



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSB30, Asian Studies: China Today - Political Developments, Societal Issues and Global Influences, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Kina idag - Politisk utveckling, samhällsfrågor och globalt inflytande, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2019-12-16 and was last revised on 2026-06-25 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/112). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-25 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Asian Studies G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for political developments in China after 1978
- account for developments in specific areas, such as the environment, gender and equality, the Internet, human rights, and China's global influence

Competence and skills

- identify and analyse how different issues and problems are related and affect each other
- critically discuss and analyse different conceptions of developments across Chinese society
- identify and analyse current questions in contemporary Chinese society from a global perspective
- collect, evaluate, and use relevant sources as a basis for a written analysis of a specific issue concerning Chinese society

Judgement and approach

- analyse and critically assess current issues in Chinese society

Course content

The course provides basic knowledge of the Chinese political system and political developments after 1978. It analyses a number of key issues and challenges that characterise contemporary Chinese society. This applies to, for example: environmental issues, socio-economic development, and issues related to regional differences and gaps in society. The course also focuses on developments in civil society and the human rights situation. Freedom of expression, the role of the media and digital developments, as well as the emergence of a surveillance society, are also studied in the course. Domestic issues are viewed from a global perspective. The course discusses and analyses China's global ambitions and foreign and security policy.

Course design

The course is offered as a distance learning course with the support of a web-based learning platform and/or digital tools. Students are required to participate under these conditions, and to have access to a computer with an Internet connection. The teaching consists of online lectures, seminars and discussions, as well as film screenings.

Assessment

The assessment is based on one seminar paper (3 credits) and a written home exam (4.5 credits).

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year.

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. For the grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least a Pass on all assessed components. For the grade Pass with Distinction the student must have been awarded Pass with Distinction on more than 50 percent of the components.

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

General entry requirements and at least 30 higher education credits.

Oral and written language proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/English Level 2 from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement.

A general exemption from the requirement of proficiency in Swedish is applied.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of History, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.