



MOSN14, Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates, 10 credits

*Mellanösternstudier: Debatten om Mellanöstern - en introduktion,
10 högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2012-09-12 to be valid from 2012-09-12, spring semester 2013.

General Information

The course is normally included in the Master of Arts programme in Middle Eastern Studies (MESLU) at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. With the approval of the relevant authenticating body, it can also be offered as a free-standing course. The course can be included in a first- or second-cycle degree.

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

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to describe and provide concrete examples of current debates on the Middle East in different disciplines such as sociology, political science, anthropology and international relations
- be able to account for examples of different interpretations of political and cultural processes and driving forces in the present-day Middle East

Competence and skills

- be able to discuss the present-day development in the Middle East in the light of debates in the social sciences
- be able to discuss independently formulated scholarly questions on the concepts and approaches that permeate the current research and public debate on the Middle East
- be able to formulate objective and multiperspectival comments on and critical views of the current controversial debates on Middle Eastern societies, cultures and populations

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically assess strengths and weaknesses in the arguments and different positions prevailing in the current controversial debates on the Middle East
- be able to assess the relevance of the examples of abstract theoretical knowledge discussed in the course for the understanding of Middle Eastern societies.

Course content

The course introduces significant debates on the Middle East in different disciplines in the social sciences. The aim of the course is to provide a fundamental conceptual and theoretical understanding of the political and cultural processes and dynamics of Middle Eastern societies and the way in which they are discussed in scholarly and public debates.

A main focus of the course is on the simultaneously dynamic and conflicted relationship of the Middle East to Islamic tradition and how this is discussed in different disciplines in the social sciences. The discussion includes strengths and weaknesses of concepts, figures of thought and debates on "the clash of civilisations", orientalism, secularisation, modernisation, nationalism, multiculturalism and minorities, globalisation and security. The course concludes with a discussion of the relevance of these concepts and figures of thought for understanding the present-day Middle East.

Course design

Teaching is based on lectures including a considerable component of discussions in groups of varying sizes. For a Pass on the course, students must have attended 80% of the teaching and passed all written assignments within the stated time frames.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' active participation in the discussions in conjunction with lectures, three minor written exams and a final written assignment.

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 F.

Scale of grades:

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

F = 0-59 % of total points.

All assessed components are assigned points.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits (Bachelor's degree level) or equivalent knowledge as well as English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University.
2. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in MOSN14, Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates

Applies from H12

1201 Middle Eastern Studies: Introd. to Middle Eastern Debates, 10,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A