



## ACER26, Asian Studies: Contemporary South Asian Societies, 15 credits

*Asienstudier: Dagens sydasiatiska samhällen, 15 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### 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 third 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 demonstrate:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- A general understanding of some of the more salient and important issues in South Asian societies today.
- A general understanding and appreciation of different interpretations of developments in South Asian societies originating from both within and outside of South Asia.

### Competence and skills

- The ability to identify and critically and analytically analyse social issues in the context of the current political systems in South Asia.
- The ability to assess South Asia developments within the larger contexts of Asian and global developments.

### **Judgement and approach**

- The ability to apply a critical and theoretically informed interdisciplinary approach to the study of South Asian societies.

### **Course content**

The course aims at giving a concrete analysis of region- and country specific processes of change in South Asia today. While earlier the perhaps most insulated geographical region in the old world, South Asia is today increasingly influenced by globalization in the economic, political and cultural spheres. The course analyses these processes of change in the context of globalization and economic liberalization. The course furthermore analyses social and political tensions and problems as a result of South Asia's increasing incorporation in the global community. The focus will be on some key areas of concern; the implications of globalization for economic, social and political developments; the political capacity to handle these challenges at the various national and sub-national levels; the urgent issues of human development and environmental degradation; the challenges of diversity and asymmetries which will be studied in the context of gender, religion, ethnicity, migration, transnational movements, and diaspora and homeland relations. The course will provide the students with a basic understanding of the complexity of current developments, and enable them to critically examine these developments from multiple perspectives and in an interdisciplinary manner. In focus will be an analysis of how social and economic changes have influenced human development, and the different groups in South Asia. In this context issues such as poverty, inequality and discrimination will be discussed and contextualised. The construction of different cultural, religious, and ethnic identities in the South Asian multi-ethnic societies will also be discussed.

### **Course design**

The course takes the form of interactive lectures cum seminars. Attendance is mandatory in seminars and active participation is required.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on seminar papers and oral presentations, class participation, and individual exam papers.

The final grade will be based on the course assignments (40%) and the exam assignment (60%).

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 non-passing results is Fail.

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

Course components such as active participation in seminars, discussions 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 the 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

This is an elective course for students who are admitted to the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies programme. 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).

Subcourses in ACER26, Asian Studies: Contemporary South Asian Societies

Applies from V12

1201 Contemporary South Asian Societies, 15,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A