



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

**SIMM53, Social Sciences: Methods in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies, 7.5 credits**  
*Samhällsvetenskap: Forskningsmetod i samtida mellanösternstudier, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2023-02-22 to be valid from 2023-08-28, autumn semester 2023.

### General Information

The course is offered as single subject course in Social Sciences and contributes to the fulfillment of the theory of science/research methods requirements in several master programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

*Language of instruction:* English

<i>Main field of studies</i>	<i>Depth of study relative to the degree requirements</i>
Social Anthropology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Political Science	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Social Work	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Development Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology of Law	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Middle Eastern Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Gender Studies	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

## Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

### Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the role that socio-cultural and political contexts of the Middle East play in designing research projects;
- Recognize appropriate methods for diverse research projects;

### Competence and skills

- Demonstrate skills in critically examining research projects, a range of research instruments and methods such as questionnaires, interviews, and observation;
- Demonstrate the ability to choose appropriate data collection and data analysis methods based on research questions;
- Demonstrate the ability to discuss and reflect on the ethical aspects of conducting research in the Middle Eastern contexts;
- Demonstrate skills in designing a feasible research study that considers the socio-cultural and political contexts of the Middle East;

### Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on the consequences of collection and analysis of empirical material related to the Middle East;
- Critically assess research on the Middle East using methodological debates.

## Course content

This course in *Methods in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies* is designed to introduce students to the methodological debates and methods engaged in Middle Eastern Studies. It aims to provide students with a broad-based training in research methodologies which enables them to use a range of research instruments and analyse different types of data in the context of Middle Eastern Studies. This course also exposes students to methodological debates and approaches to help them develop the ability to critically assess academic work. The course encourages students to engage and confront the methodological challenges which arise in a multidisciplinary context and think constructively on the historical evolution and trajectory of research on the contemporary Middle East.

The course includes discussions about data collection and analysis, highlighting the peculiarities of these processes in the context of Middle Eastern Studies. Through lectures and discussions, students learn how to collect and analyse various types of data, including texts, qualitative, and quantitative data. The course also introduces students to ethnographic approaches and methods, paying particular attention to the ethical issues and validity in the Middle Eastern Studies context. The aim is to bring out the relevance of methods to interdisciplinary research in Middle Eastern studies.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, group work, and seminars. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars.

Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

## Assessment

The assessment will be based on two assignments:

- a group take-home exam accompanied by an oral presentation (40%)
- an individually written paper (60%)

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offering but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

*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.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course the student is informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

The grade for the entire course consists of the weighted average of the following assessed assignments where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1:

- a group take-home exam accompanied by an oral presentation (40 %)
- an individually written paper (60 %)

For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least an E on all assessments for which the grading scale A-E+Fail applies, and the grade of Pass on all assessments for which the grading scale Pass-Fail applies. The student must also have participated in all the compulsory components.

## Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course, the student must have at least 150 higher education credits, including a graded thesis for the degree of Bachelor in the Social Sciences, Humanities, or equivalent.

A good command of the English language, both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalent assessments will be made in accordance with national guidelines.

### **Further information**

The course partially replaces *SIMM51: Social Sciences: The Social Scientific Research Design and Process*, 15 credits.

**Subcourses in SIMM53, Social Sciences: Methods in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies**

Applies from H23

2301 Methods in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A