**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, and South-East 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, participate in seminar discussions and make a peer review. The readings must be course related. The language of instruction and examination is English.

**Teachers**

Sidsel Hansson  [Sidsel.Hansson@ace.lu.se](mailto:Sidsel.Hansson@ace.lu.se) (course coordinator)
Ann Kull  [Ann.Kull@stu.lu.se](mailto:Ann.Kull@stu.lu.se)
Nicholas Loubere  [Nicholas.Loubere@ace.lu.se](mailto:Nicholas.Loubere@ace.lu.se)
Erik Mobrand  [Erik.Mobrand@gmail.com](mailto:Erik.Mobrand@gmail.com)
Mia Nilsson  [Mia.Nilsson@ace.lu.se](mailto:Mia.Nilsson@ace.lu.se)
Astrid Norén-Nilsson  [astrid.noren-nilsson@ace.lu.se](mailto:astrid.noren-nilsson@ace.lu.se)
Paul O’Shea  [paul.oshea@ace.lu.se](mailto:paul.oshea@ace.lu.se)
Marina Svensson  [marina.svensson@ace.lu.se](mailto:marina.svensson@ace.lu.se)

**Registration at the Centre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nina Brand</th>
<th>31 August Group A: 10.00-10.30</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Group B: 10.30-11.00</td>
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<td>Group C: 11.00-11.30</td>
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For your registration please bring a photo identification (passport or EU ID card). Nina Brand will inform you beforehand about which group you have been assigned to. In order to avoid crowding, please arrive and register during the time frame allotted to your group. Having completed your registration, proceed to the library on the ground floor (entrance from the Centre’s hallway).

**Introduction to and registration at the library**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mia Nilsson</th>
<th>31 August Group A: 10.15-10.45</th>
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<td>Group B: 10.45-11.15</td>
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<td>Group C: 11.15-11.45</td>
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You will be given a tour of the Asia library and receive information on how to apply for a university library account. Please keep within the time frame of your group.
Welcome to the Centre and introduction to the program

Marina Svensson and Sidsel Hansson
31 August 13.15-15.00

Introduction to the Centre, information on the program, the study procedures, the courses, and the course work followed by a Q&A session. Handout of instructions for the seminars and the seminar paper. The instructions also can be found in the CANVAS course module.

Introduction to the Asia library – its resources and services

Mia Nilsson
1 September Group A: 09.15-10.00
Group B: 10.15-11.00
Group C: 11.15-12.00

This introduction provides information on how to access Lund University’s e-resources: How to use LUBcat (the library catalogue), LUBsearch (the discovery system), and the library guides. There will also be short information about the principles of academic integrity. For the A-C group lists see the CANVAS course module.

Seminar 1: Why Asian Studies?

Sidsel Hansson
2 September 13.15-15.00

In this seminar we will discuss Asian Studies as part of the broader multidisciplinary field of Area Studies, with attention to the ongoing debates on its relevance, challenges, and new directions in research. For instructions see the seminar instructions handed out at the earlier introduction lecture or the CANVAS course module.

Required readings


Information retrieval, source criticism and referencing

Mia Nilsson
3 September Group A: 09.15-10.00
Group B: 10.15-11.00
Group C: 11.15-12.00

A lecture on how to find information, how to evaluate it, and how to cite. If possible, bring your own electronic device. For the A-C group lists see the CANVAS course module.

Finding and organising literature

Nicholas Loubere
3 September 13.15-15.00

Reviewing and keeping up to date with the academic literature is a necessary part of writing course papers and a Master’s thesis, but also represents an organisational challenge. This lecture will demonstrate how open source software packages –
including Zotero, Feedreader and QDA Miner – can be used to systematically navigate and organise large and rapidly developing bodies of literature.

**Plan your studies**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Kull</td>
<td>Asia library</td>
<td>4 September 13.15-15.00</td>
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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.

**Japan studies**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paul O’Shea</td>
<td>Asia library</td>
<td>7 September 13.15-15.00</td>
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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!

**Required readings**


**South-East Asian Studies**

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astrid Norén-Nilsson</td>
<td>ZOOM</td>
<td>8 September 10.15-12.00</td>
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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.

**Required readings**


**Presenting and peer reviewing research**

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<tr>
<td>Sidsel Hansson</td>
<td>8 September</td>
<td>14.15-15.00</td>
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This lecture provides basic information about academic presentation techniques and peer review procedures, and the criteria that apply to presentations and peer review work. During the final seminar on 17 September you will be able to practice these skills.

**Korean studies**

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<tr>
<td>Erik Mobrand</td>
<td>9 September</td>
<td>13.15-15.00</td>
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The modern history of the Korean peninsula is intertwined with divisions in the wider region. The two states on the peninsula are intimately tied to each other, as well as to regional configurations of power and economic exchange. The study of Korea is oriented not only to understanding that peninsula but also to shedding light on the connections that bind – and the divisions that separate – geographies in East and Southeast Asia. The goal of this seminar is to provide a conceptual basis for undertaking social inquiry related to Korea. After this seminar, students will have grasped three major concepts for thinking about the modern experience of Korea. They will also have gained familiarity with frameworks for thinking about contemporary Korea, with a focus on South Korea. These frameworks help in understanding a wide range of social phenomena, from popular culture and regional ties to religion, business, and politics.

**Required readings**


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 readings


Seminar 2: Exploring a complex issue in Asia in an interdisciplinary way ZOOM

Astrid Norén-Nilsson 11 September 10.15-12.00

In this seminar you will discuss the Rohingya crisis which started in Myanmar in 2017, as an example of a complex issue in Asia. You will prepare for the seminar by reading and analyse a set of academic articles on the crisis written from the perspective of various disciplines. Taken together, they illustrate the advantages of taking an Asian studies approach, which integrates insights generated in a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fashion. During the seminar we will discuss your analyses of the articles and their different approaches to the issue, and the insights to be gained from this exercise. You will find the set of articles in the course module in CANVAS.

Critical thinking, speaking and writing Asia library

Ann Kull 14 September 13.15-15.00

This lecture 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.
Deadline for the seminar paper

Submit the paper to the course module in CANVAS no later than 15 September 10.00

Postcolonial perspectives on Asia

Nicholas Loubere 15 September 13.15-15.00

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.

Required readings


Recommended readings


Visualizing Asia – Documentary films

Marina Svensson 15 September 16.00-18.00

Watch before class a short pre-recorded lecture uploaded on Canvas outlining the following topics:
• 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).

Think about the questions raised there before the film screening and discussion in the library.
From Border to Border (108 minutes).

Film synopsis: The film takes place in Calcutta’s Chinatown, and addresses the history of the Chinese community in India. The film covers the arrival of Chinese in the 1800s, the effects of the 1962 Sino-Indian border conflict, cultural and economic struggles to survive and integrate in Indian society, and recent developments. The film gives voice to different generations who tell their own stories and discuss experiences of migration, ethnicity, religion, and inter-cultural relations.

Research ethics and academic freedom

Marina Svensson 16 September 13.15-15.00

This lecture will address basic issues related to the role of the university and the meaning and importance of academic freedom. The lecture also discusses how we can create a tolerant and open teaching environment, and the responsibilities of both teachers and students. In addition, principles related to integrity and research ethics will be discussed.

Required readings


Spannagel, Janika. 2019. “Judging universities by how free they are,” Global Public Policy Institute. Available at: https://www.gppi.net/2019/06/26/judging-universities-by-how-free-they-are [5 pages]

Seminar 3: Presentations of seminar papers and peer review

Sidsel Hansson 17 September 13.15-16.00

Here you will present your seminar papers and engage in a round of peer review using the criteria given in the seminar instructions (see the course module in CANVAS and the earlier handout). These criteria also were discussed in an earlier lecture on September. Finally, the home exam instructions and course evaluation forms will be handed out, and posted in CANVAS.

Deadline for the home exam paper

Submit the paper to the course module in CANVAS no later than 23 September 17.00

Grades and feedback comments

Sidsel Hansson 14 October

Exam and course grades and feedback comments on the exam papers will be emailed to the students.

Re-exam

Sidsel Hansson 28 October

The re-exam will be posted in the CANVAS course module and sent out by email.