



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM33, Asian Studies: Human Rights in East and South-East Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Mänskliga rättigheter i Öst- och Sydöstasien, 7,5 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 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2024-03-14 (U 2024/163). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-03-14 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course is an elective component of the third semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies. It is also offered as a freestanding course in Asian Studies.

Language of instruction: English

The course is normally taught in English, but can also be taught in Swedish, provided there is a special agreement between the lecturer/s and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
Asian Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for some of the most prominent and important issues concerning the protection of human rights in present-day East and South-East Asia
- account for and critically assess different positions and debates concerning human rights in the region

Competence and skills

- compare and analyse the participation of different East and South-East Asian countries in the international system for the protection of human rights, and attempts to develop regional and national instruments and mechanisms for the same purpose
- identify and critically analyse problems concerning human rights within the framework of different political and economic systems in the region

Judgement and approach

- apply an interdisciplinary approach paying attention to cultural differences with regard to human rights issues in the region
- discuss and assess cultural, social, economic and political factors that promote or obstruct the protection of human rights in East and South-East Asia.

Course content

The aim of the course is to enable students to critically analyse the problems and future prospects of human rights work in East and South-East Asia. Focus is placed on the cultural, social, economic and political factors that prevent or promote the protection for human rights in different societies in East and South-East Asia. Differences and similarities with regard to problems and policies concerning human rights in the region are analysed and discussed. The participation of different East and South-East Asian countries in the international system for the protection of human rights and in different rights instruments is analysed.

In the course, the relationship between international human rights legislation and national legislation is studied. Furthermore, it provides an introduction to local and regional debates about human rights and to human rights work, focusing especially on the considerable differences between different states and NGOs with regard to work and priorities with regard to human rights. The course is based on key texts in the international legislation on human rights but aims to integrate theories of international law with theories of social and political science and area studies. The course advocates and applies an interdisciplinary approach to the study of human rights which is reflected in the teaching, the choice of topics and the required reading.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, 1-3 seminars with oral presentations, of which one includes a written assignment, and film screenings.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars.

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

Assessment

The assessment is based on an individual seminar assignment (2.5 credits) and a sit-in exam (5 credits).

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses completed in the past year (catch-up exam).

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: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

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 degree of Bachelor in social sciences or humanities.

Oral and written proficiency in English corresponding 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 offered at the Department of History, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University.
- The course replaces CÖSM33: Asian Studies: Human Rights in Asia.
- 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.