



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 2022-12-07

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2023

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 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. The students develop knowledge of historical and contemporary manifestations, representations, experiences, and consequences of colonialism in colonial and postcolonial contexts. The field of research and study 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. Special focus lies on how the modern world has been shaped 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 changes in the environment, in nature, and in the climate.

In this programme, students get to 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 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, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), primary and secondary schools, museums, and the cultural sector, in Sweden and abroad. 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 doctoral 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

- present knowledge of the subject of colonial and postcolonial studies, including both broad knowledge of the field as a whole, and in-depth knowledge of the sub-field represented in the independent project (the master's thesis), and demonstrate insight into current research debates in the interdisciplinary field
- present 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 representations 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 exercise of 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 individual's responsibility for how it is used, especially in the light of colonial and postcolonial experiences.

Content

Programme overview

The programme comprises four semesters of full-time studies, part of which – subject to approval by the programme coordinator – may consist of courses 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 students 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 mandatory and elective courses. Students whose individual study plans support practice placements can do a placement after consultation with the programme coordinator. All mandatory courses fall within the programme's main field of study.

Semester 1

This semester introduces and problematises colonial and postcolonial studies in thematic and theoretical courses in the main field of study. These courses are Mandatory, and all students participate together.

Semesters 2 and 3

These semesters include both mandatory 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, in the form of archive and/or field work.

In the second semester, the mandatory course "Postcolonial encounters", 7.5 credits, begins. This course runs over several semesters, with students from both year 1 and year 2 participating in the same course. In this way, it creates programme coherence even with students choosing their own specialisations and electives, and ensures a close link to research throughout the programme. If a student is conducting studies abroad, or field/archive work at a different location, the course may be delivered through distance learning.

Semester 4

During this semester, the independent project (the master's thesis) is conducted and examined. The course "Postcolonial encounters" is concluded.

Courses in the programme

Semester 1, 30 credits

Imperialism and the Making of the Modern World, 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

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 examined from long-term historical, global, and comparative perspectives. A few central themes are discussed, such as 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.

Criticism and Theory: Current debates in the Humanities, 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

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 examine historical and contemporary practices in terms of power structures, dominance, and submission in modern times. The students are challenged to understand and approach complex theories and phenomena such as orientalism, eurocentrism, decolonialism, nationalism, and diaspora. The course problematises theoretical concepts such as identity, race, and gender.

Research fields in postcolonial environments, 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

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. The students develop a critical understanding of how colonial and postcolonial constructions such as orientalism are created and used. The students get to reflect on 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.

Method and Practice in the Humanities, 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

This course discusses methods in the humanities and the social sciences, focusing on postcolonial perspectives, with the aim of giving students the requisite knowledge for identifying and accumulating new information, analysing and assessing complex phenomena and representations, and drawing 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 practice in planning and conducting field work in which knowledge of observation and conversation as methods, and of the importance of spoken communication, relations, and memory in the collection of material, is crucial. The course is organised in a way 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.

Semester 2, 30 credits

Postcolonial encounters, 3.5 out of 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

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 organise and implement relevant events such as excursions and film screenings. The course runs over several semesters, starting in the second semester.

Independent project, 4 out of 45 credits, A2E, mandatory *

This course is devoted to work with and examination of the master's thesis. This includes planning and implementation of all parts of the thesis work with the help of a supervisor; examination of the student's own project; and peer-review of another student's project at a thesis seminar. The organisation of the course is decided in consultation with the programme coordinator, based on the student's individual study plan. The course runs over several semesters, starting in semester 2.

Elective courses, 22.5 credits

Semester 3, 30 credits

The mandatory courses "Independent project" and "Postcolonial encounters" continue.

Independent project, 13 out of 45 credits, A2E, mandatory *

Postcolonial encounters, 2 out of 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

Elective courses, 15 credits

Or exchange studies, 30 credits, at the first- (G1F at a minimum) and/or second-cycle level.

Or placement, 7.5 credits, 15 credits, or 30 credits.

Semester 4, 30 credits

The mandatory courses "Independent project" and "Postcolonial encounters" continue.

Independent project, 28 out of 45 credits, A2E, mandatory *

Postcolonial encounters, 2 out of 7.5 credits, A1N, mandatory *

*=course in the main field of study.

To be awarded a master's degree, the student must have 120 credits of passed courses, of which at least 90 credits are at the second-cycle level and at least 60 credits comprise specialisation in a main field of study.

The programme offers a wide range of elective courses, some of which fall in the main field of study. Examples include subject-specific courses in methodology; courses in environmental history, Nordic colonialism, and imperial and slavery history; and a number of thematic courses in the subjects of history, literary studies, religious studies, social work, and film studies.

The student gets to organise their studies so that the independent project and the course "Postcolonial encounters" fit in with elective courses, exchange studies, and placements. For exchange studies, courses are chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator.

Societal relevance

Colonial and postcolonial studies are highly relevant to current social and development issues. This field of study 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 mandatory course "Postcolonial encounters" discusses the labour market and professional issues, primarily in the form of visits by relevant professionals and discussions of how knowledge in colonial and postcolonial studies relates to working life and professional matters. 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 particularly suitable for students who wish to 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 for 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 doctoral programmes, since it qualifies students for third-cycle studies. With its general orientation towards the humanities and social sciences, the programme also provides a solid foundation for third-cycle studies 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 both 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 at higher education institutions abroad, as part of the university's exchange and collaboration agreements.

The programme allows students to go on an exchange in semester 3, to one of our international partner universities. The student chooses among Linnaeus University's partner universities. Courses are chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator.

The student may choose to conduct part of the independent project course in the form of field studies abroad. This must be approved by the supervisor, well in advance.

Sustainable Societal Development

To treat all people as equals, regardless of cultural or social background, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, is a fundamental approach at

Linnaeus University, which is strongly present in the working environment and in all our courses and programmes. This approach also serves as a 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 another 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 gather several activities, and be planned in a way that, for instance, lecture assignments are coordinated with conferences, and field work with 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 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 an advanced and problematised knowledge base, to be able to handle complex societal issues of diversity, rights, and people's relation to their surroundings and to the past.

How the various perspectives are integrated in the programme and examined 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 assurance procedures 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 what programmes should be offered, before decisions are made by the faculty board. Revised and new course syllabi are prepared by the relevant 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 in accordance with the faculty's plan for systematic quality assurance.

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 used at Linnaeus University, the student may apply for the award of a qualification. Students who have completed the Master Programme in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, 120 credits, can be awarded the following qualification:

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.