



MOSB02, Political structures in the Middle East, 7.5 credits

Politiska strukturer i Mellanöstern, 7,5 högskolepoäng

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 describe the historical growth of the modern political structures of the Middle East
- be able to summarise and use basic theories of political science on politics, resistance, democracy and power
- be able to reflect on the links between the political structures and processes of the Middle East and broader global, political and economic systems

Competence and skills

- be able to apply theories of political science in order to compare and distinguish between different political systems in the present-day Middle East
- be able to discuss how political practices and institutions are related to broader social and economic contexts
- be able to apply theories of political science in a written analysis of current political debates and processes in the Middle East

Judgement and approach

- be able to assess and analyse the functions of religious symbolism, imagined communities and historical narratives in the political debates of the Middle East, both for governments and for political dissidents
- be able to judge how colonialism, postcolonialism, globalisation and external political, economic and military interests affect the political reality of the Middle East
- be able to critically assess the consequences of the political processes of the Middle East on democracy, human rights, gender relations and the legal status of minorities.

Course content

This course is premised on the idea that there is no uniform or immutable Middle East sharing the same culture, political institutions, history and religion. The aim of the course is to explore and formulate tools to analyse how the politics of the 20 Middle Eastern states, from Northwest Africa to Afghanistan in Central Asia, is affected by factors such as class, ethnicity and gender. Other determining factors will be sought in the historical experiences of colonialism, postcolonialism, the emergence of different types of religious exegesis and political systems, financial politics and the consequences of external political interests and interventions.

During the course we will jointly explore how the present-day politics of the Middle East is shaped by constructions of different historical memories, class factors and ethnic conflicts, economic and social change, international relations and globalisation, religious revivalism and changing gender practices.

General and compulsory seminars will provide students with the opportunity to prepare and lead advanced discussions on the politics of the Middle East. The final written assignment provides opportunities for in-depth study of the political processes of one state, based on the individual choice of the students, an elective reading list and the supervision of the course lecturers.

Course design

The teaching consists of compulsory lectures and 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.

A maximum of four re-examination opportunities is available to students.

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 MOSB02, Political structures in the Middle East

Applies from V11

1101 Final Assignment: Political Structures, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction