



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

COSM53, Asian Studies: Grand Strategy, Geopolitics and the Fate of East Asia, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Storstrategi, geopolitik och Östasiens framtid, 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 2024-11-27 (U 2024/819). 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.

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

- account for basic theories and concepts in the field of international relations,
- account for the application of these theories and concepts to the study of international relations in East and South-East Asia,
- account for broad changes in the dynamics of the international relations of East and South-East Asia,
- account for specific case studies and issues in East and South-East Asia,

Competence and skills

- discuss the development of international relations in East Asia since the end of the Cold War,
- critically analyse prominent current issues and different accounts of the development of the region,
- apply current theories to specific issues concerning international relations in East and South-East Asia,
- use both primary and secondary sources as documentation for a well-supported argument about international relations in East and South-East Asia,
- work systematically in an interdisciplinary context,

Judgement and approach

- critically and independently pursue analytical arguments and critically assess key issues and cases in the international relations of East and South-East Asia

Course content

The course examines international relations in East and Southeast Asia. Initially, the course covers the fundamental theories of international relations and then provides a brief historical overview, with an emphasis on the post-war period. Subsequently, the course focuses on the following key regional issues: power rivalry, identity and historical memory, territorial disputes, and non-traditional security issues such as public diplomacy, "soft power," and environmental and food security.

The primary focus of the course is a series of in-depth case studies that define the region today. These include the territorial disputes in the East and South China Seas, the North Korean nuclear issue, Japan's shift away from pacifism, the relationship between China and Taiwan, and the past, present, and future involvement of the United States and its military bases in the region.

The course relies on active student participation, and students develop their ability to critically evaluate and develop theoretically informed analyses of these case studies and their dynamics.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, 1-3 seminars with oral reports, of which one includes a written assignment, and oral presentations and seminar discussions.

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 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.

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 passgrades (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

Degree of Bachelor in social sciences or humanities. 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

- The course is offered at the Department of History, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University.
- The course replaces COSM51: Asian Studies: International Relations in East and South-East Asia.
- 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.