



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMS49, Middle Eastern Studies: Continuity and Change in the Study of the Middle East, 15 credits

Mellanösternstudier: Kontinuitet och förändring inom Mellanöstern, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2021-11-29 to be valid from 2022-08-29, autumn semester 2022.

General Information

The course is offered as a single subject course in Social Sciences at the second-cycle level, as a mandatory course within the Master Programme in Middle Eastern Studies and as an optional course within the Master Programmes in Global Studies, Development Studies and Social Studies of Gender.

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

Upon completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of diverse forms of collective action and social movements in the Middle East, and their consequences on the state and the societies;
- demonstrate a critical understanding of how relevant social science theories approach issues related to contentious politics;
- describe key patterns of migration movements connected to the Middle East and show a working understanding of different Middle Eastern migrant groups and contexts;

- display knowledge about the lived experiences of migrants connected to the Middle East.

Competence and skills

- compare Middle Eastern social movements in different countries, and assess the importance of historical, cultural, and geographical contexts;
- discuss the key conceptual debates in social movements' theory, revolutions, and contentious politics and to examine their ability to explain Middle Eastern uprisings;
- account for, discuss and present specific empirical examples of Middle Eastern diaspora communities;
- integrate understandings of Middle Eastern diaspora communities outside the Middle East with those of diaspora communities in the region.

Judgement and approach

- discuss political reform and development in the Middle East from different vantage points;
- critically assess the political relevance of current discussions of political Islam, youth, gender and the role of the military and security forces in the Middle East;
- critically reflect on the diversity of ways in which Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North are discussed and, thus, discursively constructed in current political agendas, programs and other public debates;
- evaluate, through a reflexive and ethical lens, the politics and practices that affect the lives of Middle Eastern diasporas.

Course content

This course consists of two separate modules, each 7.5 credits.

The first module (7.5 credits), focuses on social movements in the MENA region (for example the Green Revolution in Iran and the Arab Uprisings of 2011) and studies their political, social, and economic roots. Through a critical inquiry embedded in political science, history, and sociology, this module will unpack the underlying factors, forces, and processes of these events. It will also consider specific themes through which one can navigate these events, such as gender dynamics, and the roles of specific groups (e.g., the Islamists and the military) in these social movements. The module will also explore the regional and global responses to the uprisings and their consequences.

The second module (7.5 credits), moves from Middle Eastern states and their internal dynamics as the central focus to examine the Middle East from a diasporic perspective. Focusing on the lived experiences of migrants connected to the Middle East (i.e. from or in the Middle East), the module connects the local (Middle East) with transnational and global movements and socio-political dynamics. The module provides an understanding of political, social, and cultural dynamics that entangle migrants from and in the region. The student will be introduced to major diaspora groups outside the Middle East. The student will also be introduced to diaspora dynamics connected to ethno-religious groups that are engaged with politics of identification both in the region and in the diaspora (e.g. as Copts and Amazigh). Finally, the student will also study groups that have made the region home.

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 of Module 1 will be based on three individually written, take-home assignments:

- Assignment 1: 20%
- Assignment 2: 20%
- Assignment 3: 60%

The assessment of Module 2 will be based on three individually written, take-home assignments:

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

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 reexamination 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 module 1, Contentious politics in the Middle East (7.5 credits), consists of the weighted average of the following assessed assignments (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1) divided by the percentage value awarded for each component:

- Assignment 1: 20%
- Assignment 2: 20%

- Assignment 3: 60

The grade for module 2, The Middle East from a Diasporic Perspective (7.5 credits), consists of the weighted average of the following assessed assignments (A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1) divided by the percentage value awarded for each component:

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

The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade awarded for each of the two 7.5 credit modules. 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. 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 eligible for the course the student must have a Bachelor's degree equivalent to 180 credits.

Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Further information

The course replaces SIMS51 Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North, SIMS53 Environment and Sustainable Development in the Middle East, SIMS55 Islam and the Politics of Everyday Life in the Middle East and SIMS57 Gender and Politics in the Middle East. The courses SIMS51/53/55/57 and SIMS49 cannot be included in a degree together.

Subcourses in SIMS49, Middle Eastern Studies: Continuity and Change in the Study of the Middle East

Applies from H22

- 2201 Contentious Politics in the Middle East, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2202 The Middle East from a Diasporic Perspective, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A