



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM22, Asian Studies: Methodology in Theory and Practice, 15 credits

Asienstudier: Metodologi i teori och praktik, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2019-10-23 to be valid from 2019-10-23, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course is mandatory in the second semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies. It is also offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Asian Studies

Asian Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to show awareness, in oral and written form, of the methodological perspectives and approaches presented in the course, including their underlying assumptions.

Competence and skills

- be able to show an understanding of and critically evaluate the implications for research of applying a certain methodological perspective accompanied by certain methods and techniques.
- be able to apply various methodologies, methods and techniques in a series of exercises.
- be able to apply reflexive methodology to own and others' research.
- be able to work effectively in interdisciplinary groups to define, present and discuss tentative case studies including data, methods and techniques.
- be able to present in written form and defend in oral form a full research design for an advanced study.

Judgement and approach

- be able to make peer-reviews with constructive comments in oral and written form.

Course content

The course deals with methodological issues relating to the organisation, design and writing of a master's thesis. In addition to the general introduction to ontological and epistemological debates in the social sciences, the students get acquainted with organisational tools and methodological approaches in social research including a related range of specific methods and techniques.

The course aims to present the key schools of theoretical and methodological thought in the social sciences. From the perspective of theory, the course focuses on issues such as the nature of justification in social inquiry, the distinction between causal explanation and interpretative understanding, the role of language in social inquiry, the historical and philosophical meaning of science, and the importance of ethical and normative questions in the social sciences.

From the organisational and methodological perspective, the objective is to develop skills in designing, planning, carrying out, writing up and appraising research related to Asia. The course introduces the students to the main methods in qualitative and quantitative research and related techniques, and provides the tools for students to effectively present data, findings and conclusions.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, three to six seminars with oral presentations (of which two include a paper), group work, and/or peer review.

Participation in seminars is mandatory unless there is a special reason.

Absence from a compulsory seminar is compensated with a task according to the teacher's instructions.

Assessment

Assessment is based on two individual seminar papers (total 6 credits, each paper is 3 credits), a completed thesis draft project (3 credits, graded pass/fail), and a final individual take-home exam (6 credits)

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 grade for the entire course consists of a weighted average of all components assessed with differentiated pass grades (in which A=5, B=4; C=3; D=2; and E=1). For a grade of Pass (at least E) on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least a Pass (E or, for components awarded Pass or Fail, Pass) on all assessed components and have 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

To be admitted to the course, the student must have a Bachelor's degree in social sciences or humanities.

Oral and written language 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

1. The course is given at the Department of History, Centre for East and South East Asia Studies
2. The course replaces CÖSM22: Asia Studies: Methodology in theory and practice
3. 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.

Subcourses in COSM22, Asian Studies: Methodology in Theory and Practice

Applies from V20

- 2001 Individual Seminar Paper I, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2002 Individual Seminar Paper II, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2003 Thesis proposal, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 2004 Individual Take-Home Exam, 6,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A