



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **COSM24, Asian Studies: Contemporary Japanese and Korean Societies, 15 credits**

*Asienstudier: Dagens japanska och koreanska samhällen, 15 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 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 provide a basic account of the central and important issues in Japanese and Korean societies today
- be able to demonstrate an understanding of how different societal issues and phenomena are interrelated
- be able to demonstrate how different disciplines relate to Japan and Korea studies

- be able to give examples of current research trends in Japan and Korea studies

### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate the ability to identify and critically analyze social issues in the context of the current political systems
- in a scientific manner be able to apply and critically discuss studies of the Japanese and Korean societies

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to apply an interdisciplinary approach in relation to important issues in contemporary Japanese and Korean societies.

## **Course content**

The course analyses cultural, social and political issues in contemporary Japanese and Korean societies. The course takes a multidisciplinary perspective and is divided into four parts. The first part provides a general understanding of the social and political processes in Japan and North Korea and South Korea. The countries history and impact on contemporary Japanese and Korean societies are discussed. The focus is on the post-Cold War era.

The second part of the course makes comparisons between Japan and Korea and in particular similarities between Japan and South Korea. Themes that are discussed include the impact of colonialism on North Korea and South Korea, the partition of the two countries, and the post-War authoritarian regimes.

The third part of the course addresses the role of the media and how it creates both continuities and changes in Japan and Korea. The study of the role of media provides a deeper understanding of the countries political and socio-cultural dynamics. In this part of the course China's influence on Japan and Korea is also discussed.

The fourth part of the course addresses the challenges that Japan and Korea are facing. In this part the countries changing demographics and the connection between an aging population, gender inequality and migration are discussed.

## **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 CÖSM24: Asian Studies: Contemporary Japanese and Korean Societies
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 COSM24, Asian Studies: Contemporary Japanese and Korean Societies

### Applies from V24

- 2401 Individual Seminar Paper I, 4,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2402 Individual Seminar Paper II, 4,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2404 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