



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **STVN21, Political Science: Minorities and Ethnic-Sectarian Conflict in the Middle East, 15 credits**

*Statsvetenskap: Minoriteter och etnisk-sekteristisk konflikt i  
Mellanöstern, 15 högskolepoäng*  
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

---

### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Political Science on 2020-09-24 to be valid from 2021-01-18, spring semester 2021.

### **General Information**

The course is given in the second cycle of studies in political science. The course can be read as a freestanding course or in a programme according to the programme syllabus.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Political Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

For a Pass on the course, the student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- show knowledge of the dominating theories of ethnic and/or sectarian identity, and about which importance such identities have for political conflicts,
- show knowledge of the historical development of ethnic and religious minorities in The Middle East from the fall of the Ottoman empire up to today,

#### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate the ability to formulate relevant research questions in the field of the course and be able to theorise, generalise and discuss these problems,
- be able to summarise, review critically, evaluate and give constructive criticism on studies of ethnic and/or sectarian conflicts,
- communicate results of learning processes both orally and in writing, while adhering to given time and space frames,

### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to contribute to the joint learning environment and to group dynamic aspects on learning.

### **Course content**

The course analyses the historical development of ethnic and religious minorities in The Middle East from the fall of the Ottoman empire up to today. The course notices the unique aspects of different groups in the MENA area, such as the Kurds, the Alawites, the Maronites, Shia and Sunni.

The course also covers dominating theories on ethnic and/or sectarian identity (primordialism, constructivism and instrumentalism), and applies these theories to arguments about the role of group identities in politics. The course identifies the circumstances during which identity based conflicts tend to arise, and explains the causes consequences of identity based conflicts.

Based on an interdisciplinary approach, the course covers the importance of history, culture, religion, inequality, religion, fear and uncertainty for ethnic/sectarian conflicts. The importance of geography, environmental issues and competition for natural resources are also highlighted. In that context, three case studies are presented: the civil war in Lebanon, Iraq after Saddam Hussein and the Kurds in Turkey and northern Iraq.

### **Course design**

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures and seminars. Participation in seminars is compulsory unless special circumstances apply. 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 missed teaching due to work as a student representative.

### **Assessment**

The course is assessed through active participation in seminars and a written home exam at the end of the course.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. At least 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.

*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.

As grade, one of the terms A, B, C, D, E or Failed is used. The highest grade is denoted with A, and the lowest grade to pass with E. The grade for a failed result is denoted with Failed.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade C the student must show good results. For the grade B the student must show very good results. For the grade A the student must show excellent results. For the grade Fail the student will have shown unacceptable results.

Active participation in seminar discussion accounts for 20 percents of the final grade. The final written test accounts for 80 percents of the final grade.

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**

Entry to the course requires 1-90 credits in political science or peace and conflict studies, including a bachelor thesis in one of these subjects, and 60 additional credits in completely completed courses, or students in the master's programme Welfare Policies and Management.

Subcourses in STVN21, Political Science: Minorities and Ethnic-Sectarian  
Conflict in the Middle East

Applies from V21

- 2101 Take-home exam, 12,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
- 2102 Seminar Activity, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A