



ACER23, Asian Studies: Contemporary Chinese Society, 15 credits

Asienstudier: Dagens kinesiska samhälle, 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, spring semester 2012.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective course in the second semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies and can 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 the ability to explain the co-existence of continuity and change in Chinese society.
- demonstrate an understanding of some of the more important and pressing issues in Chinese society today.
- demonstrate a general understanding and appreciation of different interpretations of developments in Chinese society originating from both within and outside of China.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to identify and critically analyze contemporary social issues in a cultural, historical, and political-economic context.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate a critical, theoretically informed, and disciplinary-based approach to the study of Chinese society and social change.

Course content

The course surveys and analyzes the momentous social and cultural changes that have taken place in the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the wake of the economic reforms and China's incorporation into the global community. It aims to give students a basic understanding of the co-existence of change with continuity from the past. It enables students to identify and critically examine some of the more salient issues and problems in Chinese society today and their social and political ramifications. Thus, the course explores continuities and changes with respect to social institutions, groups, relations, and identities, as well as cultural beliefs, values, norms and practices, and evaluate their significance for the individual, society, state, nation and global community.

In particular, the course analyzes how rapid economic, social, and spatial (e.g., environment, urbanization) changes have differently impacted the lives of women, youth, the elderly, religious and ethnic minorities, workers, peasants, migrants, intellectuals, and other social groups. At the level of institutions and organizations, the course focuses on family and household, schools, work, and formal and informal civic associations, citizenship, environment, and religion. Issues and problems of poverty and inequality, citizenship and governance, innovation and expression, demographic imbalance and generation gaps, consumption and value change, and shifting gender roles is discussed and contextualized. The construction and viability of diverse gender, religious, and ethnic identities in a complex multicultural society is also explored.

Course design

The teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, and film screenings. Attendance is mandatory in seminars and active participation is required.

Assessment

The assessment is based on active seminar participation, written assignments and oral presentations, and a final essay examination.

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 (120 credits) in Asian Studies. Students who fulfil 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).

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Subcourses in ACER23, Asian Studies: Contemporary Chinese Society

Applies from V12

1201 Contemporary Chinese Society, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A