



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM42, Asian Studies: Advanced Methods for Literature and Data Analysis, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Avancerade metoder för litteratur- och dataanalys, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2026-03-02 (U 2026/110). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

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

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for how to collect and categorise academic materials in a systematic manner
- conceptualise how to create functional and expandable organisational systems for academic work
- account for the key ideas behind thematic coding and categorisation of both academic and empirical materials in Asian Studies

Competence and skills

- build up searchable and filterable databases of academic literature and empirical material
- utilise different software tools and organisational systems to rationalise large amounts of qualitative material
- identify cross-cutting themes and bring together academic and empirical sources for integrated analysis necessary to produce longer-form research in Asian Studies

Judgement and approach

- determine how to effectively select and engage with academic literature to situate research within debates with Asian Studies fields
- identify suitable empirical material to answer specific research questions emerging from critical engagement with the literature
- provide detailed and effective feedback on the research proposals and methodological designs of other research projects

Course content

The course deals with methodological issues linked to the structure, design, and writing of a thesis for a master's degree in Asian Studies. The course covers different methodological approaches within the social sciences as well as specific research methods and related techniques. Students are trained in the use of different software packages making it possible to effectively collect and categorise both academic literature and empirical material in an integrated way.

From an organisational and methodological perspective, the purpose of the course is to develop skills in designing, planning, implementing, writing, and evaluating research on Asia. The course covers central methods for interdisciplinary research with associated techniques. During the course students develop skills to effectively deal with and report data, findings, and conclusions. Students are required to engage critically with academic literature and thematically code empirical material in order to contribute to and intervene in academic debates.

Course design

The course consists of lectures and 3-4 seminars where students will be engaged in practical exercises and group work to practice using software packages to collect, categorise, and code both academic literature and empirical material.

Participation in seminars is mandatory.

Absence from the mandatory seminar is compensated with an assignment according to the responsible teacher's instructions.

Assessment

The course is assessed through: and individual seminar paper (2.5 credits) and an individual written take-home exam with an oral presentation (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 denoted by A and the lowest grade for a passed result by E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The component Individual seminar paper (2.5 credits) is graded with Pass (G) or Fail (U).

The grade for the entire course consists of a weighted average of all components assessed with differentiated pass grades (where A=5; B=4; C=3; D=2; and E=1). In order to receive a passing grade (at least E) for the entire course, the student must have at least a passing grade (E or, on ungraded sections, G) on all included sections, as well as having participated in all mandatory components.

At the start of the course, the students are informed about the curriculum's learning objectives and about the grading scale and its application in the course.

Entry requirements

Bachelor's degree in social sciences or humanities, and English 6.

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
- The course replaces COSM31 and COSM41: Asian Studies: Methodology in practice
- The credits allocated for the course content that is wholly or partially shared with another course may only be credited once in the degree.
- For further information, refer to the current registration and information material.