



MOSN18, Middle Eastern Studies: Islam, Modernity and Rationality in the Middle East, 7.5 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Islam, modernitet och rationalism i Mellanöstern, 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 2012-12-05 to be valid from 2012-12-05, spring semester 2013.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the Master of Arts programme in Middle Eastern Studies at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. It is also offered as a free-standing course and can be included in a general 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 summarise the emergence and main traits of contemporary normative theories of Islam, science and rationalism
- be able to describe how the debate on the links between Islam, science and rationalism relates to broader traditions of science and educational systems in the Middle East
- be able to describe how the debate on the links between Islam, science and rationalism has displayed temporal and regional variations in the modern age

- be able to describe the debate on the links between Islam, science and rationalism as an example of secularisation tendencies in the Middle East

Competence and skills

- be able to apply theories of political anthropology on secularisation, differentiation and the objectification of religion to the discussion of religion, modernity and rationalism in the Middle East
- be able to carry out detailed analyses of different normative theories of the relationship of Islam to science, taking the specific theoretical assumptions and the temporal and regional contexts into account

Judgement and approach

- be able to problematise contemporary theories of the relationship of Islam to science through discerning and assessing the scientifically empirical and religiously normative aspects of these theories
- be able to critically evaluate the general tendencies of discussions on the relationship of Islam to science in the modern age and summarise these tendencies in informed forecasts of the role of religion in relationship to modernity, science and rationalism in the present-day Middle East.

Course content

The course deals with general issues of the relationship between religion, science and rationalism in the present-day Middle East. It focuses specifically on the influential normative theories that claim that Islam is harmoniously associated with science.

The students examine how different variations of such theories are linked in principle to and seek legitimacy in a tradition of scientific rationalism, while at the same time criticising the assumptions, methods or applications of modern science on the basis of various religious arguments.

Furthermore, the students examine the political and sociological background of these normative theories, the main stages of their development and how the theories have been addressed and criticised in normative religious discussions and in research. The aim of the course is to enable students to draw general conclusions on the relationship between religion and rationalism in the modern Middle East.

Course design

The teaching consists of compulsory lectures and seminars (approximately 3).

Assessment

The assessment is based on (1) individual active attendance at lectures and seminars, (2) individual brief summaries to be submitted each week, and (3) a final individual written assignment (approximately 8 pages) to be submitted and presented orally at the end of the course.

Absence from compulsory components can be compensated for by written assignments, as agreed with the course director.

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.

Scale of grades:

A = 92-100 % of total points

B = 84-91 % of total points

C = 76-83 % of total points

D = 68-75 % of total points

E = 60-67 % of total points

Fail = 0-59 % of total points.

All assessed components are awarded points.

For a grade of Pass on the whole course, students must have passed all assessed components.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits (Bachelor's level) and English proficiency equivalent to Swedish upper secondary school course English B.

Further information

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

Subcourses in MOSN18, Middle Eastern Studies: Islam, Modernity and Rationality in the Middle East

Applies from V13

1201 Islam, Modernity and Rationality in the Middle East, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A