ACEP31 Introduction to Asian Studies
Course schedule 2015

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/Korea, South-East and South Asia. The students also will be able to train their academic writing skills. Instruction will take place through lectures, seminars, and workshops. The students will write two course papers and an exam paper. The language of instruction and examination is English.

Teachers

Roger Greatrex (course director) 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
Annika Pissin Annika.Pissin@ace.lu.se
Solee Shin Solee.Shin@ace.lu.se
Marina Svensson Marina.Svensson@ace.lu.se

Registration to the program

Nina Brand Monday 31 August from 10.00 to 12.00 Room 2065 (the conference room)

For your registration please bring a photo identification (passport or EU ID card). If conditionally accepted, you also must bring your diplomas and transcripts. At registration you also will 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, as well as staff.

Introduction to the program

Roger Greatrex Monday 31 August 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010

Information on the program, the study procedures, the courses, and the course work, including the first week's course work, followed by a Q & A session. Writing instructions for the course paper 1 also will be handed out (also can be found in the Luvit course folder).

Introduction to the Asia Library

Carina Enestarre Monday 31 August from 15.30 to 17.00 Asia Library

This is an introduction to the library website and database, other e-resources in Asian studies, and the course literature. You also will get your library card. Sign up for a session when you register to the program (see above).
Why Asian Studies?

Roger Greatrex

Wednesday 2 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

The lecture provides an introduction to critical Asian Studies as part of the broader field of contemporary area studies, with focus on its political and institutional history, multidisciplinary approach, and current directions and debates.

Mandatory reading

Recommended further readings


Information retrieval in Asian Studies

Carina Enestarre

Wednesday 2 September 12.15-12.45 Alpha 1010

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

Course paper 1 - deadline

By Thursday 3 September 13.00 at the latest

Email your course paper 1 to Ann.Kull@ace.lu.se and Ann.Kull1lu@analys.urkund.se

Asian histories

Annika Pissin

Friday 4 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

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 the 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 the 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 lectures will offer alternative possibilities to understanding contemporary Asian societies.

**Mandatory readings**


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

Marina Svensson

Friday 4 September 14.15-17.00 Alpha 1010

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)

Workshop information and material can be found in the Luvit course folder.

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**Academic writing – workshop 1**

Ann Kull

Monday 7 September 10.15-12.00 and 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010

During this master programme students are expected to write several academic papers for each course in addition to the final master thesis. For students who don’t have English as a native language and/or do not have much previous experience in writing academic papers this might be a challenge. For students who already are experienced academic writers the program’s regular written assignments will provide a forum for further refinement of your writing skills. This is the first of two academic writing seminars followed by workshops. The ambition is to prepare you for this task as well as to introduce you to relevant tools for your further writing. The learning outcomes are that students should:

- Learn about basic criteria of academic writing, especially references, quotations and bibliography.
- Become aware of ethical aspects of writing and have knowledge of rules about plagiarism.
- Become familiar with sources to use in their further writing.

For more workshop information and material see the Luvit course folder.

The writing instructions for the course paper 2 can be found in the Luvit course folder.
Critical China Studies

Roger Greatrex

Wednesday 9 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

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.

*Mandatory readings*


Seminar on Critical China Studies

Student led

Wednesday 9 September 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010

The seminar instructions will be provided during the morning’s lecture, and also can be found in the Luvit course folder.

Guest lecture – Human Rights in Japan

Dr. André Asplund

Wednesday 9 September 15.15-17.00 Alpha 1010

The lecture will address Japan’s legal system and human rights issues (including issues related to gender, discrimination, migrants, and the death penalty etc), as well as human rights in Japan’s foreign policy and diplomacy, and Japan’s role in the UN.

André Asplund is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the European Institute of Japanese Studies (EIJS), Stockholm School of Economics. He obtained his MA in Asian Studies from Lund University and his PhD from the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University in Tokyo. His dissertation dealt with the origin of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the impact of civil society organization on the negotiation processes. In his current position as research fellow, André has returned to the topic in which his academic career started, researching Japanese foreign policies and in particular the nexus between human rights and development in Japanese foreign aid.
Critical Japan/Korea Studies

Solee Shin  
Friday 11 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

How “unique” are Korean and Japanese societies? Are there empirical bases for the claims of uniqueness? While the answers to the questions will vary, early discussions on Japanese and Korean identity and uniqueness were crucial in the shaping of contemporary Korea and Japan studies (albeit in different ways) and have used as building blocks for more recent works. The goal of this lecture is to read seminal pieces (or writings on seminal pieces) on Japanese and Korean society to get an understanding of the field and the beginnings of their respective developments.

Mandatory readings

Recommended further reading
Shin, Gi-wook “Explaining the Roots and Politics of Korean Nationalism” (pp. 1-20) of Ethnic Nationalism in Korea.

Seminar on Critical Japan/Korea Studies

Student led  
Friday 11 September 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010

The seminar instructions will be provided during the morning’s lecture, and also can be found in the Luvit course folder.

Critical South-East Asia Studies

Ann Kull  
Monday 14 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

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.

Mandatory readings
Seminar on Critical South-East Asia Studies

Student led                        Monday 14 September 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010
The seminar instructions will be provided during the morning’s lecture, and also can be found in the Luvit course folder.

Critical South Asia Studies

Sidsel Hansson                      Wednesday 16 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010
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 be introduced to critical South Asian studies, its research history, and current key issues and orientations.

Mandatory readings


Seminar on Critical South Asia Studies

Student led                        Wednesday 16 September 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010
The seminar instructions will be provided during the morning’s lecture, and also can be found in the Luvit course folder.

Course paper 2 - deadline

By Thursday 17 September 13.00 at the latest
Email your course paper 2 to Ann.Kull@ace.lu.se and Ann.Kull.lu@analys.urkund.se
Postcolonial and feminist perspectives on Asia

Catarina Kinnvall

Friday 18 September 10.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

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


Academic writing – workshop 2

Ann Kull

Monday 21 September 10.15-12.00 and 13.15-15.00 Alpha 1010

For information see the earlier workshop 1 on 7 September, and the Luvit course folder.

Exam paper - handout

Sidsel Hansson

Monday 21 September 15.00 Alpha 1010

The exam paper question(s) will be handed out and also, uploaded to the Luvit course folder.

Exam paper - deadline

By Friday 25 September 16.00 at the latest

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

Grading and course evaluation

Roger Greatrex

Friday 17 October 11.15-12.00 Alpha 1010

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

Roger Greatrex

Friday 6 November 14.00