues and include more departments in the university. The program also seeks to prepare Loyola students to participate more fully in the already existing study abroad programs in China and Japan and advance the mission of the Center for International Education at Loyola “to promote the internationalization of the university by initiating, developing and supporting a wide range of international and intercultural educational opportunities for members of the Loyola community.” The program wishes to enhance the university’s efforts “to seek students from throughout the region, the nation, and the world” (Faculty Handbook, 1-10) and broaden student and faculty interest and understanding of broader global issues.

2.2 General statement and descriptive information concerning the unit

The Asian Studies Minor fulfills the commitment and to meet student interest in the history, religions, literature, and culture of East Asian countries. The program is interdisciplinary, allowing students to integrate material from diverse perspectives and raise the awareness of both students and faculty to a broad range of contemporary Asian issues that are of importance to Asia in the global community.

2.2.1 Headcounts of full-time and part-time staff.

Two full-time faculty, one ternured associate professor in the Department of Languages and Cultures and one tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of History. In addition, there is one part-time Japanese instructor and one part-time Chinese instructor. Various professors in other departments teach courses that are cross-listed as Asian Studies courses.

2.2.5 Retention of full-time degree-seeking students by program: fall-to-fall and fall-to-spring.

This is the first year of the program, but we have had better than 90% retention rate.

2.2.6 Graduation rates for entering students by cohort year by program.

All seniors in the Minor graduated this year.

3. Assessment

3.1 General statement on how assessment is conducted within the unit (The unit’s assessment plan should be posted to its Intranet site)

Committee members will advise students and evaluate new course proposals for the program.

Language proficiency will be assessed according to the norms of the Classical and Modern Foreign Languages Department.
Assessment of history/culture will be assessed by the Asian Studies committee according to the norms of the History Department.

The teaching of tenure-track, extraordinary and part-time faculty is assessed by class observation by tenured members of the program and by student evaluations.

The teaching of tenured faculty is assessed by the development of new courses or substantially revised courses, contributions to the Common Curriculum, number of preparations, number of Independent Studies, Internships, Capstones and student evaluations.

The program does its merit review based on VITAE updates and taking student evaluations into consideration. Teaching effectiveness is evaluated under the ratings of “Outstanding,” “Meritorious,” “exceeds minimum expectations,” and “meets minimum expectations.

3.2 Goals/objectives for the current year (include how these goals are strategic to both the unit’s and the university’s mission; these should be based on the unit’s strategic plan)

Goals for the current year will be to increase the number of course offerings in the program and encourage other departments to participate in offering courses related to Asia.

3.3 Description of assessment activities and their results for current year goals.

The Minor is coordinated by an Asian Studies committee made up of faculty from the departments involved in teaching courses in Asian studies. A designated committee chairperson oversees the administrative aspects and assessment of the program. Committee members advise students and evaluate new course proposals for the program. Language proficiency is assessed according to the norms of the Department of Languages and Cultures. Assessment of history/culture will be assessed by the Asian Studies committee according to the norms of the History Department.

3.4 Assessment of internal (within the university) and external (outside Loyola) environments affecting the unit

The program is only one year old but the faculty has shown much interest in its continued development. We are in communication with Asian Studies Programs at other universities, such as Georgetown University and Loyola University Chicago and in consultation about the development of programs.

4. Planning

4.1 General statement describing strategic planning in the unit (The complete strategic plan should be posted on the unit’s Intranet site.)

We would like to have enough interest and courses to offer a Major in Asian Studies in the future. For the major, students will be required to take 18 hours of language, 12 additional hours, and A495 Special Project/Capstone (1 credit) for a total of 31 hours.

4.2 Describe how the unit’s plan supports the mission of the university.

As a Catholic institution that emphasizes the Jesuit tradition of liberal education and global understanding, Loyola University New Orleans is committed to “an inquiry into other traditions, other regions, other religions” (Faculty Handbook, 1-3). The Asian Studies Minor
contributes to the fulfillment of this commitment. The program is interdisciplinary, allowing students to integrate material from diverse perspectives and raise the awareness of both students and faculty to a broad range of contemporary Asian issues and to the importance of Asia in the global community. The program allows for the coordination of efforts of the professors who previously had endeavored on an individual basis to offer their students alternatives to non-Western courses of study. The Asian Studies Minor also encourages the university to “continue to seek students from throughout the region, the nation, and the world” (Faculty Handbook, 1-10).

4.3 Top 3-4 strategic goals/objectives for the current year
The most important goal is an increase in the number of courses relevant to Asian culture. Assessment of these courses will be the responsibility to the respective departments in which they are taught.

4.4 Description of resources supporting the goals for the current year
The Department of Languages and Cultures and the Department of History will provide the necessary resources for the continued implementation of the Minor.

4.5 Evaluation criteria and evaluation plan for these goals
Evaluation criteria for the different courses will be done in cooperation with the departments in which the courses are taught.

5. Budget
5.1 Previous FY “original budgeted to revised budgeted to actual” totals for both salary and operating budgets
There was no previous budget, as this was the first year of the Minor.

5.1.1 Budget discussion
N/A

5.2 Current FY “budgeted” totals for both salary and operating budgets
The budget for the first year was $1350.00.

5.2.1 Budget discussion
This amount was adequate for the operation of the Minor this year.

6. Resource Needs/Wants/Reallocation [for current FY projected out five years]
6.1 Personnel
At present there is one full-time and two part-time faculty in the Department of Languages and Cultures. There is one full-time faculty in History, two full-time faculty in Religious Studies, one part-time in Philosophy, one full-time in Sociology.

6.1.1 General statement on adequacy of staffing to meet present and future strategic goals
The Languages & Cultures and the History Departments are teaching most of the courses for the Minor. This is barely adequate. More full-times faculty is necessary.
6.1.2 Priority listing of additional/revised faculty/staff positions
An addition Asian historian in the History Department is needed. Also, a faculty member who is qualified to teach courses on Asia, even if it is not his/her main disciplinary concentration, is necessary.

6.2 Facility improvements
N/A

6.2.1 General statement on facilities including classrooms, office space, meeting spaces, etc. to meet present and future strategic goals.
A meeting room where students and faculty could gather for seminars, discussion, lunch time activities is necessary.

6.2.2 Priority listing of facility improvements (Include cost estimates.)
(See 6.2.1)

6.3 Technology/professional development support
N/A

6.3.1 General statement on technology/professional development needed to meet present and future strategic goals
N/A

6.3.2 Priority listing of technology needs, including media, professional development
N/A

6.4 Budget reduction/reallocation/revenue generation plans
N/A

6.4.1 General statement regarding areas for reallocation, reduction of expenses, or generation of additional revenue
N/A

6.4.2 Priority listing of budget reduction/reallocation/revenue generation plans
N/A

7. Summary of Achievements (1 page max)
7.1 Unit as a whole
Because of Loyola’s commitment to study abroad programs, a number of Loyola students have had the opportunity to study in China and in Japan. Thanks to funding from generous donors in honor of Professor Benjamin Wren, the Office of International Student Affairs will be able to provide future exchange students with funding for study in Japan. Loyola has its first exchange student from Sophia University Tokyo this academic year (Fall ’08 and Spring ‘09). The College of Business has offered a summer study abroad program in Beijing where more than thirty
Loyola students study each summer. The exchange program begun four years ago with Sophia University Tokyo has allowed students to spend a year or semester in Japan. There is a new study abroad program in India that is directed by Prof. Cathy Wessinger and Prof. John Clark. Titled the Loyola Himalaya Adventure, this summer program brings students to Dharamsala, India, the site of the residence (in exile) of the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. Because the program is in Dharamsala, students become aware of the issue of China's take-over of Tibet in the 1950s, still an important issue in Asian studies.

7.2 Faculty achievements/service (if appropriate)

7.4 Student achievements (if appropriate)
There are currently six students studying in Asia—China, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. James Whelan and Victor Fernandez participated in the South Central Japanese Speech Contest held in March at the Southeastern Mississippi Community College. Mr. Fernandez won second place.