



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 Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2018-10-29

Revised 2021-06-07

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2021

Prerequisites

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

Description of Programme

The programme Colonial and Postcolonial Studies is designed to meet the societal and academic need for a discerning and critical analysis of the impact and consequences of colonialism in history and today. 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 review of human social life in the light of colonial conceptions and experiences as manifested in politics, economy, culture, religion and art. It specifically points up the shaping of the modern world through colonial exercise of power, discourse, networks, and knowledge, and how these factors continue to impact 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 of 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. There are also courses that in a similar manner relate 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 short- and long-term environmental, natural and climate changes.

Through the programme, 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, under the teachers' supervision. 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. The programme qualifies students for third-cycle studies.

Objectives

In this programme students are given the opportunity to develop advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge about analysis in the social sciences and the humanities, with a focus on colonial and postcolonial studies. The aim of the programme is for the 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

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall:

- 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

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall:

- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information;
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively; to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and thus contribute to the formation of knowledge; and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to account for and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments upon which these conclusions are based in a clear manner, in speech as well as in writing, in national as well as international contexts, and in dialogue with different groups; and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall:

- 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 an ability to identify their personal 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 about the subject of colonial and postcolonial studies, including broad knowledge of the field as a whole, as well as in-depth knowledge in the sub-field represented in the independent project (the Master's thesis), as well as demonstrate insight into current research debates in the interdisciplinary field;
- account for the main features of the causes, processes and consequences of modern colonialism, historically and in present times, and critically discuss academic as well as non-academic descriptions of colonialism in a postcolonial context;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of general theories, concepts and methods in second-cycle studies in the field of colonial and postcolonial studies, and in-depth methodological knowledge in the thematic specialisation of the independent project (the Master's thesis).

Competence and skills

- integrate new knowledge and analyse and assess complex phenomena in colonial and postcolonial studies in historical and contemporary contexts;
- apply relevant postcolonial theories in analyses of written and other sources that have arisen in colonial contexts and relations, or in descriptions and interpretations of these;
- demonstrate an ability to independently identify and formulate research questions, plan research assignments and identify the 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 in their studies, on the basis of postcolonial perspectives, as well as 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 terms of full-time studies on campus or (after approval by the programme coordinator) at a university abroad, or of field work. From a

pedagogical point of view, the programme progresses 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 (the Master's thesis). The programme is offered in English in order to allow for international admission and to give access to a future international work arena.

The Department of Cultural Sciences is the host department, and is responsible for the programme. The programme coordinator is responsible for programme administration, contact with students, and programme development. There is a programme council, which consists of the programme coordinator (chair), teacher and student representatives, and an external representative. The programme is designed so that each student has their own individual study plan, based on their own profile and orientation towards a specific future career. A joint platform is created in order to strengthen the unity of the programme throughout its course.

The programme is divided into compulsory and elective courses. All compulsory courses are in the programme's main field of study.

Term 1

This term's courses 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 term comprises thematic and methodological introductory courses of 30 credits in total.

Terms 2 and 3

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

The compulsory course "Postcolonial encounters", 7.5 credits, begins in term 2 and runs over three terms, with examinations each term. 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 is conducting studies abroad or field/archive work at a different location, the course is offered as a distance course.

Term 4

During this term the independent project (Master's thesis) is conducted and examined. The course "Independent project" constitutes 45 credits, which allows for elective courses of up to 15 credits, to be studied 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 cycle:

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 significance of imperial dominance and opposition in the making of the modern world, as well as its impact 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, borderlands, gender, race and civilisation. The course explores contemporary conflicts regarding imperial and colonial heritage, and current research debates. The course is offered during term 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 been pivotal in 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 term 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 current societal phenomena, 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 upon the multidisciplinary character of the field of colonial and postcolonial studies, and clarify and develop their own individual opinions in relation to literature and debates. The course is offered during term 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 giving students the knowledge needed to identify and accumulate new information, analyse and assess complex phenomena and descriptions, and draw conclusions correctly in advanced academic analysis. The students practise their ability to work with literary texts and written 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. During the course, the students formulate their own thesis plans. The course is offered during term 1 and is compulsory.

Postcolonial encounters, 7.5 credits

In this course the students present their ongoing thesis work, review each other's

projects critically and constructively, discuss methods and field-work problems, invite and take care of guest lecturers, chair seminars, and carry out relevant events such as excursions and film screenings. The course runs over three terms: terms 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 term 2. Students in years 1 and 2 participate in the same course. The course is compulsory.

Independent project, 45 credits

This course is devoted to work with and examination of the Master's thesis. This includes planning and execution of all parts of the thesis work with the help of a supervisor; examination of the student's own project; and an "opposition", where the student critically discusses another student's project. The duration 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 term 2, but is mainly conducted during terms 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, and 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 field of studies and research has an international scope, and comprises a range 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" deals with 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 and professional issues. In the method and theory courses students develop skills in digital humanities and in presenting research results to the public – competences that are sought after in many professional fields.

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

The programme is furthermore relevant for students intending to apply to research training programmes, since it qualifies students for third-cycle studies. With its general approach in the humanities and social sciences, the programme also provides a solid foundation for research training in other subjects with an international, political or cultural orientation.

Internationalisation

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

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 further professional development for teachers through teaching in exchange and collaboration agreements at higher education institutions abroad.

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

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

Programme perspectives

To treat all people as equals, regardless of cultural or social background, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, is a fundamental value at Linnaeus University, which is strongly present in the working environment and all our courses and programmes. This approach is also an important foundation for postcolonial studies, which is manifested in the study of how the present has been shaped by the emergence of modern society, in the 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 that have shaped today's demand for 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 study sustainability issues in depth in courses such as "Modern natures and postcolonial ecologies", and to profile their study plan in this field, also through studies at other universities.

Knowledge development, education and learning, and views on science are other important components of the core courses, 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 erudition as a view of knowledge is problematised and broadened. The aim is to challenge students to develop advanced and problematised knowledge to be able to handle complex societal issues of diversity, rights, and people's relation to their surroundings and the past.

How the various perspectives are integrated and examined in the programme is specified in the syllabus for each component course.

Quality Development

Course evaluations and subsequent follow-ups are conducted by the course coordinators in collaboration with the programme coordinator. The programme coordinator compiles the evaluations at the end of the academic year. The results are discussed in the Programme Council, and the compilations are made available to the students. The aim is to ensure quality work with direct ties to the programme. The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality assurance system for follow-up and development of its programmes. An education council prepares programme syllabi and other matters that concern quality issues, such as degree-awarding powers and selection of courses and programmes offered, before decisions are made by the Faculty Board. Revised and new course syllabi are prepared by the Syllabus Committee before they are ratified by the Head of department or the Dean. Reviews of the array of courses and programmes offered are carried out on a yearly basis as part of the faculty's systematic quality work.

Degree Certificate

After having completed their studies in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance and those stated in the local Qualification Ordinance at Linnaeus University, 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.

The programme qualifies students for third-cycle studies.