



Faculty of Social Sciences

SIMS53, Middle Eastern Studies: Environment and Sustainable Development in the Middle East, 7.5 credits
Mellanösternstudier: Miljö och hållbar utveckling i Mellanöstern, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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

- have a basic understanding of environmental sustainability related issues concerning water and land resource management, politics, economy, etc.
- be able to effectively use concepts within the sustainability research field.

Competence and skills

- be able to identify, analyse, and reflect upon basic water and land resource problems that affect the environment.
- be able to understand the nexus between water, food, and energy in the region.

- be able to identify and understand general and specific use of water and land resources at present and in the long-term in view of sustainability theory including economic, social, political, and environmental dimensions.

Judgement and approach

- analyse and understand as to how political and economic situations in the region affect environmental sustainability.
- analyse relevant development phenomena in connection to water and land resource management using key concepts and theories acquired during the course.
- formulate research questions regarding sustainability as affected by water and land resource utilisation and relationships to poverty and conflicts in the Middle East.

Course content

The course covers the environmental effects of natural resource management, and its political, social, and economic dimensions. The main objective is to understand land and water management and their environmental effects in the Middle East through a holistic and sustainable perspective. The nexus between water, food, and energy in the Middle East is discussed within the major river basins in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Four important areas for Middle East development are touched upon in the course. The first involves the management of water and land in light of increasing population size and a changing climate. For this, the actors that influence water and land management are analyzed. The second introduces the student to techniques for spatial planning and management of transboundary waters. In this part different traditional and improved water management systems are introduced. In the third part, conflict or cooperation are looked at from a management perspective and their influence on the environment within the major river basins and beyond. The last part covers the political aspects and threats to natural resource use within the river basins in the MENA region. Further, the natural resources and environmental sustainability in the refugee camps are discussed. Here, Jordan and Syria are analyzed regarding political policy and management at different levels.

Through individualized course work the student should be able to critically examine environment and sustainable development connected problems related to the natural resources, political situation, social aspects, and economical situation. The student will acquire knowledge to evaluate water and land resource management alternatives in view of environmental effects. The course work will also prepare the student for applying this knowledge in a variety of different professional contexts; as policymakers, trainers or practitioners, in government agencies, private firms, or NGOs.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars, and individual/group supervision. The course is organised around a series of lectures covering key issues in environmental sustainability concerning water, land use, management, politics, economy and related issues. Lectures are followed by seminars or group work where the different environmental sustainability problems are treated in depth. The student is encouraged to individually or collectively search for, analyse, and present syntheses of literature.

The course concludes with seminars in which the students' individual and group work is discussed.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminar sessions. 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 retake compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

Course examination is based on two group essays and a final individual paper.

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, students are 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 based on the following:

- Two group essays: 40% (20% each)
- Final individual paper: 60%

All assessed components are awarded points which will be added up to a total on which the final grade is based. The grade for the entire course consists of the average grade of all assessed assignments. 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 CMEN21 Middle Eastern Studies: Environment and Sustainable Development in the Middle East. The courses CMEN21 and SIMS53 cannot be included in a degree together.

Subcourses in SIMS53, Middle Eastern Studies: Environment and Sustainable Development in the Middle East

Applies from H20

2001 Environment and Sustainable Development in the Middle East, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A