

MOSN13, Middle Eastern Studies: Key Theories in Middle Eastern Studies, 10 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Nyckelteorier i Mellanösternstudier, 10 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 2012-09-12 to be valid from 2012-09-12, spring semester 2013.

General Information

The course is normally included in the Master of Arts programme in Middle Eastern Studies (MESLU) at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. With the approval of the relevant authenticating body, it can also be offered as a free-standing course. The course 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 identify key events, social processes and intellectual points of departure that have shaped current and past debates on the societies of the Middle East
- be able to describe societal and cultural phenomena in the present-day Middle East through applying conceptual models of economics, sociology and political science
- be able to identify and describe the role of international, national and regional agents in the planning and implementation of political processes

- be able to describe examples of the links between theories of the social sciences and the organisation and activities of public organisations in the Middle East

Competence and skills

- be able to investigate and examine the applicability of different theories for explaining the varying social relationships in the Middle East with regard to economic and political processes
- be able to apply different theories to analyses of the structure of social systems and institutions in the Middle East with regard to regional, national and international agents

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically assess to what extent and with what consequences the politics in practice in the present-day Middle East is based on theories of the social sciences and ideological points of departure
- be able to assess the advantages and potential problems of linking theories of the social sciences to concrete examples of the social planning and politics of the present-day Middle East.

Course content

The course explores the way in which theories are linked to the key societal systems and institutions for the social planning and implementation of policies in the present-day Middle East. Different states and regions as well as regional, national and international agents are highlighted in the course.

The course provides an introduction to theory in the social sciences in general and then proceeds to focus on key theoretical concepts and examples of concrete applications of them in Middle Eastern societies. The highlighted theoretical paradigms include Weberian interpretivism, phenomenology, structuralism, functionalism, post-colonialism, Marxism and conflict theory, social psychology, discussions of modernity and late modernity, cultural reproduction theory and poststructuralism.

Course design

Teaching combines lectures with discussions in groups of varying sizes, film screenings, guest lectures, student presentations and debates. All components require compulsory attendance.

Assessment

The assessment is based on the students' individual active participation in seminars (25%), written reports of discussion items (30%) and a written assignment which includes a preliminary draft (10%) and a final version (35%).

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.

All assessed components are assigned points.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits (Bachelor's degree level) or equivalent knowledge as well as English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University.
2. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in MOSN13, Middle Eastern Studies: Key Theories in Middle Eastern Studies

Applies from H12

1201 Middle Eastern Studies: Key Theories in Middle Eastern Studi, 10,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A