



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SIMS57, Middle Eastern Studies: Gender and Politics in the Middle East, 7.5 credits**

*Mellanösternstudier: Genus och politik i Mellanöstern, 7,5  
högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2020-02-25 to be valid from 2020-08-31, autumn semester 2020.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a single subject course in Social Sciences at the second-cycle level and as an optional course within the Master of Middle Eastern Studies.

*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**

Upon completion of the course the student shall:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Describe how the social, political, economic, and cultural construction of gender influences the nature and practice of political life in the Middle East.
- Explain terms and concepts such as Orientalism, colonialism, imperialism, nationalism and conflict, political activism in relation to gender and power.
- Account for and discuss how gender is implicated in the distribution of power, and the boundaries of public life.

### **Competence and skills**

- Demonstrate insight into relevant social phenomena related to gender in the Middle East given the key concepts introduced in the class.
- Formulate complex research questions on issues related to gender, politics, and the Middle East.
- Develop an informative, well-articulated, and extended argument about gender and politics in the Middle East.

### **Judgement and approach**

- Identify gender, class, ethnicity/sect, sexuality, religion, and political status as major categories of social analysis in the Middle East.
- Demonstrate the ability to reflect on the development of knowledge within the intersecting fields of gender studies, politics, and Middle East area studies.

### **Course content**

This course will explore how the social, political, economic, and cultural construction of gender influence the nature and practice of political life in the Middle East. It will study how power is gendered and how gender serves as a basis for political organisation, the distribution of power, and the boundaries of public life.

Subjects such as Orientalism, colonialism and imperialism, nationalism and conflict, political activism in addition to relevant issues such as representation and participation will be covered. The course aims to challenge prevailing stereotypes about women and gender in the Middle East and to foster critical reflection among the students.

The themes examined in the course include the mobilisation of women's movements; the interaction of religion, law, and interpretation; the gendered nature of the state; the gendering of nationalism, secularism, resistance, and globalisation in the Middle East. Although the focus of the course is on political issues, it draws heavily from the disciplines of sociology, anthropology, and women's studies, among others.

The course also focuses on women's legal rights, the gendered nature of the state, and the participation of women in formal politics through several country case studies. It provides a historical overview of women's status and issues in the MENA region, with a view on gendered aspects of colonialism, nationalism, modernisation, secularism, and Islamism in the Middle East.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, and class presentations of the readings.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the seminars and class exercises. 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 retake compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

## Assessment

The student is examined through three different types of assignments:

- Assignment 1: Peer-review of class presentation 10%
- Assignment 2: Review essay 40%
- Assignment 3: Final paper 50%

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further reexamination 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 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.

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.

The grade for the entire course is based on the following:

- Assignment 1: 10%
- Assignment 2: 40%
- Assignment 3: 50%

All assessed components are awarded points which will be added up to a total on which the final grade is based. The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of all assessed assignments. For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least E on all assessments. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

## Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course the student must have a Bachelor's degree equivalent to 180 credits.

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

## Subcourses in SIMS57, Middle Eastern Studies: Gender and Politics in the Middle East

Applies from H20

2001 Gender and Politics in the Middle East, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A