

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Middle Eastern Studies: Debating a Discipline
Mellanösternstudier: En disciplinär debatt

7.5 Higher Education
Credits
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	ABMMES
Valid from:	Autumn 2016
Date of approval:	2016-04-13
Department	Department of Asian and Middle Eastern studies
Main field:	Mellanösterns språk och kulturer
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus was developed by the Faculty Board of Humanities 2016-04-13 and adopted by the Board of the Department 2016-04-13.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree in humanities, social sciences or law and English B/English 6.

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
AB01	Middle Eastern Studies: Debating a Discipline	7.5

Course content

This course provides an introduction to Middle Eastern studies as an interdisciplinary practice, by highlighting the historical development of the field and its relation to other area studies in the humanities and social sciences, as well as the historical links between the field and other academic disciplines and theoretical perspectives, such as anthropology and postcolonial theory. The course also highlights contemporary debates within the field, with particular focus on historiographical and methodological discussions. The underlying aim of the course is to examine the extent to which Western social science theories and narratives of Western modernity are suitable for the study of non-Western societies, by examining a wide range of historiographical traditions, theoretical paradigms and methodological debates that so far has shaped Middle Eastern Studies. In connection to this the course will also deal with topics such as fundamentalism, secularism, modernity, patrimonialism, authoritarianism, and transition to democracy.

Learning outcomes

In order to pass the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Show in-depth knowledge about Middle Eastern studies as an academic field
- Show in-depth knowledge about the historical development of the field
- Show in-depth knowledge about current debates within and about Middle Eastern studies as an academic field
- Show ability to, in a critical and independent way, reflect on Western social science theories and the narrative of Western modernity in relation to the study of the Middle East as a region.

Education

Instruction is given in the form of lectures and seminars. The language of instruction is English. Attendance at

all teaching sessions is obligatory.

For more detailed information, please refer to the course description. The course description will be made available at least one month before the course starts.

Forms of examination

- a) The course is examined on the basis of a seminar assignments and written assignments.
- b) Grades will be set according to a seven point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:
A = Excellent
B= Very good
C = Good
D = Satisfactory
E = Adequate
Fx = Inadequate
F = Totally Inadequate.
- c) Students will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts. Once set, the grading criteria related to the learning objectives of the course are binding.
- d) In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher, alternatively a passed grade, on all examination assignments and meet the attendance requirement of 80%. Under special circumstances, the examiner may, after consulting with the coordinating teacher, grant the student an exemption from the obligation to participate in certain mandatory course elements. The student can then be assigned a compensatory assignment.
- e) At least two examination opportunities should be offered for each course. At least one examination opportunity should be offered during a semester when the course is not given. Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the department board. Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade. Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.
- f. This course does not include any opportunities to complete a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade.

Interim

When the syllabus is discontinued, students have the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester during a transition period of three semesters.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content.

Required reading

For up-to-date information about required reading, please refer to the department website at www.su.se/asia. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.