



Faculty of Social Sciences

CMEN10, Middle Eastern Studies: Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies, 7.5 credits

*Mellanösternstudier: Nyckelmetoder i Mellanösternstudier, 7,5
högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Center for Middle Eastern Studies Board on 2017-12-04 to be valid from 2018-01-01, spring semester 2018.

General Information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits, and included in semester 2.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Middle Eastern Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

To pass the examination, students must be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- describe the epistemological foundations and research methods of a research project and explain the differences between different research paradigms
- account for the differences between different research methods and research designs
- explain the principles and procedure of drawing up a research plan
- discuss and account for ethical and legal issues within research

Competence and skills

- apply methods of descriptive statistics, such as measuring incidence/frequency, central tendencies and changes, even graphs, relative positions and connections
- select and formulate a research issue, formulate viable hypotheses and apply methods to test one of the hypotheses
- conduct different types of measuring and data collection and apply methods to test the reliability and validity of a set of data
- compare five major forms of data collection (questionnaire, interview, focus group survey, observation and secondary data analysis) and determine which form is suitable for a certain study
- write a formal application for research funding

Judgement and approach

- judge the links between theory, methodology, measurement and analysis
- evaluate an actual research contribution to Middle Eastern Studies and determine the differences between a reliable and systematic study and a study that fails to meet such criteria
- critically assess the validity of weak and strong research methods and discern the distinctive traits of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods
- critically evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, potential and limitations of different research designs
- critically assess individual statistical data and statistically based studies

Course content

The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge of different research methods of relevance to Middle Eastern Studies. The principles of different research designs and approaches to research are examined. The perspectives studied include ethnographical and empirical methods such as interviews, observations, text analyses and image analyses.

The course uses different research methods as points of departure and provides students with a specialised understanding of how to formulate research issues, take research ethics into account, carry out data collection, adopt different analytical models and interpret research results.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The assessment is based on written assignments and a detailed written project plan.

Assignment 1 20%

Assignment 2 20%

Assignment 3 20%

Project plan assignment 40%

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the same year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

The highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The grade for the entire course is determined by the following grading scale:

A = 92–100 % of total points

B = 84–92 % of total points

C = 76–84 % of total points

D = 68–76 % of total points

E = 60–68 % of total points

U = 0–59 % of total points

All assessed components are awarded points which will be added up to a total on which the final grade is based.

At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied on the course.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have successfully completed 30 credits of semester 1 of the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Further information

The course replaces MOSN08 Middle Eastern Studies: Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies.

Subcourses in CMEN10, Middle Eastern Studies: Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies

Applies from V18

1701 Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A