



Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMP45, Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies, 15 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Introduktion till Mellanösternstudier, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Graduate School Board on 2019-04-16 and was valid from 2019-09-02, autumn semester 2019.

General Information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master Programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits.

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

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of the current social, political and cultural relations in parts of the Middle East and place them in a historical context.
- demonstrate understanding of the different historical explanations to the emergence of the Middle East as a concept and as a geopolitical region.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the skill to independently reflect on the Middle East's societies from different theoretical perspectives.
- demonstrate the skill to discuss important events in the Middle East within a current and relevant social sciences framework.

- demonstrate the ability to independently formulate research questions about the present-day Middle East.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to assess a present-day event or process from different perspectives.
- demonstrate the ability to interrogate and judge the different narratives about social and political structures and change in the Middle East.

Course content

This is an overview course which examines the political and social development of the Middle East from the early 20th century until today, and puts the region in comparative perspective. The course uses social scientific categories to examine the region using the current empirical and theoretical literatures on the Middle East. The goal of the course is to expose the student to the complexities of the region and help them understand the profound changes that are taking place. The student learns about the development of political and social structures, from a local, regional and global perspective. In doing so, the course will discuss the category of Middle East itself, and debate it as a construct.

The student will learn about issues such as the development of the state system, the reasons for the entrenchment of authoritarianism in the region, the causes of the Arab Spring, ideological struggles between Islamists and secularists, in addition to ethnic and sectarian divisions and conflicts as well as the role of the international community in the region.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures 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 for the course is based on four written take-home assignments.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit for courses that have ended during that school year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered 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 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.

The grade for the entire course is based on the following:

- Assignment 1: 15%
- Assignment 2: 15%
- Assignment 3: 30%
- Assignment 4: 40%

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of all assessed assignments (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1) divided by the percentages awarded to each component. For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least 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 with Distinction – Pass – Fail applies. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

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

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students are required to have a Bachelor's degree equivalent to 180 credits. Oral and written language skills in English corresponding to English 6/B from a Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. Recognition of qualifications is based on national guidelines.

Further information

The course cannot be included in a degree together with the course CMEN01: *Middle Eastern Studies: The Formation of Middle Eastern Modernities*, 10-credits and CMEN03: *Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates*, 10-credits.

Subcourses in SIMP45, Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies

Applies from H19

1901 Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A