

MOSB01, Muslim Faith and Identity in the Contemporary Middle East, 7.5 credits

*Muslimsk tro och identitet i det samtida Mellanöstern, 7,5
höskolepoäng*
First Cycle / Grundnivå

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 at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies and as a free-standing course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

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*Depth of study relative to the degree
requirements*

G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in
first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to identify and summarise the local, national and regional processes that have shaped, individually as well as collectively, the religious discourse, practice and theology in the present-day Middle East
- be able to place the present-day religious situation in the Middle East in social, economic and political contexts and relate it to the development of secularism, ideas for reform and more extreme expressions of religion
- be able to analyse the impact of transnational processes on the functions of religion in current political power structures and changing gender relations, in terms of religious exegesis, terminology and forms of organisation

Competence and skills

- be able to critically discuss historical as well as present-day processes in religious movements and traditions and show their position in discussions of nationalism, revivalism and minority situations
- be able to show how religious ideas, identities and movement are in a constant process of change
- be able to independently formulate, orally and in writing, reflections on religious issues in the present-day Middle East

Judgement and approach

- be able to independently problematise and assess the consequences of different historical narratives on religious discourse, interpretative privilege, exegesis and gender relations
- be able to assess the impact of historical and present-day tendencies in interpretation as well as of the choice of theological terminology among religious activists and on the basis of this assessment be able to trace future local, national and regional development of the religions of the Middle East
- be able to approach different interpretative positions in the current religious debate in the Middle East objectively, comprehensively and critically and from the point of view of research and theory in religious studies.

Course content

The course focuses on the processes that have shaped the religious traditions in the present-day Middle East but also on the different interpretations of religion that experiences of modernity have generated. The highly topical power structures affecting religious interpretation are emphasised, as is the need to problematise interpretation in relation to social development.

Against the background of the political, economic and social upheavals of the 20th and 21st centuries, students explore the development processes of Middle East religions, not least as consequences of colonialism, the creation of nation states, conflicts and global power politics.

Furthermore, the processes shaping religious interpretation and the development of religious movements in the 20th and 21st century Middle East are investigated, as is the impact of transnational movements and globalisation. The terms for democratisation, human rights and development are discussed in relation to religious traditions and individuals.

A special course component focuses on radical religious movements within Islam, Judaism and Christianity in the region.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and compulsory seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' individual and active participation at seminars, a minor written assignment halfway through the course and a final written assignment. Each student will be assigned the role of discussion leader at one seminar at least. Absence from teaching can be compensated for by written assignments.

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.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed at least 90 credits.

Subcourses in MOSB01, Muslim Faith and Identity in the Contemporary
Middle East

Applies from V11

1001 Final Assignment: Muslim Faith and Identity, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction