



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **CÖSM26, Asian Studies: Contemporary South Asian Societies, 15 credits**

*Asienstudier: Dagens sydasiatiska samhällen, 15 högskolepoäng*  
**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2018-12-18 to be valid from 2018-12-18, spring semester 2019.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as an elective course in the second 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 studies*

Asian Studies

Asian Studies

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

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### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the student shall demonstrate:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- be able to provide a basic account of the central and important issues in South Asian societies today.
- be able to describe different interpretations of developments in South Asian societies originating from both within and outside of South Asia.
- be able to give examples of current research trends in South Asian studies.
- be able to demonstrate how different disciplines relate to South Asian studies.

### **Competence and skills**

- be able to identify and critically analyze social and political issues in a cultural context.
- be able to critically and scientifically investigate development from different perspectives

### **Judgement and approach**

- be able to apply a critical and interdisciplinary approach in relation to important issues in today's South Asian societies.

### **Course content**

The course aims at giving a concrete analysis of region and country specific processes of change in contemporary South Asian societies. While earlier having been perhaps the most isolated geographical region, South Asia is today increasingly influenced by globalization in the economic, political and cultural spheres. The course analyses these processes of change with a focus on the social and political tensions and problems that are a result of South Asia's increasing incorporation in the global community. The focus will be on some key areas of concern; the implications of globalization for economic, social and political developments; the political capacity to handle these challenges at the various national and regional levels; the urgent issues of human development and environmental degradation; the challenges of diversity and asymmetries which will be studied in the context of gender, religion, ethnicity, migration, transnational movements, and diaspora and homeland relations. The course will provide the students with a basic understanding of the complexity of current developments, and enable them to critically examine these developments from multiple perspectives and in an interdisciplinary manner. In focus will be an analysis of how social and economic changes have influenced human development and different groups in South Asia. In this context issues such as poverty, inequality and discrimination will be discussed and contextualised. The construction of different cultural, religious, and ethnic identities in the South Asian multi-ethnic societies will also be discussed.

### **Course design**

The course consists of lectures, three to six seminars with oral presentations (of which three include a paper) and film screenings.

Participation in seminars is mandatory unless there is a special reason.

Absence from a compulsory seminar is compensated with a task according to the teacher's instructions.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is based on three individual seminar papers (total 9 credits, each paper equals 3 credits) and a final individual take-home exam (6 credits).

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the same year.

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.

*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

## **Grades**

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

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 Bachelor's degree in social sciences, humanities, economics or law and at least 30 credits in Asian studies or equivalent.

Oral and written language proficiency in English equivalent 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**

1. The course is given at the Department of History, Centre for East and South East Asia Studies
2. The course replaces ACER26: Asian Studies: Contemporary South Asian Societies
3. 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.

## Subcourses in CÖSM26, Asian Studies: Contemporary South Asian Societies

Applies from V19

- 1901 Individual Seminar Paper I, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1902 Individual Seminar Paper II, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1903 Individual Seminar Paper III, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1904 Individual Take-Home Exam, 6,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A