



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SIMS51, Middle Eastern Studies: Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North, 7.5 credits**

*Mellanösternstudier: Flyktingar från Mellanöstern i det globala norr, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2020-02-25 to be valid from 2020-08-31, autumn semester 2020.

### **General Information**

The course is offered as a single subject course in Social Sciences at the second-cycle level and as an optional course within the Master of Middle Eastern Studies.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Middle Eastern Studies

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, the student shall:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- describe key principles (legal, political, ethical) related to refugees and forced migration
- show a working understanding of refugee studies with the focus on Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North
- display knowledge about the international refugee regime, the lived experiences of forced-displaced people, and the forms of refugee rights activism in the Global North

### **Competence and skills**

- synthesize and apply theories and concepts to relevant real-world issues with respect to Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North
- account for, discuss and present specific empirical examples of Middle Eastern refugee communities in the Global North
- investigate the effects of forced displacement on societies in the Global North
- engage in current debates on forced migration and humanitarian responses concerning Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North

### **Judgement and approach**

- 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
- investigate and critically examine, by applying methods of empirical social science research, material that represents the lived experiences of Middle Eastern refugees who have migrated to the Global North
- evaluate, through a reflexive and ethical lens, the politics and practices that affect the lives of Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North

### **Course content**

This course focuses on refugees understood as forcibly displaced people. It discusses those social structures, organizations and institutions that affect the lives of people seeking asylum not only in Sweden but in the Global North more broadly. With the course's point of departure being the Swedish asylum system, the course starts with tracing the historical roots of the international refugee regime. Thereupon the course explores asylum systems in other Global Northern countries such as the US, Canada, EU-countries such as France and Germany, but also Australia and New Zealand, and assesses empirical research that investigates how Middle Eastern refugees interact with these different administrations of asylum.

The student will read this literature critically, problematizing the seeking of asylum as relational to citizenship, gender and sexuality, class, race/ethnicity, geopolitics, among other intersecting axis of power that mark (and are being marked by) the lives of Middle Eastern refugees in the Global North. To address these complex power relations, the self-organized refugee rights activism that has emerged recently in different Global Northern contexts will be an important empirical reference point. Thus, the course examines contentious politics in interaction with the social structures, organizations and institutions that affect the lives of people seeking asylum in the Global North.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Students will also participate in multi-media activities that aim to make them more acquainted with the plight of displacement and seeking refuge.

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 three individual assignments written at home:

- 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.

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

The grade for the entire course is determined by the following grading scale:

- 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 which will be added up to a total on which the final grade is based. For a grade of Pass on the entire course, the student must have been awarded at least E on all assessments. The student must also have participated in all compulsory components.

## 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 CMEN19 Middle Eastern Studies: Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North. The courses CMEN19 and SIMS51 cannot be included in a degree together.

## Subcourses in SIMS51, Middle Eastern Studies: Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North

Applies from H20

2001 Middle Eastern Refugees in the Global North, 7,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A