



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM39, Asian Studies: Documentary film in East and South-East Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Dokumentärfilm 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 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 the history and social context of documentary film in selected countries in East and Southeast Asia
- account for how various societal problems are reflected in documentary film in selected countries in East and Southeast Asia

- account for the different concepts, theories, and methods used to study documentary film

Competence and skills

- critically analyse the development of documentary film in selected countries in East and Southeast Asia
- identify and analyse the social role of documentary film
- use different concepts, theories and methods in the study of documentary film

Judgement and approach

- apply an interdisciplinary and ethical perspective on documentary films that take into account the complex cultural, social, and political conditions in East and Southeast Asia

Course content

The course provides an overview of different types of documentary film in selected countries in East and Southeast Asia. The course studies the development of documentary film and the historical, socio-economic and political context in which films are produced, circulated and shown. The course analyses both individual documentary filmmakers, including the extent to which factors such as gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic conditions play a role in filmmaking, and actors in civil society who produce and use film. The course also studies the emergence of local and regional documentary film festivals and their role. Documentary films are studied as part of civil society where the focus is on how the films both reflect current societal issues and problems and affect the general debate and societal development. Documentary films are also analysed as an expression of protest and activism. The course focuses on and shows films related to a number of themes such as history and memories, gender, justice and human rights, environmental issues, and migration. Critical perspectives on representation and ethical issues are discussed in the course. The course takes on an interdisciplinary perspective on how documentary film can contribute to strengthening the understanding of complex social and political conditions in East and Southeast Asia. Various concepts, theories and methods are introduced in order to be able to analyse documentary film and film production in a socio-political context.

Course design

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

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

Absence from a compulsory seminar or film discussion 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 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 COSM39, Asian Studies: Documentary film 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