

MOSB03, Civil Society and Social Movements in the Middle East, 7.5 credits

Civilsamhälle och sociala rörelser i Mellanöstern, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-06-22 to be valid from 2011-06-22, autumn semester 2011.

General Information

The course is offered as part of the Master of Arts programme in Middle Eastern Studies (MESLU) at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies and as a free-standing course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

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Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to exemplify and describe fundamental political and social processes of change in the present-day Middle East
- be able to provide specific examples of the contribution of civil society and NGOs to social and political changes in the present-day Middle East
- be able to describe critically both current theories and the main trends in the public debate on civil society, social movements, political reform and the dynamic between state and parastatal actors in the region

Competence and skills

- be able to discuss how different local, regional and governmental factors can both impede and propel institutional change in the Middle East
- be able to identify and analyse, on the basis of relevant theories, how the institutions of civil society and the activities of NGOs affect the development of the present-day Middle East

Judgement and approach

- be able to summarise, discuss critically and assess the applicability of theories on civil society and political reform to the social and institutional realities of the Middle East
- be able to discuss political reform and development in the Middle East from different vantage points
- be able to critically assess the political relevance of current discussions of gender in the Middle East, both with regard to prevailing patriarchal patterns and the applicability of Western gender analyses.

Course content

During recent decades the Middle East has been affected by fundamental social, political and economic changes. One way of describing these changes is to trace the gradual development of a civil society in the Middle East, closely linked to the emergence of new social movements.

The emergence of a civil society can be seen as cornerstone in the establishment of democracy, but may also be a self-legitimizing means used by repressive regimes. Similarly, new social movements can be a means of combating injustice and developing a broad democratic culture, but may also have a problematic impact on the civil rights of minorities and gender equality.

During this course students will have the opportunity to study in depth different examples of social movements and the emergence of a civil society in the Middle East, as well as to map different judgements, interpretations and consequences of this development in different parts of the region.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and compulsory seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' individual and active participation at seminars, a minor written assignment halfway through the course and a final written assignment. Each student will be assigned the role of discussion leader at one seminar at least. Absence from teaching can be compensated for by written assignments.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

To be awarded a Pass on the course, students must have completed all assignments.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed at least 90 credits.

Subcourses in MOSB03, Civil Society and Social Movements in the Middle East

Applies from V11

1101 Final Assignment: Civil Society and Social Movements, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction