

**USF Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program (minor)
2020-2021 Assessment Report
YPSP Director, James Zarsadiaz**

Mission Statement:

Founded in 2002 through a generous gift from Philippine diplomat and industrialist, Alfonso Yuchengco, the Yuchengco Philippine Studies Program (YPSP) is an interdisciplinary minor program that provides students the opportunity to learn about the global Filipino experience through history, sociology, politics, literature, modern and classical languages, art, and dance among others. The program is committed to providing a pragmatic yet critical education of Filipino culture and society.

The program's foundational courses teach students important historical, cultural, and socio-political phenomena central to the transnational Filipino and Filipino American experience. In the classroom and through programming, students are introduced to provocative ideas and scholarly frameworks important when thinking about past and present challenges of the broader Filipino diaspora.

In addition, YPSP promotes student participation in social justice advocacy and engagement through service learning placements and immersion courses within communities and agencies that serve the needs of Filipinos locally and internationally. Students can obtain Filipino/Tagalog proficiency in basic and advanced language classes while courses centered on literature and the arts allow a critical examination of the creative expression of the Filipino cultural experience.

YPSP regularly holds events and hosts programming featuring recognized Filipino and Filipino American scholars, artists, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. It also supports student academic research and activities that benefit community partners within and outside the university. YPSP is an academic and community resource based in San Francisco, but with a desire to remain globally connected.

Direct Assessment:

We assessed written work from Barbara Jane Reyes' popular courses, YPSP 107 (Filipina Literature) and YPSP 307 (Global Filipino Literature). The assignment was to select one specific piece of literature read in class; decide on the questions they want to ask about the work (as a group); write about their reading experience with/understanding of the book and its themes/how it changed or evolved through re-readings and discussions with classmates.

In reviewing eight students' essays, YPSP noticed the students were thoroughly engaged with course materials the instructor is well-versed in teaching. They focused on complex, theoretical subjects regarding identity, gender, sexuality, colorism, colonialism/neocolonialism, trauma, and memory.

PLO:

There are no updates to YPSP's PLOs.

The Philippine Studies Minor seeks to train and educate students to:

- Understand the formation of Filipino history, culture, and society in the Philippines, the United States, and globally;
- Develop an empathy for the values, behaviors, ethics, and perspectives of Filipinos;
- Be able to identify and discuss social, political, economic, business, psychological, and environmental issues relevant to the Philippines and the Filipino diaspora;
- Obtain basic, intermediate, and advanced Filipino / Tagalog language proficiencies;
- Appreciate the literary, linguistic, philosophical, religious, and artistic contributions of Filipinos to the United States, Asia, and the world; and
- Apply knowledge for activism, advocacy, and social justice in the Philippines, the United States, the Asia Pacific, and the world.

What do you want your students to learn?

YPSP wants our students to understand and grapple with the diversity of the Philippine diaspora through its histories, experiences, and cultures.

Are they learning it?

As a program, we are confident our students walk away with a solid grasp of the histories, experiences, and cultures of the Philippines and /or Philippine diaspora. Beyond the materials they consume and engage with in class, YPSP promotes and encourages active learning through community work, internships, and by hosting numerous in-person or online events throughout the academic year (particularly during an event-packed October commemorating Pilipinx American History Month). Our minors (and alumni) continue to express their gratitude in receiving a well-rounded education in Philippine Studies.

How do you know they are learning it?

We measure this through our teaching evaluations, word of mouth, and in students' classwork (as exemplified above under "Direct Assessment").

General Comments:

Over the next three years, YPSP strives to strengthen our program by offering new courses. We also intend to revisit our curriculum by examining syllabi and talking through what has been working, not working, etc. in the classroom. These goals, however, can be a bit challenging since nearly all of our faculty are part-time or adjunct. (James Zarsadiaz, Evelyn Rodriguez, and Mark Miller are the only full-time faculty affiliated with the program.) Nevertheless, these are major items we wish to tackle as a program.