CMEN17, Middle Eastern Studies: Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East, 7.5 credits
Second Cycle

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Centre of Middle Eastern Studies on 7 March 2018 and is valid from 16 March 2018, autumn semester 2018.

General information

The course is an elective component of the Master of Science programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits.

It is also offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

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<tr>
<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 be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate specialised knowledge of key concepts, current subjects, scholarly perspectives and research issues in relation to gender and sexuality based on the research field of Middle Eastern Studies
- demonstrate an advanced understanding of gender and sexuality in relation to the exercise of power
- demonstrate knowledge about the impact of gender and sexuality on economic, cultural, political and social phenomena and processes in the Middle East

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to combine divergences and apply theories and concepts
This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

relevant to social phenomena and current societal issues regarding the Middle East
• demonstrate a specialised ability, in speech and writing, to critically review present-day debates and phenomena in Middle Eastern societies from an intersectional and transnational perspective
• demonstrate a specialised ability to assess the challenges and opportunities provided by intersectional and transnational analysis in relation to the theme that is being studied

Judgement and approach
• demonstrate the ability to critically assess different discussions and approaches to gender and sexuality in the Middle East, on the basis of construed arguments in current political agendas and programmes, and other public debates in a global, regional and local context
• demonstrate a specialised ability to evaluate politics, practice and life experience relating to gender and sexuality in the Middle East from reflective and ethical perspectives

Course content
The course addresses key issues and new research avenues relating to gender and sexuality, focusing on the Middle East. Throughout the course, the students analyse how gender and sexuality have been adapted, strengthened, experienced and undermined in different contexts in the Middle East.

Students use an intersectional approach to place gender and sexuality in relation to power structures, class, race/ethnicity, citizenship and geopolitics. During the course, students examine the varying and complex behaviour that shapes gender and sexuality, as well as how this is formed by socio-political institutions, structural powers and social hierarchies. Themes discussed during the course are citizenship, belonging, living with or without boundaries, the precariat, family, processes of migration and relocation, civil society and activism.

The course highlights research on gender and sexuality in the Middle East from the perspective of different disciplines and a number of critical social theories. In addition, the course emphasises scholarly exactitude in the study of the Middle East from a transnational perspective by focusing on connections between the global, regional and local contexts. The course gives students the tools to use static, ahistorical, dualistic and normative configurations to critically examine the concepts of "East-West", "culture", "religion" and "modernity/civilisation" that permeate a great deal of the representation of the region regarding general science, the formation of declarations of intent, activism and cultural work.

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.
Assignment 1  30%
Assignment 2  30%
Assignment 3  40%

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, or have successfully completed 150 credits.

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.