



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Koloniala och postkoloniala studier, masterprogram, 120
högskolepoäng

Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2018-10-29
The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2020

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at the second level, and specific entry requirements: Bachelor's Degree, or the equivalent, in the humanities or social sciences, and English B/English 6.

Description of Programme

Colonial and postcolonial studies is designed to meet societal and academic needs for an awareness and critical analysis of the importance and consequences of colonialism in history and contemporary society. Students develop knowledge of historical and contemporary manifestations, descriptions, experiences and consequences of colonialism in colonial and postcolonial contexts. The research field provides a critical examination of human social life in light of colonial conceptions and experiences as manifested in politics, economy, culture, religion and art. Specifically, it illustrates how the modern world is shaped by colonial power, discourse, networks and knowledge, and how this continues to influence economic, social, cultural and political relations in postcolonial, contemporary society. Nordic colonialism, studies of indigenous people, environmental history, Linnaean natural history and the Enlightenment view on science are prioritised themes in the programme. Nordic colonialism integrates studies of colonial power structures in Scandinavia with studies of global colonialism, focusing on the relation between the Scandinavian states and the Sami as manifested in literature, resource colonialism, legal conflicts and processes of identity. Courses are offered which, in a similar manner, relates Linnaean natural history and race biology to international research on indigenous people. Environmental history and environmental humanities are also strongly present in the programme, in discussions of the relation between humans and nature in changes in the environment, nature and the climate, in both short-term and long-term perspectives.

Students develop theoretical and practical knowledge in the subject, as well as practical skills in planning and leading seminars and sharing responsibility for lecturers visiting the programme, in consultation with teachers. The practical and methodological parts of the programme include field work and work with archives.

The programme is intended for students seeking employment in public administration in Sweden or abroad, non-governmental organisations, primary and secondary school, museums and the cultural sector. Students may apply for research studies after completing the programme.

Objectives

In this programme students are provided with the opportunity to develop advanced theoretical and empirical analytical knowledge in the social sciences and humanities, with a focus on colonial and postcolonial studies. The aim of the programme is for students to develop methodological and analytical skills necessary to conduct studies independently and critically in the field of colonial and postcolonial studies at the level required for qualified professional work and research studies in the field.

Central qualitative targets according to the Higher Education Ordinance

The programme follows the central qualitative targets of the Qualification Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance (annex 2), general qualifications, Degree of Master (120 credits).

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and thus contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability both nationally and internationally to present and discuss their works and artistic issues in speech, writing or in other ways and in dialogue with different groups, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in other qualified work.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and,
- demonstrate the ability to identify their individual need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

Programme-specific objectives

After completing the programme, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for knowledge of colonial and postcolonial studies, including an overview of the field as well as in-depth knowledge in the sub-field represented by the

of the field as well as in-depth knowledge in the sub-field represented by the independent project (Master's thesis), and demonstrate knowledge of current research debates in the interdisciplinary field.

- account for the main causes, processes and consequences of modern colonialism, historically and today, and critically discuss descriptions of colonialism in a postcolonial context,
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of general theories, concepts and methods in second-level studies in the field of colonial and postcolonial studies, and in-depth methodological knowledge in the thematic specialisation of the independent project (Master's thesis)

Competence and skills

- integrate new knowledge and analyse and examine complex phenomena in colonial and postcolonial studies in historical and contemporary contexts,
- apply relevant postcolonial theories in analyses of written and other sources from colonial contexts and relations, or in descriptions and interpretations of these,
- independently identify and formulate research questions, plan research assignments and identify need for further knowledge.

Judgement and approach

- analyse and systematically evaluate connections between empirical documentation of historical and contemporary events and processes influenced by colonial power and dependence and by theoretical postcolonial interpretations, or literary portrayals of these,
- assess and apply relevant academic and societal aspects of their studies from postcolonial perspectives, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its integrated role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, especially in light of colonial and postcolonial experiences.

Content

Programme Overview

The programme comprises four semesters of full-time studies on campus or, as decided by the programme coordinator, in courses at a university abroad or in field work. The programme has a pedagogical progression from a joint introduction to the themes and methods of the programme, via individual study profiles and a joint seminar course, to an examination course for the independent project (Master's thesis). The programme is offered in English in order to welcome international students and to provide the students with access to future international employment opportunities.

The Department of Cultural Sciences is the host department, and is responsible for the programme. A programme coordinator is responsible for programme administration, contacts with students, and programme development. There is a Programme Advisory Board including the programme coordinator (chair), teacher and student representatives, and an external representative.

The programme is organised with individual study plans on the basis of students' own profiles and specialisations for their future careers. A joint platform is created in order to strengthen the unity of the programme. The integration and examination of different perspectives in the programme are specified in the syllabus for each course.

The programme includes compulsory and elective courses. All compulsory courses are in the main field of study of the programme.

Semester 1

The courses this semester introduce and problematise colonial and postcolonial studies in thematic and theoretical courses in the main field of study. These are compulsory and all students participate together. The semester includes thematic and methodological introductory courses of 30 credits.

Semesters 2 and 3

These semesters include both compulsory and elective courses. The choice of elective courses depends on the student's individual study plan. The independent project (Master's thesis) is introduced through a meeting with the supervisor, and, when appropriate, archive and/or field work. Considering the organisation of the programme, studies abroad are best conducted during semester 2 or 3. Students whose individual study plans justify an internship of an equivalent to 7.5 credits should conduct this during semester 2 or 3.

The compulsory course "Postcolonial encounters", 7.5 credits, begins in semester 2 and runs over three semesters, with examinations each semester. This course ensures a coherent programme, as students take different thematic courses, as well as close connections to research throughout the programme. If a student conducts studies abroad or field/archive work, the course is offered as a distance course.

Semester 4

During this semester the independent project (Master's thesis) is conducted and examined. If the course "Independent project" constitutes 45 credits for the individual student, they have a chance to take elective courses of 15 credits in Sweden or abroad during the second year of the programme.

Courses in the programme

Compulsory courses in the main field of study, all at the second level:

Imperialism and the Making of the Modern World, 7.5 credits

In this course students develop an understanding of the causes and consequences of modern imperialism and colonialism from the mid-15th century until today, focusing on the period of increasing European expansion ca 1750–1914. Imperialism leads to many forms of social, economic, political and cultural dominance and opposition. This course specifically analyses the roles of imperial dominance and opposition in the making of the modern world, as well as its influence on contemporary society. Alternative views on the causes and effects of imperialism and colonialism are investigated from long-term historical, global and comparative perspectives. A few central themes are discussed, including different types of dominance, inequality, violence, boundaries, gender, race and civilisation. The course explores contemporary conflicts on imperial and colonial heritage, and current research debates. The course is offered during semester 1 and is compulsory.

Criticism and Theory: Current debates in the Humanities, 7.5 credits

This course discusses central theories in the humanities and social sciences, focusing especially on critical theoretical debates that have determined the development of postcolonial theory. The students explore historical and contemporary practices in terms of power structures, dominance and submission in modern times. The students are challenged to understand and relate to complex theories and phenomena such as orientalism, eurocentrism, decolonialism, nationalism and diaspora. The course problematises theoretical concepts such as identity, race and gender. The course is offered during semester 1 and is compulsory.

Research fields in postcolonial environments, 7.5 credits

This course introduces colonial and postcolonial studies through the practices of different academic disciplines. In presentations of various phenomena in contemporary society, researchers in subjects such as history, literature studies, religious studies, archaeology, social work and film studies discuss how they understand and apply postcolonial perspectives in their own research. Students develop a critical understanding of how colonial and postcolonial constructions such as orientalism are created and used. The students have the opportunity to reflect on the multidisciplinary character of the field of colonial and postcolonial studies, and demonstrate and develop their own individual opinions in relation to literature and debates. The course is offered during semester 1 and is compulsory.

Method and Practice in the Humanities, 7.5 credits

This course discusses methods in the humanities and the social sciences, focusing on postcolonial perspectives, with the aim of the students developing knowledge necessary to identify and accumulate new information, analyse and assess complex phenomena and descriptions, and draw conclusions correctly in an advanced academic analysis. The students practise their ability to work with literary texts and non-written sources in historical and contemporary material. The course includes practise in planning and conducting field work in which knowledge of observation and conversation as methods, as well as the importance of spoken communication, relations and memory when collecting material, are crucial.

The course is organised so that different parts and requirements of the thesis work are covered in different parts of the course and the students are challenged to reflect on ethical aspects and their own role in the work. The students formulate their own thesis plans. The course is offered during semester 1 and is compulsory.

Postcolonial encounters, 7.5 credits

In this course the students present their ongoing essay work, review each other's works critically and constructively, discuss methods and field-work problems, invite and are responsible for guest lecturers, chair seminars, and conduct relevant events such as excursions and film screenings. The course runs over semesters 2, 3 and 4. This long course period contributes to the coherence of the programme even though students choose their own specialisations and different elective courses from semester 2. Students in years 1 and 2 participate in the same course. The course is compulsory.

Independent project, 45 or 60 credits

In this course the Master's thesis is conducted and examined. This includes planning and implementation of all parts of the essay, with the help of a supervisor, and examination of the student's own project as well as acting as an opponent for another student's project. The length of the course is decided in consultation with the programme coordinator and adjusted to the student's study plan. The course may start with supervision and/or field work from semester 2, while the main work is conducted during semesters 3 and 4.

The programme also offers a large number of elective courses, some of which are in the main field of study. These include for example subject-specific method courses, courses in environmental history, Nordic colonialism, imperial history and the history of slavery, and several thematic courses in history, comparative literature, religious studies, social work and film studies.

Societal relevance

Colonial and postcolonial studies are highly relevant in current societal and development issues. This international field of studies and research is broad in terms of academic disciplines. It focuses on Scandinavia and local society in a global perspective and in colonial and postcolonial discourses.

The compulsory course "Postcolonial encounters" discusses the market and professional issues, primarily through visits by relevant professionals and discussions of how knowledge in colonial and postcolonial studies relates to working life. In the method and theory courses students develop skills in digital humanities and in presenting research results to the public, competences demanded in many professional fields.

The programme is especially suitable for students seeking future work in professions valuing knowledge of international relations, cultural encounters, cultural heritage, and conflicts related to colonialism or modern empires. This includes work in public administration, international or developmental industry and non-governmental and international organisations dealing with international and multicultural issues. It is also a relevant programme for future teachers (in Swedish lower or upper secondary school) and for professions within information or journalism.

The programme is relevant for students intending to apply for research programmes, since it prepares for research studies. With its general approach in the humanities and social sciences, the programme also provides students with a solid foundation for research studies in other subjects with international, political or cultural specialisations.

Internationalisation

Colonial and postcolonial studies is a global research field and a well-established international subject for research and teaching. The programme is international in terms of content and teaching.

The teachers at Linnaeus University contribute with internationally acknowledged competence. The programme also benefits from the teachers' own academic networks, primarily in the form of lectures and seminars by visiting researchers. The programme encourages teachers to professional development through teaching in exchange and collaboration agreements at universities abroad.

The programme allows students to participate in and transfer credits from courses at universities abroad, and to conduct field work abroad. There might, however, be restrictions for students from outside of the EU due to migration and visa regulations.

Students are offered to take part in Linnaeus University's collaboration agreements and exchanges with international universities at the first (minimum G1F) and second (minimum A1N) level. Courses are chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator.

Programme perspectives

A fundamental value at Linnaeus University is to treat all people as equals regardless of cultural or social background, gender and gender identity, sexuality and disability. This value is strongly present in the working environment and all our programmes. This approach is also an important foundation for postcolonial studies, which is illustrated in studies of how contemporary society has been shaped by the development of modern society in light of conceptions of the West and the East, of race and racial tensions, and of the struggle for freedom and rights. One of the main themes of the programme is the historical and contemporary perspectives on conceptions and actions which have shaped today's requirements of equal opportunities.

Sustainable development is a fundamental value in the programme. The global profile of the programme requires the occasional long flight, which results in heavy ecological footprints. As far as possible, such flights should coordinate several activities, for example lectures and conferences or field work and courses.

Students have the opportunity to specialise in sustainability in courses such as "Modern natures and postcolonial ecologies", and to profile their study plan in this field, also in studies at other universities.

Knowledge development, education and learning, and views on science are other important components in the programme as several of the courses in the main field of study focus on how knowledge has been generated in relation to modern society in a context of imperialism, colonial conquests and the legitimisation of colonial claims. This means that students explore the history of knowledge and science from a global perspective with a focus on Africa, Asia and Latin America, and that views of knowledge are problematised and broadened. The aim is to challenge students to develop deep and problematised knowledge to be able to handle complex issues in society, including diversity, rights and people's relation to their surroundings and the past.

The integration and examination of different perspectives in the programme are specified in the syllabus for each course.

Quality Development

Teachers responsible for individual courses and the programme coordinator conduct continuous evaluations of courses as well as follow-ups. The programme coordinator compiles the evaluations of the programme at the end of each academic year. The results of the evaluations are discussed in the Programme Advisory Board and the compilations are made available to the students. The aim is to conduct quality assurance in close connection to the programme.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality system for the follow-up and development of programmes. An Education Council prepares programme syllabi and other issues concerning quality, such as the right to award degrees and the range of programmes offered, before the Faculty Board makes the final decisions. Revised and new syllabi are prepared in Syllabus Committees before the Head of Department or the Dean makes the final decision about approval.

Every year the range of courses and programmes offered is evaluated in accordance with the Faculty's plan for systematic quality work.

Degree Certificate

After completing their studies, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance in the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local Qualification Ordinance, the student may apply for a degree.

Students who have completed the Master Programme in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, 120 credits, can obtain the following degree:

Filosofie masterexamen (Huvudområde: koloniala och postkoloniala studier)
Master of Arts (Main field of study: Colonial and Postcolonial Studies)

The degree certificate is issued in two languages (Swedish and English). A Diploma Supplement in English is enclosed with the degree certificate.

Students who have completed the programme may apply to research programmes.