



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM38, Asian Studies: Religion and Society in East and South-East Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Religion och samhälle i Öst- och Sydostasien, 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 2020-12-22 to be valid from 2020-12-22, autumn semester 2021.

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.

Main field of studies

Asian Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- account for different religious expressions, practices and activities in their local and social contexts in East and South-East Asia
- account for different types of religious communities and their social and political role in individual countries in East and South-East Asia

- account for the different theories and methods used to study religion and society and with a special focus on anthropological approaches and ethnographic methods

Competence and skills

- critically analyse the development of religious practices against the background of different socio-economic and political systems in East and South-East Asia
- identify and analyse the influence of religion on the identities, values and activities of different individuals and groups
- use different concepts, theories and methods in the study of religion in East and South-East Asia

Judgement and approach

- assess different theories and apply an interdisciplinary perspective to the study of religion and society in East and South-East Asia
- assess the complex cultural, social and political conditions for religious expressions and practices in East and South-East Asia

Course content

In this course, different religions and the religious development in East and South-East Asia are studied through ethnographic works and film. The course studies the major religious traditions in the region, such as Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Shinto, as well as folk religions and new religions. In the course, religion and society in contemporary East and South-East Asia are studied from an anthropological perspective. The focus is on how religions affect and in turn are affected by the development of 'modern' and 'post-industrial' societies in East and South-East Asia. Students thus gain a deeper understanding of the socio-economic and political context of religious practices and communities. Furthermore, they get to study and develop the theoretical and methodological skills that are required to analyse ethnographic works and visual material. The course studies the religions of East and South-East Asia in change and in relation to gender, ethnicity, environment, economy and technology. Focus is on:

- processes of identity formation and socialisation within different religions and religious communities;
- the impact of religion on societies and politics;
- different types of religious activities;
- different theories, methods and ethnographic approaches in the study of religion;
- the different characteristics and skills in anthropological writing.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, one to three 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 the 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 written seminar assignment (2.5 credits) and an individual take-home 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 academic 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.

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 degree of Bachelor in social sciences or humanities or the equivalent.

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

1. The course is offered at the Department of History, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies.
2. 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.

Subcourses in COSM38, Asian Studies: Religion and Society in East and South-East Asia

Applies from H21

- 2101 Individual seminar assignment, 2,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2102 Individual home exam, 5,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A