



## ACES52, Asian Studies: Social Justice and Social Equality in Asia, 7.5 credits

*Asienstudier: Social rättvisa, jämlikhet och jämställdhet i Asien, 7,5 högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2014-05-15 and was last revised on 2018-02-20 by The Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies Educational board. The revised syllabus applies from 2018-02-20, autumn semester 2018.

### 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.

*Language of instruction:* 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 knowledge and understanding of the central questions and concepts in recent theories on social justice and social equality.
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the ways in which these theories have been and can be applied to Asian social, cultural and political phenomena.

### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate an ability to detect, adequately analyze and theoretically contextualize themes and problems related to social justice and social equality.
- demonstrate an ability to approach original and complex theoretical texts, and apply abstract methods of theoretical conceptualization to specific Asian phenomena
- demonstrate the skills required to theoretically frame a critical inquiry into issues of social justice and equality in Asia.

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate ability to critically and independently engage in analytical reasoning, and evaluate how recent theories on social justice and social equality can be applied to the study of social justice and equality in Asia.

### **Course content**

The aim of this course is to enable students to address questions and frame inquiries of social (in)justice and social (in)equalities in Asian contexts in ways that are relevant to current theoretical discussions. A tendency in recent theory is the attempt to move beyond normative (western) definitions, and instead conceive of justice and equality in more substantial terms, as embedded in social relations and linked to issues of globalization, democracy, legitimacy, membership, identity, and so forth. The course first offers an overview of the recent, multidisciplinary discussion on social justice and social equality, followed by a more in-depth study where students read and discuss a selection of original theoretical works from different disciplines, including political science, sociology, anthropology, development studies, and gender studies. Subsequently, in what constitutes the main part of the course work, the students read a variety of published research in Asian Studies where the same theoretical approaches have been applied and/or challenged, or may be applicable. At the same time, in their course assignment, group work and seminar discussions, the students actively train their ability to critically evaluate the applicability of the same theoretical approaches to various sets of empirical cases, as well as their capacity to frame theoretically relevant inquiries.

### **Course design**

The teaching is carried out through lectures, seminars, group work and independent reading and paper writing. Students are expected to read the course literature, reflect upon it, write papers, and prepare presentations individually, and also to participate in group work and seminars to provide peer-review, evaluate various social justice and equality frameworks, and discuss the applicability of these to the study of social justice and equality issues in Asia. Papers are peer-reviewed in written and oral form. Seminar presentations are peer-reviewed in oral form.

Attendance is mandatory in seminars unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

## Assessment

Assessment is based on:

- individual course papers
- oral presentations
- peer-review of course papers and oral presentations
- active participation in seminar discussions
- group work assignments
- a final exam paper addressing the theoretical possibilities and implications of the course work for the students' individual thesis proposals

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*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 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**

To be admitted to the course, the student must be admitted to the Master of Science (120 credits) programme in Asian Studies.

To take the course as a freestanding course, the student must have a Bachelor's degree in social sciences, humanities, economics or law and at least 30 credits in Asian studies or equivalent.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

## **Further information**

The syllabus was approved by the the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies Board of Directors on May 19:th 2014.

Subcourses in ACES52, Asian Studies: Social Justice and Social Equality in Asia

Applies from H14

1401 Social Justice and Social Equality in Asia, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A