



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET

Center for Middle Eastern  
Studies, Faculty of Social  
Sciences

## **CMEN06, Middle Eastern Studies: Individual Methods Course (7.5 credits) Fall 2019**

### **Course Description**

The course aims to deliver an in-depth knowledge of key principles for collecting, processing, critically assessing, and analysing data based on a sound understanding of different methodological approaches. The student is also expected to acquire the capacity to engage with research participants in an ethical manner, where applicable. These learning objectives will follow from a detailed understanding of the methodological literature required for the student to successfully carry out a research project during their field course. All methods of gathering relevant data require a conscious and critical approach. The student should reflect on the method of data collection.

### **Course Dates**

Start Date: September 2, 2019 - End Date: January 19, 2020

### **Assignments**

The course is examined individually, based on a critical review (maximum 3000 words) of relevant methodological literature. The first draft needs to be submitted during the **first week of November** for the students to receive feedback.

The advisor sets the deadlines for the submission of drafts, assignments, and feedback, but the course formally ends on **January 20, 2020**. Final feedback and grades will be given no later than February 10, 2020.

### **Grading scale**

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is F. 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 F = 0-

59% of total points

The grading criteria for assignments correspond to those specified in CMES Master Thesis Guidelines.

F: The thesis does not fulfil basic requirements.

E: The thesis is complete and organized more or less in accordance with the directives, but modest in terms of discussing relevant examples, posing scientific questions, or using appropriate methods or data. There might occur mismatches between the research questions asked and methods used. There might occur weaknesses in the outlining of problems, data or concepts and the work may contain few if any concrete examples from relevant theoretical, philosophical, and/or empirical studies. The work may contain certain factual or formal errors or partly be based on opinionated, unsubstantiated claims. The thesis makes limited if sufficient use of references to the prescribed literature. While the work contains proper citations in the text, central references may be missing. There may occur certain deficiencies and inappropriateness in the choice of facts, data, methods and means of presentation, such as a presentation of literature, theories and findings that are based upon circuitous logic.

*Keywords: complete, relevant, modest, proper but limited references, sufficiently organized, basic quality of language*

D: The thesis is complete and adequately organized, but somewhat limited in scope, or superficial in terms of the discussion of relevant examples, the posing scientific questions, the discussion and use of methods or the collection and presentation of data. The work is properly carried out and contains no serious flaws as concerns form or content, although there might occur weaknesses in source criticism and choice of literature. As a whole, the thesis makes use of appropriate sources and adequately relates to the prescribed literature, with proper citations in the text, but there may occur problems with the structuring of the assignment, and the various parts of the work may not form a coherent whole. The author may not have presented a precise idea of the significance of the problems, concepts, results, or examples discussed, and the content of the thesis provides little independent discussion of the prescribed literature.

*Keywords: complete, relevant, adequately organized, proper and adequate references, limited connection to wider research, some degree of independence, satisfactory language*

C: The thesis forms a coherent, functioning whole and fulfils basic requirements for a scientific paper. It is well-structured and well-written, progresses in a logical manner and arrives at clear and relevant findings. The thesis is based on a conscious and well-defined methodology and contains elements of independent and critical discussion. The work is solidly connected to research and describes the content of the entire prescribed literature in an appropriate way and key sources are included with proper citations in the text. The work contains no significant weaknesses in terms of formal issues or use of language.

*Keywords: complete, relevant, coherently organized, methodologically well-defined, solidly research connected, somewhat independent and critical, well-functioning language*

B: The thesis provides a thorough, independent discussion of the subject matter at hand. The point of departure is well-defined and connected to theory. Apart from describing the general content of the prescribed literature in its entirety, the work contains several independent, applied, analytical observations or mature and critical evaluations of sections of the literature. References are extensive as well as chosen and applied in a versatile and appropriate manner, with strategic and well-placed citations. The thesis is written coherently, and the use of language is more or less flawless.

*Keywords: thorough, independent, complete, analytical, critical, extensive, and strategic references, more or less flawless structure, and language*

A: The thesis provides an exhaustive, innovative, and thoroughly critical discussion of clearly defined scientific problems, demonstrating a profound understanding of the subject matter at hand. It critically and comparatively discusses demanding subject matters, complex data or advanced theoretical models applied in a systematic synthesis of theories and findings, which arrives at the formulation of fruitful and independently formulated scientific problems or analyses of tentative results. The thesis is solidly integrated within a wider research context and the structure as well the use of language is flawless.

*Keywords: exhaustive, innovative, thoroughly critical, displaying profound understanding, advanced subject and theory, synthesizing, flawless structure, and language*