

Syllabus

for course at first level

Contemporary Middle Eastern history: 1820-2020

Mellanösterns samtida historia: 1820-2020

7.5 Higher Education

Credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	ABMGF9
Valid from:	Autumn 2023
Date of approval:	2022-03-09
Changed:	2023-03-08
Department	Department of Asian and Middle Eastern studies
Main field:	Mellanösterns språk och kulturer
Specialisation:	G1N - First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus was adopted by the Board of the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

The Board of the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has decided on the revised version.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
AB01	Contemporary Middle Eastern history: 1820-2020	7.5

Course content

This course provides an overview of the contemporary history of the Middle East and North Africa, from the decline of the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, the subsequent rise of a new global order under Euro-American direction after World War I, the Cold War and then the Arab Spring of 2011. It adopts both a chronological and a thematic perspective, in order to outline the most relevant dynamics that the regions included in the expansion of European imperialism at the expense of stability in the Ottoman Empire, with a particular focus on political and legal structures, socio-economic transformations and relations with Euro-American powers such as Russia, the Habsburgs, Germans, Britain, France, Italy, and the United States.

The purpose is to enable the students to outline regional dynamics within the Middle East over the course of the last two centuries that witnessed the rise of modern forms of state rule, a global mechanism to organize interstate relations and a corresponding global economy informed by industrialization and the rise of petroleum-based economies. In this respect, the course adopts a global perspective that links the Middle East and North Africa to other regions during a period of capitalist imperialism and corresponding efforts to resist it. Corresponding to this process, this course will also help students understand the emergence of the major elements of social and political transformation that led to Arab nationalism and political Islam while other arenas of social mobilization, from labor activism, parliamentarism, socialist/communist party development, and women's rights groups shaped the contemporary Middle East.

A number of key texts analyzing these processes will be assigned, drawing especially from major trends in Anthropology, Political Theory, and Historiography to enable students to develop a critical overview of their field of studies, its historical formation, and its current limitations as they include or ignore this region's contemporary history.

Learning outcomes

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

- Show knowledge of the history of the Middle East from the end of empire until the events associated with the Arab Spring in the 2010s and an ability to outline the main political and socio-economic trends and issues and demonstrate how they interconnect;
- Show ability to make connections among different regions of the Middle East and to place the Middle East in a broader trans-regional, even global context throughout the recent past;
- Show ability to critically reflect upon the Middle East as both a geopolitical concept and a field of study using the complex relationships developed over the last two hundred years.

Education

The instruction will consist of lectures and seminars. Attendance on all instruction is compulsory.

The instruction will be conducted in Swedish and/or English as specified for each respective course offering.

Instruction is either online or campus-based, as specified for each course offering.

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

Forms of examination

a) The course is examined on the basis of a final exam in the form of a digital multiple-choice examination.

The language of examination, Swedish or English, will be the language stated for the respective course instance.

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

If a student has a certificate with recommendations for special pedagogical support due to a long-term disability, the examiner can adapt the examination or allow the student an alternative examination.

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 = Fail, some additional work required

F = Fail, much more work required

c) The student will be informed of the written grading criteria when the course starts. The communicated grading criteria are binding.

d) In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on the examination and meet the attendance requirement of 80 percent.

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 teaching. The student may then be assigned a compensatory assignment.

Assignments not submitted on time will be grade with a penalty of one grade on to the seven point scale.

e) At least two examination opportunities should be offered for each course when it is given. At least one examination opportunity should be offered during an academic year 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 person responsible for the course.

A student who receives the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.

f) The completion of a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade is not permitted for this course.

Interim

When the syllabus is discontinued, a student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester during a winding up period of three semesters.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a passed 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/mena. The current reading list will be made available at least two months before the course starts.