



Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMP46, Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society, 15 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Teorier och samhällsanalys, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2019-06-12 and was last revised on 2024-06-03. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-06-03 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master's Programme in Politics and Society of the Contemporary Middle East, 120 credits.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Middle Eastern A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry
Studies requirements

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- Define key analytical tools within different and multidisciplinary theoretical perspectives
- Describe the relevance of key theoretical concepts to the contemporary Middle East

Competence and skills

- Compare and contrast the different theoretical perspectives

- Analyze different social phenomena in the contemporary Middle East using key concepts discussed in the course
- Formulate critical research questions pertaining to the contemporary Middle East

Judgement and approach

- Critically assess theoretical paradigms and their utility for understanding social change in the Middle East
- Critically evaluate the applicability of theories and concepts to the study of the contemporary Middle East

Course content

The aim of the course is to examine the utility of theoretical concepts, perspectives and approaches to the understanding of Middle Eastern societies. The student will examine a broad range of theoretical traditions and their application to studying the region. In addition to examining a series of theoretical perspectives, the student will also examine how Middle Eastern Studies, as a form of area studies, can benefit from and contribute to disciplinary approaches and theoretical frameworks within the social sciences. The course will cover prominent empirical analyses into major themes such as social organization, inequalities, cultural narratives, and globalization. In doing so, the course stimulates reflections on how theory informs different research questions and methodological approaches and how evidence-based reasoning differs from common-sense approaches.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, peer-teaching, and a group workshop. The lectures will focus on the theoretical scholarship pertaining to the contemporary Middle East within different disciplinary perspectives. Discussions provide opportunities for the student to reflect on the theoretical debates critically by using their own experiences in and knowledge of the region. During the group workshop, the student is expected to search for material that reflects the different theoretical perspectives discussed in the course and present them to their peers.

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 is based on assignments and is divided as follows:

- Short take-home assignment: 2 credits
- Group workshop: 3 credits
- Peer-teaching assignment: 3 credits
- Final Paper: 7 credits

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

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:

- Short take-home assignment: 2 credits
- Group workshop: 3 credits
- Peer-teaching assignment: 3 credits
- Final Paper: 7 credits

The letter grade for each assessed component is assigned a score where A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1. The grade for the entire course is calculated by multiplying these scores by the amount of credits awarded to each component; these figures are then summed. It is this sum that determines the final grade for which the following table applies:

E	D	C	B	A
15-22	23-37	38-52	53-67	68-75

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 student must have also 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 in 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 CMEN02: Middle Eastern Studies: Key Theories in Middle Eastern Studies, 10-credits.