



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM23, Asian Studies: Contemporary Chinese Society, 15 credits

Asienstudier: Dagens kinesiska samhälle, 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 and was last revised on 2023-09-11. The revised syllabus applies from 2023-09-13, spring semester 2024.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective course 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 demonstrate the co-existence of continuity and change in Chinese society.
- be able to provide a basic account of the central and important issues in Chinese society today.
- be able to demonstrate how different disciplines relate to China studies.
- be able to give examples of current research trends in China studies.

Competence and skills

- be able to identify and critically analyze contemporary societal issues in China
- in a scientific manner be able to apply and critically discuss studies of the Chinese society.

Judgement and approach

be able to apply an interdisciplinary approach in relation to important issues in today's Chinese society.

Course content

The course surveys and analyzes the momentous cultural, social, political and economic changes that have taken place in the People's Republic of China (PRC) since the early 1980s. The course starts with a brief account of contemporary history, religion and culture, as well as geography and demography. The course examines the co-existence of continuity and change in relation to identity, beliefs, and social and political values. It particularly addresses how social and political developments affect different individuals and groups of people such as women, religious groups and ethnic minorities, workers, peasants and officials. The course also focuses on different institutions and organizations such as work places, civic associations, the media, and legal and political institutions. Furthermore, it discusses and contextualizes issues and problems concerning poverty and inequality, citizenship and governance, freedom of expression, demographic changes, environment and urbanization. All the questions in the course are discussed from a gender perspective. The digital development and its importance for the Chinese society is a special focus, as is China's growing regional and global role.

The course is divided into four parts: history, culture and traditions, geography and demography; media, law and civil society; rural and urban developments, ideology and politics; and welfare, economic developments and the environment. The course builds on theories from different disciplines at the same time as an interdisciplinary perspective is stimulated. The course also makes use of and analyzes visual materials such as documentary film.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, three to six seminars with oral presentations (of which two include a paper) and film screenings.

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 9 credits, each paper equals 4.5 credits) and a final individual take-home exam (6 credits).

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the same 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.

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 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 CÖSM23: Asian Studies: Contemporary Chinese Society
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 COSM23, Asian Studies: Contemporary Chinese Society

Applies from V24

- 2405 Individual Seminar Paper I, 4,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2406 Individual Seminar Paper II, 4,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2412 Individual Take-Home Exam, 6,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A

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 Individual Seminar Paper III, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2004 Individual Take-Home Exam, 6,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A