

ACES44, Asian Studies: Development Theories and Issues in Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Utvecklingsteorier och utvecklingsfrågor i Asien, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2012-04-23 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 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 knowledge about theories and issues on development in general.
- demonstrate a critical understanding of processes of development.
- demonstrate the ability to identify, compare, and analyze different perspectives on development in theory as well as in practice in contemporary South, East and South-East Asia.

- demonstrate an understanding about how different theoretical approaches to development relate to issues of practical development in the real world.
- demonstrate a critical understanding of development and the agents of development in the region.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to apply a critical and comparative perspective on development and its effects on social development and the environment in contemporary South, East and South-East Asia.
- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge, handle complexity, and formulate judgments on issues of development in the region.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to critically and independently engage in analytical reasoning both verbally and in writing.

Course content

The course offers an interdisciplinary in-depth study of the major issues surrounding development today. The aim is to provide students with tools for theoretically analyzing and discussing contemporary development issues by examining various theories of development – from modernization, and neo-Marxist theories, to neo-liberal, post-modern, post-development, as well as alternative forms of development and the challenges for the future.

The course looks critically at development theories and their impact on the most urgent areas of development as well as highlight controversies and points of convergence that exist between different theoretical traditions. It also covers the practices and agents of development and the role of NGOs, presenting detailed case studies for the students to discuss and learn from. The course starts with a discussion of the “knowledge” and “needs” of the class, and as it covers a wide range of topics it is possible for students to concentrate on specific issues of interest.

Course design

The teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, group work, presentations and independent reading. Attendance is mandatory in seminars and students’ presentations, active participation is required.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the ability to critically combine development theory and empirical studies in an essay, in active participation in class discussions, in group work, and in group discussions.

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.

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 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

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.

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 ACES44, Asian Studies: Development Theories and Issues
in Asia

Applies from H12

1201 Development Theories and Issues in Asia, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A