

MOSP80, War, Peace and Security in the Middle East, 7.5 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Krig, fred och säkerhet i Mellanöstern, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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

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 how aspects such as ethnicity, socioeconomic factors, environmental factors, migration processes, gender relations and interpretations linking religion and politics are related to conflicts, security and peace processes in the Middle East
- be able to identify and reflect on differences, similarities and premises of different theoretical approaches to peace, conflict and security studies
- be able to analyse critically how religious exegesis, concepts and constructions of ethnicity and gender and historical narratives have legitimating functions for

conflicts and security issues in the present-day Middle East and serve as points of departure for processes of peace and reconciliation

Competence and skills

- be able to apply relevant theories of peace, conflict and security research to analyses of different types of conflict in the present-day Middle East
- be able to complete a detailed analysis of a topical conflict scenario in the present-day Middle East, taking account of the historical background and the conflict's social, economic, environmental, ethnic, religious and gender-related controversies, narratives and dynamics
- be able to discuss critically how processes such as migration and social exclusion are related to security issues and how these relations are presented in different arguments and theories with regard to politics and security analysis in present-day Europe and North America

Judgement and approach

- be able to assess independently and in detail the rich variation and complex interrelationships that add momentum to key conflicts in the present-day Middle East
- be able to assess and judge objectively examples of the humanitarian, social, economic and environmental consequences of war and conflict in the Middle East
- be able to query and review current debates and theories of the factors causing conflicts and security issues, focusing on tendencies of populism, Islamophobia and cultural racism.

Course content

The aim of the course is to enable students to develop their ability to analyse conflict situations and security issues in the present-day Middle East, based on key issues, concepts and methods of peace, conflict and security studies.

The course introduces and discusses both fundamental concepts in the research on the background to and dynamics of armed conflict and the specific application of them to the different regions of the Middle East. Furthermore, conflict resolution and security are problematised from local, regional, national and global perspectives and with regard to ethnicity, processes of national identity formation, gender and economics. Finally, security issues related to Middle Eastern minorities in Europe and North America are highlighted, as are the debates in present-day Europe and North America on security, integration, violent radicalism, discrimination and Islamophobia.

On the basis of theoretical and analytical insights the student proceeds with an independent study of a conflict of choice or a sensitive situation with regard to security policy in the present-day Middle East. The study is to be presented and discussed orally in the group and reported in a written analysis.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and compulsory seminars and exercises.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' individual written and oral reports of exercises and seminar assignments and a written take-home exam.

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 within the time span allotted to each.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have at least a Bachelor's degree.

Subcourses in MOSP80, War, Peace and Security in the Middle East

Applies from V11

1101 Final Assignment: War, Peace and Security, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction