



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **COSM21, Asian Studies: Methodology in Theory, 7.5 credits** *Asienstudier: Metodologi i teori, 7,5 högskolepoäng* Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2022-11-01 to be valid from 2023-09-15, spring semester 2024.

### **General Information**

The course is mandatory in the second semester of the Masters of Science Programme in Asian Studies. It is also offered as a freestanding course.

*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**

- be able to give an account of and critically assess the methodological perspectives and approaches presented in the course as well as the assumptions on which these are based verbally and in writing.

#### **Competence and skills**

- be able to work with the academic literature in a systematic way to approach research and identify appropriate research designs and methodological approaches.
- be able to apply different methodologies, methods, and techniques in different exercises.
- be able to work effectively in interdisciplinary groups to define, present, and

discuss methods and techniques for working with academic literature and empirical work.

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to review the work of others and be able to give constructive comments orally and in writing.
- be able to account for and critically assess the consequences for research that certain methodological perspectives with associated methods and techniques entail.

### **Course content**

The course deals with methodological issues linked to the structure, design, and writing of a thesis for a master's degree in Asian Studies. In addition to a general overview of ontological and epistemological discussions in the social sciences, the course provides knowledge of tools for organising research material.

The course presents the content of the central theoretical and methodological schools within the social sciences. From a theoretical perspective, the course focuses on issues such as the nature of evidence in social research, on the difference between causal explanations and interpretations, on 'language' in social research, on historical and philosophical meanings of 'science' and the importance of ethical and normative issues in social science.

### **Course design**

The course consists of lectures and two to three seminars with oral presentations (one of which is on paper).

Participation in seminars is mandatory.

Absence from the mandatory seminar is compensated with an assignment according to the responsible teacher's instructions.

### **Assessment**

The course is examined through an individual seminar paper (2.5 credits graded U/G), as well as an individual home exam (5 credits graded A-F).

The course offers regular re-exams in close connection with the regular exam, as well as an additional exam regarding courses that have been completed during the past academic year (cumulative exam).

If it is necessary for a student with a permanent disability to be given an equivalent examination option compared to a student without a disability, the examiner can, after consultation with the university's department for pedagogical support, decide on an alternative form of examination for the student concerned.

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 denoted by A and the lowest grade for a passed result by E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The grade for the entire course consists of a weighted average of all components assessed with differentiated pass grades (where A=5; B=4; C=3; D=2; and E=1). In order to receive a passing grade (at least E) for the entire course, the student must have at least a passing grade (E or, on ungraded sections, G) on all included sections, as well as having participated in all mandatory components.

At the start of the course, the students are informed about the curriculum's learning objectives and about the grading scale and its application in the course.

## Entry requirements

A bachelor's degree in social sciences or humanities is required for admission to the course.

Oral and written language skills in English equivalent to English 6/B from a Swedish high school are a requirement. Equivalence is carried out in accordance with national guidelines.

A general exception to the requirement for knowledge of Swedish is allowed.

## Further information

- The course is given at the Department of History, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies.
- The course partially replaces COSM22: Asian Studies: Methodology in theory and practice.
- The credits allocated for the course content that is wholly or partially shared with another course may only be credited once in the degree.
- For further information, refer to the current registration and information.

## Subcourses in COSM21, Asian Studies: Methodology in Theory

Applies from V24

2401 Individual Seminar Paper, 2,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass

2402 Individual Take-Home Exam, 5,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A