



MOSN08, Middle Easterns Studies: Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies, 7.5 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Nyckelmetoder i Mellanösternstudier, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2012-07-02 to be valid from 2012-07-02, autumn semester 2012.

General Information

The course is included as an elective course in the Master of Arts programme in Middle Eastern Studies (MESLU) at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. The course is also offered as a free-standing course and can be included in a first- or second-cycle degree.

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 the epistemological foundations and research methods of a research project and explain the differences between different research paradigms
- be able to account for the differences between different research methods and research designs
- be able to explain the principles and procedure of drawing up a research plan

- be able to discuss and account for ethical and legal issues within research

Competence and skills

- be able to apply methods of descriptive statistics, such as measuring incidence/frequency, central tendencies and changes, even graphs, relative positions and connections
- be able to select and formulate a research issue, formulate viable hypotheses and apply methods to test one of the hypotheses
- be able to conduct different types of measuring and data collection and apply methods to test the reliability and validity of a set of data
- be able to compare five major forms of data collection (questionnaire, interview, focus group survey, observation and secondary data collection) and determine which form is suitable for a certain study
- be able to write a formal application for research funding

Judgement and approach

- be able to judge the links between theory, methodology, measurement and analysis
- be able to evaluate an actual research contribution to Middle Eastern Studies and determine the differences between a reliable and systematic study and a study that fails to meet such criteria
- be able to critically assess the validity of weak and strong research methods and discern the distinctive traits of qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods
- be able to critically evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, potential and limitations of different research designs
- be able to critically assess individual statistical data and statistically based studies.

Course content

The course provides an introduction to the design and execution of research in Middle Eastern Studies. The principles of different research designs and empirical research approaches are examined from different methodological angles, including qualitative, quantitative and mixed approaches.

The course introduces the points of departure for different research methods and orients students in how to formulate research issues, develop hypotheses, take research ethics into account, carry out data collection, adopt different analytical models and interpret research results.

Course design

Teaching consists of compulsory lectures (approximately 10), compulsory seminars (approximately 8) and compulsory written assignments (approximately 3 short papers and one long final paper).

Assessment

The assessment is based on students' individual attendance and active participation in seminars, written papers linked with different course components and a final detailed research plans.

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 F.

Scale of grades

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

F = 0-59 % of total points.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed MOSP20 or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University.

Subcourses in MOSN08, Middle Easterns Studies: Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies

Applies from V12

1201 Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A