ACEP31 Introduction to Asian Studies
Course schedule
Fall semester 2016
29 August – 23 September 2016

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 workshops will allow you to train your academic writing skills. You also will be trained in organizing academic seminars and giving presentations. Instruction will take place through lectures, seminars, and workshops. The seminars and workshops are mandatory, and absence must be compensated by completing additional course assignments. You will be writing two course papers and one exam paper. Apart from the course literature you will read 400 pages of your own choice. The readings must be course related and approved by the course director. The language of instruction and examination is English.

All lectures will be held in the lecture hall Alfa 1010.

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
Catarina Kinnvall Catarina.Kinnvall@svet.lu.se
Ann Kull Ann.Kull@ace.lu.se
Mia Nilsson Mia.Nilsson@ace.lu.se
Ingemar Ottosson Ingemar.Ottosson@ace.lu.se
Marina Svensson Marina.Svensson@ace.lu.se

Registration to the program

Nina Brand
29 August open between 10.00-12.00
In room 2065 (Conference room)
Carina Enestarre/Mia Nilsson
Registration at the library

For your registration please bring a photo identification (passport or EU ID card). You will also register at the library and sign up for an introduction to the Asia library (see below) and access to the Luvit course folder. 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 29 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 30 August 10.15-12.00

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


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.

Introduction to the Asia Library

Carina Enestarre and Mia Nilsson 30 August 13.15-16.00

Asia Library

This introduction provides information on how to access Lund University e-resources, how to use LUBsearch, AWELU, and the LIB guide, and the use of sources and the principles of academic accountability in academic writing.
Guided tours of the Asia library.

Library skills workshop - Practical exercises. If possible please bring your laptop.

**Visualizing Asia – Workshop on documentary and ethnographic films**

**Marina Svensson**  
1 September 13.00-16.00

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**  
2 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**


Patterson Giersch, Charles. 2010. Across Zomia with merchants, monks, and musk:

**Introduction to China Studies**

**Roger Greatrex**  
5 September 13.15-15.00

The 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, 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 China studies and different research trends. The learning outcomes are that the students should:

- Have a general understanding of the developments in the field and the reasons behind them.
- Become aware of the possibility of different interpretations of developments in Chinese society and their reasons.
- Have a basic awareness of how different disciplines approach the field of China studies, and of recent developments in respective fields.

**Readings**


**Open lecture: Internet in China and Myanmar**

Elisa Oreglia, SOAS  
6 September 10.15-12.00

**Plan your studies**

Ann Kull  
6 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.

**Introduction to South-East Asian Studies**

**Monica Lindberg Falk**  
7 September 13.15-15.00

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.


**Introduction to South Asian Studies**

**Sidsel Hansson**  
8 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


Introduction to Japan studies

Ingemar Ottosson 12 September 10.15-12.00

The lecture will present a picture of the historical development of Japanese Studies in the West since the middle of the 20th century up until now. An emphasis will be put on recent research trends in the area and some of the most debated issues will be used as illustrations. The lecture aims at comparing the perspectives of different academic disciplines and show how they have affected research results. It will also demonstrate how scholars in the field have been influenced by shifting popular images of Japan.

Mandatory readings


Recommended further reading


Critical thinking, speaking and writing

Ann Kull 12 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.
Postcolonial and feminist perspectives on Asia

Catarina Kinnvall 14 September 10.15-12.00

This lecture explores the question of Orientalism and East-West power relations, in the production of knowledge on Asia. Particularly, it offers an introduction to postcolonial theory that has the critique of Orientalism as its very point of departure. Included in this introduction are feminist contributions to postcolonial theory.

Mandatory readings


Exam paper – Deadline 22 September 16.00 at the latest.

Email your exam paper to Monica.Lindberg_Falk@ace.lu.se and to Monica.Lindberg_Falk.lu@analys.urkund.se

Seminars: Paper presentations

Monica Lindberg Falk and Sidsel Hansson 23 September 9.15-16.00

Grading and course evaluation

Monica Lindberg Falk 13 October 11.15-12.00

Course grades and comments to the exam papers 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

31 October