CMEN05, Middle Eastern Studies: Individual Specialisation
(7.5 credits) Fall 2018

Course Description

An overview of the literature on your particular research subject is an essential component of your thesis. This course will allow you to write a literature review that encompasses the research on a specific topic relevant to Middle Eastern studies that is focused specifically on your research project. This course will also present students with a wide-ranging knowledge of current research in the field.

The course also aims to give students the opportunity to collect, interpret, and present the relevant literature on their research topic. In addition, the course aims at enabling students to identify a relevant research question for their master thesis. The topic is decided in consultation with the advisor and is based on the student’s own research interests.

The course literature is chosen in consultation with the appointed advisor. The student is expected to independently search for, evaluate and apply the relevant literature.

Course Dates

Start Date: September 3, 2018 - End Date: January 20, 2019

Assignments

The course is examined individually, based on a critical review (maximum 3000 words) of relevant literature to be decided on with the advisor. The first draft needs to be submitted the first week of October for the student to receive feedback.

The advisor sets the deadlines for the submission of drafts, assignments, and feedback, but the course formally ends on January 20, 2019. Final feedback and grades will be given no later than February 10, 2019.

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