Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM40, Asian Studies: Master's (Two Years) Thesis, 30 credits

Asienstudier: Examensarbete för masterexamen, 30 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 2019-10-29 and was last revised on 2026-09-08 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/504). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-09-13 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

The course is mandatory in the fourth semester of the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Asian Studies.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Asian Studies	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to discuss general research questions in the field of contemporary Asian studies and demonstrate more in-depth knowledge about current research questions within one specific research area.
- be able to identify existing knowledge and describe it in a way that show deeper cultural understanding.

- be able to account for relevant theories, collect adequate materials and choose methods relevant for the task

Competence and skills

- independently, critically and creatively identify and formulate problems relevant to Asian Studies,
- critically and systematically discuss and integrate both secondary and primary data, and analyse, assess and manage complex phenomena, research questions and intercultural situations,
- describe, apply and critically evaluate different methods of data collection and analysis, and discuss their relevance to a specific research task,
- describe, apply and critically evaluate different theories and perspectives, and discuss their relevance to a specific research task,
- independently plan and carry out an advanced research project within given time frames, thereby contributing to the development of knowledge within Asian Studies, and critically evaluate the implementation and results of the work,
- independently analyse a research project, interpret and analyse the material, and draw well-founded conclusions,
- defend their own thesis at a seminar and critically review other Master's-level theses,
- correctly cite and refer to literature and other relevant sources.

Judgement and approach

- be able to apply a critical, theoretically informed and disciplinary-based approach to the interdisciplinary field of Asian studies.
- be able to make ethical judgements and discuss the responsibility of the researcher in relation to Asian studies.
- be able to evaluate the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- be able to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for future knowledge development.

Course content

The Master's thesis is the culmination of the student's work during the programme and should address social, cultural, political and/or economic issues in contemporary Asia. The work consists mainly of the student completing a study and collecting material, possibly in the region, and writing an independent thesis of 30 högskolepoäng. The length of the thesis should be approximately 15,000 words and have to be defended at a seminar.

Course design

Teaching consists of supervision, 4–6 seminars and 1–2 lectures. Attendance at the seminars is compulsory. Students may be absent from a maximum of two seminars. In the event of absence, an opportunity to complete a make-up assignment or equivalent activity will be provided in close connection with the regular seminar, in accordance with instructions from the course coordinator. Absence from more than two seminars cannot be compensated for within the framework of the regular course offering.

Supervision is normally limited to the semester in which the student was first registered for the course. However, exceptions can be made if there are special reasons.

Assessment

The course is examined through the student's defence at a seminar of his or her thesis. The defense of one's own thesis and the student's critical review of another thesis is mandatory.

Written instructions for opponents and respondents are given well in advance of the seminar.

An additional seminar is offered the following semester.

Passed degree projects at the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology can be registered in the LUP Student Papers database if the student so wishes.

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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

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

Knowledge equivalent to 75 credits from the Master of Science Programme in Asian Studies, including COSM02 Introduction to Asian Studies, 6 credits; COSM11 The Economic Transformation of East and South-East Asia, 12 credits; COSM12 Political Systems, Governance, and Democratization in East and South-East Asia, 12 credits; COSM21 Methodology in Theory, 7.5 credits; COSM27 International Relations of East and South-East Asia, 7.5 credits; as well as one of the region-specific courses COSM23 Contemporary Chinese Society, 15 credits; COSM24 Contemporary Japanese and Korean Societies, 15 credits; or COSM25 Contemporary South-East Asian Societies, 15 credits; and English 6/B.

Further information

- The course is given at the Department of History, Centre for East and South East Asia Studies.

- The course replaces CÖSM40: Asian Studies: Master's (Two Years) Thesis (30 credits).
- 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.