



DS2307 Culture and Communication in East Asia 6.0 credits

Kultur och kommunikation i Östasien

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

Establishment

Course syllabus for DS2307 valid from Spring 2012

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Technology

Specific prerequisites

Three years of academic studies

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

Aiming at practical as well as theoretical insights, this course explores similarities and differences between culture and communication in Japan and China. The overall aim is an improved management of communicative situations by means of informed analysis of how, and with what consequences, cultural beliefs and communicative strategies influence social interactions of various kinds. Concrete examples will mainly be taken from Japan and China, but the course will also provide general tools for the analysis of intercultural communication.

Specifically, this means that you after the course should be able to:

- give a critical account of relevant perspectives on culture as a concept and as an object of study
- give a critical account of relevant theoretical perspectives and models for analyzing intercultural communicative situations
- give a critical account of cultural structures, beliefs and communicative strategies of particular importance in the East Asian context.
- apply your knowledge to the analysis of concrete communicative situations, and propose strategies for improving communication between individuals or within organizations

Course contents

Is it possible to work in China without guanxi? And are Japanese people really not able to say no? The world's second- and third-largest economies are geographically and culturally far away from Sweden, but organizations in the two countries are important to Swedish companies and engineers both as workplaces and as partners. After a review and discussion of relevant theoretical perspectives, the focus of the course will be on key aspects of verbal and nonverbal communication in Japan and China, and on underlying social and cultural factors, such as traditional value systems, forms of organization, interaction patterns and effects of various processes of globalization. We examine the fundamentals of the countries' major systems of thought, e.g., Confucianism and Daoism, as well as specific topics such as dinner etiquette, business culture and linguistic characteristics.

Disposition

18 lessons divided into 6 sessions x 3 lessons

Course literature

To be decided

Examination

- UPP1 - Assignment 1, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- UPP2 - Assignment 2, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- UPP3 - Assignment 3, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- UPP4 - Assignment 4, 1.0 credits, grading scale: P, F
- UPP5 - Assignment 5, 2.0 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

Other requirements for final grade

75% attendance, all assignments reported

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.