

COSM34, Asian Studies: Development Theories and Issues in East and South-East Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Utvecklingsteorier och utvecklingsfrågor 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 on 2025-03-03 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2025/125). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-10 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

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.

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 general development theories and development issues
- identify, compare and analyse different perspectives on development in theory and practice in present-day East and South-East Asia
- account for how different theoretical approaches to development relate to processes and historical legacies in different fields of development in the real world
- critically account for development and development actors in East and South-East Asia

Competence and skills

- independently find and critically analyse literature about development processes in East and South-East Asia
- critically and systematically integrate knowledge, handle complexity and formulate assessments on development issues in East and South-East Asia

Judgement and approach

- critically and independently formulate analytical arguments in speech and writing

Course content

The course provides interdisciplinary study of key theories of the socio-economic development in present-day East and South-East Asia. The aim is provide students with tools to theoretically analyse, discuss and debate contemporary development issues by critically examining the conceptualisation of development, from theories of modernity to neomarxist theories, from neoliberalism to post/alternative development, focusing especially on historical legacies and future challenges.

The course adopts a critical approach to development theories and their impact on the fields most in need of development, while highlighting contradictions and points of convergence between different theoretical traditions. The course also deals with the practice and actors of development, and the role of NGOs, on the basis of detailed case studies, which the students discuss and learn from. The course starts with a discussion of the group's knowledge and needs and enables the students to focus on a specific issue within the many fields covered by the course.

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 CÖSM34: Asian Studies: Development Theories and Issues 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.