



## ACER25, Asian Studies: Contemporary South-East Asian Societies, 15 credits

*Asienstudier: Dagens sydöasiatiska 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 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 recognize the co-existence of continuity and change in South-East Asian societies.
- demonstrate a general understanding of some of the more salient and important issues in South-East Asian societies today.
- demonstrate a basic awareness of how different disciplines approach the field of South-East Asian studies.
- demonstrate a broad knowledge about current research trends

### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate the ability to identify and critically analyse social and political issues in a cultural context.
- demonstrate an ability to apply a critical, theoretically informed, and disciplinary-based approach to the study of South-East Asian societies.

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate an ability to apply an interdisciplinary approach to important issues in contemporary South-East Asian societies

### **Course content**

The course deals with social, cultural, religious, political, and economic development in South-East Asia. It provides an insight into currents of change and continuity in the region. It looks, from a multidisciplinary perspective at processes of religious, political and social change and provides an insight into movements, conflicts, crises and recovery in South-East Asian societies. South-East Asia is often characterised as a meeting place for people from many cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds and the exchange of ideas and international trade have a long history in South-East Asia.

The course is divided into four parts and the first part aims to give the student a basic understanding of socio cultural processes in the region. It focuses on religion as a field of meanings that informs individual people's lives and strengthens social and political identities. It also discusses how religion influences social and political discourses. In South-East Asia religion is inter-twined in the daily life and the course gives example of how religion in various ways enables people to cope with daily existence and also to demonstrate their discontent. The second part of the course deals with transnational movements, ethnicity and also with crises and recovery in South-East Asian societies. Theories from different disciplines and ethnographic material will be used to explore the themes. The third part of the course deals with development, gender and migration in South-East Asia. The region is comprised of predominantly rural and agrarian societies. The economic growth in South-East Asia has during the past decades improved the material well-being and standard of living for some people while others remain poor. This part of the course will introduce development theories and examine different development policies. It aims to explore the gap between rich and poor and address development from a gender perspective. The fourth part of the course aims to give the students a broader perspective on contemporary South-East Asian society through the eyes of contemporary fiction.

The overall objective is to provide students with knowledge of different ways of exploring South-East Asia and different aspects of the life in the region with attention on current themes and the ways South-East Asian societies are understood from the region itself. Gender awareness would be mainstreamed throughout the course. Students read works from different disciplines and use them to investigate selected South-East Asian societies.

### **Course design**

The teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, films, individual and group work, and oral presentations. Attendance is mandatory in seminars and active participation is required.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on active seminar participation (10%), written assignments and oral presentations (60%), and a final essay examination (30%).

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 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 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 ACER25, Asian Studies: Contemporary South-East Asian Societies

Applies from V12

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