

**COSM45, Asian Studies: Civil Society, Movements, and  
Politics in Contemporary East and Southeast Asia, 7.5 credits**  
*Asienstudier: Civilsamhälle, rörelser och politik i det samtida Öst- och Sydöstasien,*  
*7,5 högskolepoäng*  
**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### 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 2025-12-01 (U 2025/945). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-01-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

### General information

The course is an elective component 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  
study*

*Specialisation*

Asian Studies

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

### Learning outcomes

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

#### Knowledge and understanding

- critically account for major theoretical approaches to social movement studies and their relevance in East and South-East Asia
- analyse the historical, political, and cultural contexts shaping social movements in the region

- evaluate the relationship between local, regional, and transnational activism in comparative perspective

### **Competence and skills**

- independently identify, select, and critically analyse scholarly literature and empirical sources on social movements in Asia
- systematically integrate theory and case study evidence in both oral and written argumentation
- formulate well-founded analytical perspectives on the role of social movements in processes of political, social, and economic change

### **Judgement and approach**

- critically assess strengths and limitations of competing theoretical perspectives on social movements
- demonstrate scholarly independence by developing and defending analytical arguments in speech and writing
- reflect on ethical and methodological challenges in the study of activism and civil society

### **Course content**

The course provides an advanced, interdisciplinary study of social movements in East and South-East Asia. Students engage with major theories of social movements, such as resource mobilization, political process theory, framing theory, and transnational activism frameworks, and critically examine how these theories apply in different Asian contexts.

The course addresses topics including:

- the role of social movements in democratization, identity politics, and human rights struggles
- intersections of gender, class, ethnicity, and religion in mobilization processes
- environmental, youth, and digital movements
- the relationship between authoritarianism, repression, and activism
- comparative debates between Western and Asian conceptualisations of social movements

Case studies will be used to highlight both theoretical debates and empirical complexities, with emphasis on students' own critical engagement and analysis.

### **Course design**

The course consists of lectures, film screenings, and one to three seminars with oral presentations, one of which includes a written assignment.

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 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, Lund University.
- 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.