ACEP31 Introduction to Asian Studies
Course schedule
Fall semester 2017
28 August – 22 September 2017

Course information

The course offers an introduction to critical, interdisciplinary Asian Studies, its historical origin, research history, and some cross-cutting issues in contemporary research. Included are also introductions to the different region specific studies of China, Japan, South-East Asia, and South Asia. Course assignments and seminars will allow you to train your academic writing skills. Instruction will take place through lectures and seminars. The seminars are mandatory, and absence must be compensated by completing additional course assignments. You will be writing one course paper and one exam paper and make an oral presentation. Apart from the course literature you will read about 400 pages of your own choice. The readings must be course related. The language of instruction and examination is English.

Most lectures will be held in the lecture room 005, exceptions are marked in the schedule.

Teachers

Carina Enestarre Carina.Enestarre@ace.lu.se
Monica Lindberg Falk (course director) Monica.Lindberg_Falk@ace.lu.se
Roger Greatrex Roger.Greatrex@ace.lu.se
Sidsel Hansson (student and study co-ordinator) Sidsel.Hansson@ace.lu.se
Ann Kull Ann.Kull@stu.lu.se
Nicholas Loubere nicholas.loubere@ace.lu.se
Astrid Norén-Nilsson astrid.noren-nilsson@ace.lu.se
Paul O’Shea paul.oshea@ace.lu.se
Marina Svensson Marina.Svensson@ace.lu.se

Registration to the program

Nina Brand 28 August, between 10.00-12.00
Location: Student/staff kitchen, ground floor

Carina Enestarre Tour of the library
Location: Asia Library

For your registration please bring photo identification (passport or EU ID card).

You will also be given a tour of the library and receive information on how to apply for a library card.
Coffee, tea and snacks will be served and you can meet other first and second year students, and staff.

**Introduction to the program.**

Monica Lindberg Falk  
28 August 13.15-15.00

Information on the program, the study procedures, the courses, and the course work followed by a Q & A session.

**Seminar: Why Asian Studies?**

Monica Lindberg Falk and Sidsel Hansson  
29 August 13.15-15.00

This seminar will provide an introduction to Asian Studies as part of the broader field of contemporary area studies, with focus on its multidisciplinary approach and discuss current directions and debates.

**Readings**

Houben, Vincent. 2013. ‘The New Area Studies and Southeast Asian History’, DORISEA working paper 4. 9 p. Available at: [www.dorisea.de/de/node/1501](http://www.dorisea.de/de/node/1501)

*Recommended further readings (not mandatory)*


**Handout of exam paper**

The exam paper questions will be handed out and will also be posted in the Luvit course folder.

**Handout of seminar instructions**

The seminar instructions will be handed out and will also be posted in the Luvit course folder.
Introduction to the digital Asia Library

Carina Enestarre 30 August 13.15-16.00
Room 111

This introduction provides information on how to access Lund University’s e-resources: How to use Lovisa (the library catalogue), LUBsearch (the discovery system), and the library guides. There will also be short information about the principles of academic integrity. Afterwards there will be a workshop in the library where you can practice your skills and ask the librarian for support. If possible bring your own electronic device

Visualizing Asia – Workshop on documentary and ethnographic films

Marina Svensson 31 August 14.15-17.00

Topics to be discussed:
• What can film/visual productions bring to Asian studies?
• Visual forms of knowledge
• Documentary film (genre and forms)
• Anthropological/ethnographic films (film as a research tool)
• Films for social change (human rights films, activism and film)
• Community video and film (film as empowerment tools)
• Film in the web 2.0 environment (film on-line, Youtube etc)

For recommended readings, websites, and films, see the course folder in Luvit.

Asian histories

Roger Greatrex 1 September 10.15-12.00

The seventeenth to nineteenth centuries were decisive in the shaping of contemporary societies as well as the nation states of the twentieth century and the present world order. Knowledge of the historical processes that shaped modern social systems (culminating in capitalism or neo-liberalism) is an indispensable tool for social scientists’ enquiry into contemporary issues. In this introductory lecture on Asian history knowledge about the region is approached by discussing its geography and introducing various aspects of trade, commerce, colonialism, political development, and nationalism, thus providing an overview to the history of individual regions. The aim of this lecture is to raise awareness regarding the questions of the geographical, ethnic and linguistic arbitrariness often applied to contemporary countries in the region. By introducing on-going academic debates about imagined communities, the invention of tradition, the political interrelatedness between the great empires, kingdoms and mountain people the lecture will offer alternative possibilities to understanding contemporary Asian societies.
Readings


South-East Asian Studies

**Astrid Norén-Nilsson**

5 September 10.15-12.00

The study of South-East Asia has produced a significant body of literature, which has contributed to our understanding of different societies and their transformations in the region and has contributed to the development of academic disciplines. This introduction serves to provide an overview of South-East Asian Studies by discussing the difficulties in defining South-East Asia as an area (geographically, culturally and politically). It will also discuss the diversity of approaches and perspectives in South-East Asian studies reflected in different disciplines and what possible consequences this have for the study of the region. In addition the lecture addresses contemporary main research themes and methodologies that social scientists are exploring in South-East Asia. The learning outcomes are that students should:

- Become aware of the difficulties of defining South-East Asia.
- Obtain a general understanding of the diversity of South-East Asian studies.
- Obtain knowledge about significant themes in South-East Asian studies.

Readings


Plan your studies

Ann Kull 5 September 13.15-15.00
This lecture provides tips about study techniques and time management. How to structure your studies in accordance with the Before-During-After class model: prepare before, be active during, repeat and reflect after. We bring up different reading techniques and time management. How to structure your time: throughout a course, weekly, daily and hourly. Finally, we have an introduction to the Pomodoro technique.

South Asian Studies

Sidsel Hansson 7 September 13.15-15.00
The lecture aims to give a brief overview of the development of the field of South Asian studies. It will discuss developments from more classical Indology to contemporary South Asian studies, and the political, institutional, and academic reasons behind these developments. The lecture will discuss the contributions from different disciplines, and their respective development over time. In focus will also be an assessment of the current state of the field of South Asia studies and different research trends. The learning outcomes are that students should obtain knowledge about:

• the historical background of South Asian studies
• the key debates and orientations in contemporary South Asian studies

Readings


Japan studies

Paul O’Shea 11 September 13.15-15.00
What is Japanese Studies? This lecture will consider this question. We may not reach a definitive answer, but by tracing the history and development of Japanese Studies within the context of Japan’s rise from postwar ashes to economic giant, and more recent struggles with the 3/11 disaster, a super-aging society, and a rising China, we can at least come to an understanding of why it’s an important question!

Readings


**Introduction to China Studies**

Nicholas Loubere 12 September 10.15-12.00

This lecture aims to give a brief overview of the development of the field of China studies. It will discuss developments from more classical Sinology to contemporary China studies, as well as the political, institutional, and academic reasons behind these developments. The lecture will discuss the contributions from different disciplines, and their respective development over time. In focus will also be an assessment of the current state of the field of China studies and different research trends.

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Reading**


**Postcolonial perspectives on Asia**

Nicholas Loubere 13 September 10.15-12.00

This lecture explores postcolonial perspectives for understanding contemporary culture, politics and economics in Asian societies. The lecture questions issues surrounding Orientalism and East-West power relations, and critically examines the production of knowledge on and about Asia. In particular it provides an introduction to postcolonial theory, which has the critique of Orientalism as its point of departure.
Readings


Critical thinking, speaking and writing

**Ann Kull**  
13 September 13.15-15.00

This workshop focuses on how to argue like an academic, or how to build a solid argument. Here we bring up the bases for how to think, speak and write critically. We also discuss ethics in different situations: class room discussion, references and plagiarism in writing.

Information retrieval, source criticism and referencing

**Carina Enestarre**  
14 September 13.15-16.00  
Room 111

A lecture on how to find information, how to value it and how to cite. Afterwards there will be a workshop in the library where you can practice your skills and ask the librarian for support. If possible bring your own electronic device.

Seminar paper – Deadline 15 September 16.00.

Exam paper – Deadline 21 September 16.00.

Email your papers to Monica.Lindberg_Falk@ace.lu.se, Sidsel.Hansson@ace.lu.se and to Monica.Lindberg_Falk.lu@analys.urkund.se
Seminars: Paper presentations
Monica Lindberg Falk and Sidsel Hansson 22 September 9.15-16.00

Grading and course evaluation
Monica Lindberg Falk and Sidsel Hansson 12 October 11.15-12.00
Course grades and comments to the exam papers and the seminar papers and presentations will be emailed to the students. This is a general feedback session, where the students also are welcome to write and hand in their course evaluations. For the course evaluation sheet see the Luvit course folder.

Re-exam handout 30 October