



## ACER22, Asian Studies: Methodology in Theory and Practice, 15 credits

*Asienstudier: Metodologi i teori och praktik, 15 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

---

### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2012-04-23 to be valid from 2012-01-16.

### General Information

The course is mandatory in the second semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies and can also be followed as a single course in Asian Studies.

*Language of instruction:* English

The language of instruction and examination is English.

*Main field of studies*

Asian Studies

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate awareness, in oral and written form, of the methodological perspectives and approaches presented in the course, including their underlying assumptions.

#### Competence and skills

- demonstrate an understanding and be able to critically evaluate the implications for research of applying a certain methodological perspective accompanied by certain methods and techniques.

- demonstrate an ability to apply various methodologies, methods and techniques in a series of exercises.
- demonstrate an ability to apply reflexive methodology to own and others' research.
- demonstrate an ability to work effectively in interdisciplinary groups to define, present and discuss tentative case studies including data, methods and techniques.
- demonstrate an ability to present in written form and defend in oral form a full research design for an advanced study.

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate an ability to make peer-reviews with constructive comments in oral and written form.

### **Course content**

The course deals with methodological issues relating to the design and writing of a master's thesis. In addition to the general introduction to the philosophy of sciences and research methodologies, the students get acquainted with the use of various methods in social research including a related range of techniques.

The course aims to provide an opportunity for reflection by presenting some of the key theoretical and methodological debates in the social sciences. These debates deal with issues such as the nature of justification in social inquiry, the distinction between causal explanation and interpretative understanding, the role of 'language' in social inquiry, the historical and philosophical meaning of 'science', and the importance of ethical and normative questions in the social sciences. The objective is to develop skills in designing, planning, carrying out, writing up and appraising research related to Asia and to introduce the students to the main methods in qualitative and quantitative research and related techniques. The research methods include research design, descriptive statistics, qualitative inquiry (case study, grounded theory, ethnography, narratives), interviewing, running focus groups, using observational techniques, adopting critical text analysis, practising critical source assessment, discourse analysis, analysing and interpreting data as well as presenting data, findings and conclusions.

### **Course design**

The teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, group work and independent reading. Students are expected to read, reflect and write papers and other assignments individually but also to take part in group work to discuss methodological choices, prepare presentations for seminar discussions rooted in the course literature and other material as well as apply and evaluate various methods and techniques. Papers are peer-reviewed in written and oral form. Seminar presentations are peer-reviewed in oral form. Attendance is mandatory in seminars and students' presentations, active participation is required.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is based on:

Individual papers, assignments, reflective chronicles, peer-reviewing.

Group work with oral presentations and written documentation.

Active participation in seminars, discussions, peer-reviewing and group work.

An opportunity for re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. A second re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show **acceptable** results. For the grade of D the student must show **satisfactory** results. For the grade of C the student must show **good** results. For the grade of B the student must show **very good** results. For the grade of A the student must show **excellent** results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown **unacceptable** results.

Course components such as active participation in seminars, discussions and group work are exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for such components are Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show **acceptable** results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown **unacceptable** results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

## Entry requirements

Admitted to the Master of Science Programme in Asian Studies. Students who fulfill the general requirement of having a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Economics or Law can take the course as a single course.

English language proficiency demonstrated in one of the following ways: IELTS score (Academic) of 6.5 or more (with none of the sections scoring less than 5.5), TOEFL score of 575 or more (internet based 90), Cambridge/Oxford - Advanced or Proficiency level, or having a Bachelor's degree from a university where English is the ONLY language of instruction, or having received a passing grade in English course B (Swedish secondary school).

## Subcourses in ACER22, Asian Studies: Methodology in Theory and Practice

Applies from V12

1201 Methodology in Theory and Practice, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A