



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SIMZ41, Middle Eastern Studies: Master's (Two Years) Thesis, 30 credits**

*Mellanösternstudier: Examensarbete för masterexamen, 30 högskolepoäng*  
**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by Graduate School Board on 2020-09-28 and was last revised on 2024-04-18. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-04-18 and is valid from the spring semester 2025.

### **General information**

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

*Language of instruction:* English

The student shall produce a thesis written in English and be examined in English.

<i>Main field of study</i>	<i>Specialisation</i>
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Middle Eastern Studies	A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)
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### **Learning outcomes**

Upon the completion of the course, the student shall:

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the delimitations of the field of Middle Eastern Studies, both geographical and intellectual;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of Middle Eastern Studies, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work; and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study, Middle Eastern Studies.

## Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information;
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences;
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity;
- demonstrate the ability to correctly cite and refer to literature and other relevant material; and
- communicate scientific issues and follow the development of knowledge within their field of study.

## Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of studies, Middle Eastern Studies, informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used; and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

## Course content

The course consists of a degree project for which the student independently designs and executes a scientific inquiry. The student should identify a relevant research problem in the contemporary Middle East and, from a social sciences perspective, select appropriate methods, apply comprehensive theoretical and empirical material, and report the findings in the form of a written text. The research process is to be executed in consultation with a supervisor appointed by the student's programme. While the supervisor provides constructive feedback on the basic structure of the inquiry, the thesis represents an independent research effort, and therefore it is the author themselves who is responsible for the final product.

## Course design

The teaching consists of supervision sessions, self-directed studies, and seminars.

The student is entitled to supervision when writing the degree project. The hours of supervision are limited to the semester in which the student first registers for the course. Exceptions can be made if there are special grounds.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in the examination 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 grade for the course is based on the student's thesis and the assessment is made by a specially appointed examiner and based on the final thesis. The student's degree project is to be discussed at a seminar in which the student is to orally present and discuss the design, execution, and results, and will receive comments from the examiner. The student must also review and oppose a fellow student's thesis in a separate opposition seminar. The examination seminars are not graded per se but compulsory participation is required. The examiner will take the quality of the student's defence and the opponent's review into account in the overall assessment of the thesis.

The student's final thesis is to be registered in an Open Access database belonging to Lund University. Each student determines their own level of publication.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination, and a second re-sit. The student must participate in both a defence and opposition seminar for every new submission.

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 highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. 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.

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 must also have participated in the compulsory examination seminars.

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 must have successfully completed the first 60 credits (year 1) of the program, including 30 credits of profile courses for the program and 30 credits of courses in research methods/theory of science.

