



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

CÖSM35, Asian Studies: Digital Asia - Cultural, Social and Political Transformations, 7.5 credits

Asienstudier: Digitala Asien - Kulturella, sociala och politiska transformationer, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2019-02-25 to be valid from 2019-02-25, autumn semester 2019.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the third semester of the Master of Arts programme in Asian Studies (120 credits). 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 studies

Asian Studies

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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 students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for the impact of information and communications technology (ICT) on the culture, societies and politics in different countries in Asia
- account for the use of different types of ICT, e.g. the internet, social media, mobile phones and apps, in different countries in Asia
- account for the different concepts, theories and methods used to study Asia's digital societies

Competence and skills

- critically analyse the development and the use of different types of ICT against the background of the different social, economic and political systems of Asia
- identify and analyse the impact of ICT on the identities, values and actions of different individuals and groups
- use different concepts, theories and methods in the study of Asia's digital societies

Judgement and approach

- assess different theories and apply an interdisciplinary perspective that takes into account the complex cultural, social and political circumstances in Asia

Course content

In the course, the development and the use of different types of ICT (e.g. the internet, social media, mobile phones and apps) are studied and analysed in the light of the different social, economic and political systems in Asia. The local development is also analysed from the point of view of regional and global trends and processes. The course highlights the different concepts, theories and methods that are used to study digital development. This means that the course is based on different disciplines, such as media and communication studies, cultural sciences, anthropology, political science and area studies focusing on Asian Studies, while adopting an interdisciplinary perspective. The course focuses on different topics that take into account factors such as gender, ethnicity, socio-economic position and age. The students are encouraged to apply theoretical and methodological knowledge acquired from the required reading to individually selected case studies that highlight the use of different types of ICT among individuals and groups in different countries. The topics addressed by the course are:

- processes of identity formation and socialisation through, for example, blogging, gaming and the use of social media
- the impact of ICT on the emergence of new social networks and groups, e.g. special interest groups, civil society and citizen journalists
- social and political activities, for example how ICT is used by political leaders and in political parties in new popular movements and during protests
- new methods and ethnographic approaches as a result of the development of ICT

Course design

The course consists of lectures, 1-3 seminars with oral presentations, of which one includes a written assignment, and film screenings.

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.

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 degree of Bachelor in social sciences, economics or humanities disciplines oriented towards law or the social sciences, and at least 30 credits in Asian Studies or equivalent knowledge.

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

1. The course is offered at the Department of History, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University.
2. The course replaces ACES50: Digital Asia: Cultural, Social and Political Transformations.
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. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in CÖSM35, Asian Studies: Digital Asia - Cultural, Social and Political Transformations

Applies from H19

- 1901 Individual Seminar Assignment, 2,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 1902 Individual Take-Home Exam, 5,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A