



MOSN24, Middle Eastern Studies: Democracy, Dictatorship and Human Rights in the Middle East, 7.5 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Demokrati, diktatur, och mänskliga rättigheter i Mellanöstern, 7,5 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 2014-02-03 to be valid from 2014-02-03, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the Master of Arts programme in Middle Eastern Studies (MESLU) at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. It is also offered as a free-standing course and can be included in a general first- or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Middle Eastern Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to from a political science perspective, provide a basic account of past and present social contract theories that have informed democratic political systems
- be able to describe current and past examples of political resistance movements in the Middle East with concepts from theories of social movements, human rights and democratisation
- be able to describe the relationship between Western political discourse and the current political processes of the Middle East

Competence and skills

- be able to account for and apply political science and social sciences theories in analyses of current governments in the Middle East
- be able to discuss and compare different types of political government and resistance movement in the Middle East
- be able to independently and in correct written English formulate and apply theories of relevance to political discourses and processes of change in the Middle East
- be able to draw conclusions about the impact of current political processes in the Middle East with regard to democratisation, human rights and gender relations

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically assess the effects in both the short and the long term of current examples of political activism and different narratives of societal change in the Middle East
- be able to assess the consequences of Western political interventions in the democratisation processes of the Middle East.

Course content

The course aims to provide students with an in-depth study of the popular protest movements of recent years that have fundamentally altered the political map of the Middle East. Examples of protests and conflicts in Iran, Yemen, Bahrain, Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt and Syria will be discussed.

The key issues of the course concern the similarities and differences between processes of change in different states. What are the factors behind the varying impact of and response to the protests? Why have certain states remained more stable than other states? What are the prospects and challenges of democratic development in different states? Who are the central agents? What is the role of the military and of clan systems and family ties in the political elite? How is the international community involved in states and international non-governmental organisations? What is the current impact of change on human rights, religious, ethnic and sexual minorities and gender relations?

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge of social contract theory as an analytical tool to understand and explain the current political processes of change in the Middle East and the prospects of democratic development in the region.

Course design

The teaching consists of approximately 12 compulsory lectures and approximately 12 compulsory seminars. Students are expected to participate actively in the discussions of literature and other course material and in one compulsory workshop.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the student's individual active participation in seminars, requiring at least one appearance as discussion moderator, active participation in the workshop and a written assignment of 2500–3000 words.

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.

Scale of grades

A = 92–100 % of total points

B = 84–91 % of total points

C = 76–83 % of total points

D = 68–75 % of total points

E = 60–67 % of total points

Fail = 0–59 % of total points

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits in one subject or the equivalent and English B from Swedish upper secondary school.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University.
2. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in MOSN24, Middle Eastern Studies: Democracy, Dictatorship and Human Rights in the Middle East

Applies from V14

1401 Democracy, Dictatorship and Human Rights in the Middle East, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A