CMEN03, Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates, 10 credits
Second cycle

Details of approval
The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Centre of Middle Eastern Studies on 2 February 2018 and is valid from 16 March 2018, autumn semester 2018.

General information
The course is a compulsory component of the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits, and included in semester 1.

It is also offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

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<th>Main field</th>
<th>Depth of study relative to the degree requirements</th>
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<td>Middle Eastern Studies</td>
<td>A1N, second cycle, requiring only first-cycle courses for admission</td>
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Learning outcomes
To pass the course, students must

Knowledge and understanding
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of and be able to account for different interpretations of political and cultural processes in the modern Middle East

Competence and skills
- demonstrate the ability to describe and analyse current debates about the Middle East in disciplines such as sociology, political science, anthropology and international relations
- demonstrate skills in discussing important events in the Middle East within relevant social sciences contexts
- demonstrate a specialised ability to independently formulate research issues about the present-day Middle East. The issues must be referable to the
current empirical and theoretical literature in the Middle East
- demonstrate the ability to formulate objective and critical views of the current debates on Middle Eastern societies and cultures

Judgement and approach
- demonstrate a specialised ability to critically assess strengths and weaknesses in the arguments and views prevailing in the current debates on the Middle East
- demonstrate a specialised ability to critically assess strengths and weaknesses in the arguments and positions present in the current debates in and about the Middle East
- demonstrate a specialised ability to assess the relevance of different theoretical concepts used to analyse the Middle East as a concept and as a geopolitical region

Course content
The course enables the students to explore the major issues of the field and introduces the significant debates on the Middle East from a social sciences perspective. The issues must be referable to the current empirical and theoretical literature in the Middle East.
The students will explore important texts dealing with the challenges of studying and writing about Middle Eastern cultures and societies. The broad regional and disciplinary approach of the course aims to encourage an interdisciplinary dialogue and enable the students to become acquainted with different geographical and national contexts. The course concludes with a discussion of the relevance of concepts used to understand the modern Middle East.
The Middle East as a field of study will be discussed against the background of the historical development of area studies in general. The specific global developments shaping the field will be discussed, and the students will examine the approaches and subjects that have emerged over time through Middle Eastern Studies.

Course design
The teaching consists of lectures and seminars.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, participation in seminars is compulsory. 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 written assignments.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
<td>40%</td>
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The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a retake close to the first examination and a catch-up exam for courses completed in the past academic year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of a major change or discontinuation 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.

**Grades**
The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. 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.

The grade for the entire course is determined by the following grading scale:
- A = 92–100 % of total points
- B = 84–92 % of total points
- C = 76–84 % of total points
- D = 68–76 % of total points
- E = 60–68 % of total points
- U = 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.

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.

**Admission requirements**
To be admitted to the course, students must be admitted to the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits, and have successfully completed 150 credits or the equivalent.

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

**Further information**
The course replaces MOSN14 Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates, 10 credits.