

CMEN19, Middle Eastern Studies: Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North, 7.5 credits

*Mellanösternstudier: Flyktingar från Mellanöstern i det globala
norr, 7,5 högskolepoäng*
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Center for Middle Eastern Studies Board on 2018-06-18 to be valid from 2018-09-03, spring semester 2019.

General Information

The course is an elective component of semester 2 of the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits.

It is also offered as a freestanding 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

Upon the completion of the course, the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- describe key principles (legal, political, ethical) related to refugees and forced migration;
- show a working understanding of refugee studies with the focus on Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North
- increase knowledge about the international refugee regime, the lived experiences of forced-displaced people, and the forms of refugee rights activism in the Global North that are organized and sustained by the directly affected social actors themselves;

Competence and skills

- synthesize and apply theories and concepts to relevant real-world issues with respect to Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North;
- account for, discuss and present specific empirical examples of Middle Eastern refugee communities in the Global North;
- investigate the effects of forced displacement on societies in the Global North;
- engage in current debates on forced migration and humanitarian responses concerning Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North;

Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on the diversity of ways in which Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North are discussed and, thus, discursively constructed in current political agendas, programs and other public debates;
- investigate and critically examine, by applying methods of empirical social science research, material that represents the lived experiences of Middle Eastern refugees who have migrated to the Global North;
- evaluate, through a reflexive and ethical lens, the politics and practices that affect the lives of Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North.

Course content

This course focuses on refugees understood as forced-displaced people. It discusses those social structures, organizations and institutions that affect the lives of people seeking asylum not only in Sweden but in the Global North more broadly. With the course's point of departure being the Swedish asylum system, we will start with tracing the historical roots of the international refugee regime. Thereupon the course explores asylum systems in other Global Northern countries such as the US, Canada, EU-countries such as France and Germany, but also Australia and New Zealand, and assesses empirical research that investigates how Middle Eastern refugees interact with these different administrations of asylum. The student will read this literature critically, problematizing the seeking of asylum as relational to citizenship, gender and sexuality, class, race/ethnicity, geopolitics, among other intersecting axis of power that mark (and are being marked by) the lives of Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North. To address these complex power relations, the self-organized refugee rights activism that has emerged recently in different Global Northern contexts will be an important empirical reference point. Thus, the course examines contentious politics in interaction with the social structures, organizations and institutions that affect the lives of people seeking asylum in the Global North.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

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

Assessment

The assessment is based on three written assignments

Assignment 1:	30%
Assignment 2:	30%
Assignment 3:	40%

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the same year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination 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 highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. 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.

The grade for the entire course is determined by the following grading scale: 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 U = 0–59 % of total points

All assessed components are awarded points which will be added up to a total on which the final grade is based.

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.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must be registered in the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies or must have successfully completed 150 credits, including a Bachelor's thesis or the equivalent.

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

Subcourses in CMEN19, Middle Eastern Studies: Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North

Applies from V19

1901 Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A