



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM02, Asian Studies: Introduction to Asian Studies, 6 credits

Asienstudier: Introduktion till Asienstudier, 6 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-11-27 (U 2024/818). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

General information

The course is given as a compulsory course and begins the first semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies. It is also given as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Asian Studies A1N, Second cycle, has only 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 the interdisciplinary field of Asian Studies
- account for how the knowledge base in the field of studies, in general and in Asian Studies in particular, is changeable and questioned
- account for the conventions of academic writing
- describe central questions and discussions that concern research ethics and academic freedom at a general level

Competence and skills

- discuss knowledge of East and South-East Asia and relate it to Asian Studies
- produce a simple academic text with a clear outline, suitable language and correct references.

Judgement and approach

- critically and autonomously present analytical arguments, orally and in writing
- apply a critical perspective conduct research on present-day East and South-East Asia

Course content

The course provides a critical, comparative and interdisciplinary introduction to studies of East and South-East Asia's societies. The course provides an overview of Asian Studies using central concepts and approaches in social sciences and the humanities, and deepens the study of East and South-East Asia's societies by emphasising the shifting contexts and content of knowledge in this field. A critical perspective is applied. Western knowledge formation about East and South-East Asia. Furthermore, new theories and approaches that have arisen through the study of East and South-East Asia's societies, e.g. theories of post-colonialism that have been questioned and enriched Western social sciences, are discussed and analysed. The course takes a gender perspective on today's societies in East and South-East Asia that creates awareness about issues concerning gender, power and representativeness. The course provides an introduction to academic writing and the opportunity to apply this knowledge in short written works. Furthermore, the students practise critical thinking and deliberative discussions in discussing research ethics and academic freedom and their importance for knowledge development.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, film showings and two to four seminars.

Participation in seminars is compulsory.

Absence from compulsory seminars can be compensated for by an assignment in accordance with instructions from the course director.

Assessment

The course is assessed through an individual seminar assignment (2 credits) and an individual home exam (4 credits).

The course offers a regular examination, a re-sit in close connection to the regular examination and another re-sit for courses that have been completed during the past academic year (catch-up examination).

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

For a grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have at least received a grade of Pass on all the sub-components, as well as participated in all compulsory 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

Degree of Bachelor in social sciences or humanities. Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

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

Further information

- The course is given at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, the Department of History, Lund University.
- This course replaces COSM01: Asian Studies: Introduction to Asian Studies.
- 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.