



## ACES47, Asian Studies: (Un)Sustainable Asia, 7.5 credits

*Asienstudier: Det (o)hållbara Asien, 7,5 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:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate an understanding about the implications of applying a multidisciplinary versus a trans-disciplinary approach to sustainability.
- demonstrate awareness, in oral and written form, of a range of sustainability perspectives, approaches and concepts including their underlying assumptions.

#### Competence and skills

- demonstrate the skill to identify and problematise various dimensions of sustainability relating to social, economic, institutional and environmental challenges.

- demonstrate the ability to trace and discuss local, national and regional sustainability challenges and responses in Asia in a historical and global context.
- demonstrate the ability to discuss implications of unsustainable processes; create future sustainability scenarios; and reflect on transitional processes and sustainable pathways.

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to identify the inabilities of science and society in addressing environmental and sustainability problems as well as to propose strategies for reducing negative impacts on humans and the ecosystems.

### **Course content**

The course deals with contemporary issues relating to (un)sustainable development in Asia in a global context. In addition to a general introduction to the concept of sustainability and frameworks for identifying, studying and understanding sustainability, the students get acquainted with a range of issues and implications of (un)sustainable development in the context of contemporary Asia.

The course proceeds from the notion that sustainability is multi-dimensional, multi-scalar and multi-temporal and must be approached from an international, intergenerational and intersectional perspectives. Single issues can be studied on local, national and global levels.

The course aims to provide an opportunity for reflection on sustainability challenges, responses and implications in Asia in a global context. The objective is to develop skills in identifying, locating and tracing challenges and responses to sustainability in Asia and to problematise, understand and suggest options for tackling these within a global context.

The course introduces trans-disciplinary frames and theoretical debates including the concepts of Sustainability, Sustainability Science, Earth System Studies and Earth System Governance.

There is a focus on global and Asian sustainability challenges and responses relating to issues such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, overfishing, land use and degradation, food security, water scarcity, and health.

The reshaping of Asian landscapes (such as deforestation, regulation of water courses, urban sprawl, tarmacisation) and changes in values in times of profound economic and social change is discussed.

The tools include constructing, analysing and interpreting data on sustainability issues as well as presenting, discussing and evaluating data, conclusions and future scenarios.

### **Course design**

The teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, group work, presentations and independent reading. Students are expected to read, reflect and write papers and other assignments individually but also to take part in group work to discuss sustainability frameworks and sustainability issues relating to Asia; prepare presentations for seminar discussions rooted in the course literature and other material; as well as apply and evaluate various theories and concepts in relation to sustainability themes and issues. Papers are peer-reviewed in written and oral form.

Seminar presentations are peer-reviewed in oral form.

Attendance is mandatory in seminars and students' presentations, active participation is required.

## Assessment

Assessment is based on:

- individual papers, assignments, reflective chronicles, peer-reviewing.
- group work with oral presentations and written documentation.
- active participation in seminars, discussions, peer-reviewing and group work.

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 in Asian Studies. Students who fulfill the general requirement of having a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Economics or Law can take the course as a single subject 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 ACES47, Asian Studies: (Un)Sustainable Asia

Applies from H12

1201 (Un)sustainable Asia, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A