



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM52, Asian Studies: Body Politics in East and South-East Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Kroppspolitik i Öst- och Sydöstasien, 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 2024-11-11 (U 2024/724). The syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

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 in Asian Studies.

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 students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- explain key issues concerning body politics and their impact on the development of modern governance in East and South-East Asia
- demonstrate understanding of key theories and concepts related to body politics and governance from multiple disciplines

Competence and skills

- compare and analyze the development and functioning of governance over bodies and populations in different East and South-East Asian societies.
- identify and critically evaluate problems of body politics emerging from diverse political, economic, and social systems in the region, as well as responses to these governance practices.

Judgement and approach

- critically and independently conduct analytical reasoning from an interdisciplinary perspective, recognizing local characteristics in body politics within the region
- critically assess the benefits and limitations of existing theories and concepts regarding body politics and social governance when analyzing East and South-East Asian contexts.

Course content

This course aims to examine East and South-East Asian societies through the lens of the body, focusing on how the bodies of children, women, and families have been critical sites of politics and governance. The course situates body politics within broader regional and global contexts, and also emphasises the local particularities of how such politics are articulated and manifested. By engaging with topics ranging from military prostitution and transnational adoption to bereaved families' safety movements and the entertainment and cosmetic surgery industries, students will gain insight into the vital role that the bodies of children, women, and families play in shaping and reshaping modern governance in East and South-East Asia. In addition to examining how governance operates, the course also explores how those subjected to governance respond, from maneuvering within systems to more direct forms of resistance. Through an exploration of governing practices and processes, this course will uncover the complexities of political membership in East and South-East Asia, revealing how these dynamics are entangled with intersecting lines of gender, race, class, disability, and sexuality.

Course design

The course consists of lectures, 2-3 seminars with oral presentations, and film screenings.

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 course is assessed through one seminar paper (1.5 credits), one oral presentation (1.5 credits), and one individual take-home exam (4.5 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.

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

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 Centre for East and South- East Asian Studies, Department of History, 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.