

CURRICULUM 2012

Middle East Studies

M.A. DEGREE

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY
MIDDLE EAST STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

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Introduction

The Middle East, which is taken to mean the area from Morocco in the west to Iran in the east and from Yemen in the south to Turkey in the north, consists of a set of countries and societies that, due to increased interaction with the rest of the world, are in a process of rapid cultural, political, religious, social and technological transition.

In that sense the Middle East is an integral part of the modern social order, and the region constitutes an area of crucial political and economic significance – not least when seen through European eyes. This is reflected both in the daily flow of news from the region and in the considerable interest capable of being generated by, for example, the Middle East peace process, by wars in the region, Islamic movements, changes in the price of oil, problems of ethnic minorities, demographic developments and so on. This is true both of Europe and of the international community, and there is no immediate reason to expect any change in the following scenario: The Middle East is Europe's closest neighbour, and neighbourly relations between the two will continue in the future to be associated with conflict at all levels.

Despite the Middle East forming part of the international world order, the region has its own specific historical, cultural and religious features. The region is, for example, characterised by its civilisation of Arabic Islam and by the desire to pass on or modernise this civilisation either within the framework of or in opposition to the global community. This means that the Middle East presents an array of fractures and hybrids between its traditional culture and the culture, economics and politics of modernity, and that these increasingly set the agenda.

These fractures and hybrids between a traditional and a modern cultural template also apply to the extensive Middle Eastern population in Europe. A total of 15-20 million people of Middle Eastern origins are to be found in Europe, which points up the fact that the Middle East can no longer be localised solely in the region but that Middle Eastern culture is also on its way to becoming a part of European culture. This process is far from complete, and there is no sense in which it can be claimed to have taken place without friction. On the contrary, the integration of Middle Eastern

immigrants and refugees into European states makes up an important complex of issues that will continue to give rise to political, administrative and pedagogical deliberations. This is true both in relation to a focused process of integration and as regards, for example, the status of Islam, the establishment of Middle Eastern institutions, and so on.

The aim of the M.A. degree in Middle East Studies is to provide in-depth knowledge of contemporary historical and political conditions in the Middle East. Students will acquire both a historical overview of the Middle East and a detailed knowledge of important factors that have been significant in the creation of the modern Middle East – factors that have contributed and will continue to contribute to the formation of the Middle East, Middle East Studies and the processes that will characterise the region and research areas at the beginning of the 21st century.

The course will focus on the Middle East and as such will raise questions about Mediterranean viewpoints, cultural encounters, refugee problems and human rights issues as well as about integration in both a European and a Danish context. The course takes a historical and political perspective as its starting point but works otherwise with an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Middle East. This means that the region will be described and analysed from the vantage point of a variety of different academic perspectives.

The degree course has a prescribed period of study of two years, but is so arranged that it is possible to study individual subjects that can then be accredited on other courses or at other universities.

A placement in a company, an organisation or similar body in the Middle East or with relations to the Middle East forms part of the course.

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Academic component

I. Provisions for the graduate degree in Middle East Studies

In respect of regulation no. 814 of 29th June 2010 regarding BA and graduate courses at universities, students are offered the M.A. degree in Middle East Studies.

A. Aims and requirements

§ 1. Aims and competences

The M.A. degree is a fulltime course that is made up of 120 ECTS and has a duration of two years. The aim of the course is to give students fundamental knowledge about the social and cultural conditions of today's Middle East. More specifically the aim is to provide students with the wherewithal to work independently and to address specific historical, political, economic, cultural and religious issues in the region using a secure methodological and analytic base. The M.A. degree qualifies students to apply for a Ph.D.

The course aims to develop the following target skills for students:

General competence targets:

Students should be able:

1. to delimit and define a problem in the subject area
2. to investigate, analyze and solve problems relevant for the subject with the aid of relevant academic theories and methods
3. to systematize complex knowledge and data and to select and prioritise features significant for the subject at hand
4. to make a critical assessment of the subject's various theories and methods

5. to make precise and consistent use of concepts and relevant terminology
6. to present an argument based on tenable academic foundations
7. to conduct an informed dialogue in the subject
8. to have a clear focus and consistency in conducting tasks
9. to take a critical stance to sources used and to provide documentation for these using references, notes and bibliographies
10. to employ language – in writing and/or orally – that relates to the topic and is precise and correct
11. to communicate complex subject matter in such a way that it becomes relevant and comprehensible to a variety of audiences
12. to work as a team, including being able to accept criticism of their own work and give constructive criticism to others
13. to work independently, in a disciplined, structured and focused way and to be able to conform to deadlines and formalities
14. to use IT as a tool both in searching for information and in oral and written communication

Subject-specific target skills:

The subject-specific target skills relate to the core subject of the programme and are subdivided in knowledge, abilities and competencies in accordance with “Ny dansk kvalifikationsramme for videregående uddannelse” (New Danish qualification-framework for higher education)

Subject target skills:

Knowledge

The knowledge of the student should in accordance with the qualification-framework live up to the following:

- The student should have a broad, solid knowledge of the modern Middle East in relation to modern history, culture and social conditions
- The student should have a firm theoretical and methodological basis in modern history and in social and cultural analysis with particular reference to the academic history of Middle East research
- The student should be able to develop and respond to academic issues relating to the Middle East in an independent and scientific manner
- The student should be in a position to carry out project and communication assignments relating to the Middle East on a scientific basis and to present these to relevant working partners

Abilities

The abilities of the student should in accordance with the qualification framework live up to the following:

- The student should be able to assess theoretical and practical problems and apply relevant analysis and problem-solving models
- The student should be able to discuss research related issues, define relevant research questions and carry out qualified analysis, both in connection with the different types of written assignments and related to the MA-thesis
- The student should be able to demonstrate strong abilities in searching relevant literature, taking advantage of advanced search tools, international archives, research centre databases, relevant social media etc.
- The student should be able to convey subjects and solutions to specialists as well as non-specialists and be able to use general abilities relevant for employment within the area

Competencies

The competencies of the student should in accordance with the qualification-framework live up to the following:

- The student should be able in a practical sense to manage taking part in work processes, which require abilities to deal with complex and unpredictable situations and call for new solutions
- The student should be able to make concrete contributions to work involving information, planning or development for organizations, institutions and business concerns working with the Middle East on the basis of their solid knowledge about the area
- The student should be able further to develop their broad professional capabilities and specific skills relevant for competences and job prospects related to the study programme

§ 2. Background for the programme

The M.A. degree in Middle East Studies has been developed as a degree at an international level. The degree course is offered in a Danish, Scandinavian and international context. Furthermore, the intention is that the knowledge and skills acquired by the students during the course should be applicable in the context of presentation and communication. This should be seen in the light of the fact that the Centre for Middle East Studies has many years of experience working with commissioned assignments and external information for public and private corporations.

In conjunction with the establishment of the M.A. degree course, the need for a new M.A. degree was examined. In that context positive written statements as to the relevance of the degree were received from a range of institutions, pressure groups, businesses and representative bodies with a variety of interests in M.A. graduates with special knowledge about the modern Middle East. Reference here is to a burgeoning labour market with both traditional academic posts in, for example, international organisations and less traditional employment in sales and marketing or consultant positions in international or national NGO's.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate the work placement obligatory to the degree course and to ensure its international profile, opportunities for work experience for future students was investigated. In that context positive statements as to the relevance of the degree course were received from international organisations, pressure groups, businesses, Danish aid agencies, Danish representatives in the Middle East, Danish institutions and ministries, NGO's, EU bodies, Danish councils, and research centres in the Middle East and European countries.

§ 3. The construction of the course

The course is thought of as a complete entity, but its actual practical organisation makes it possible for students to take one or more parts of the course as individual subjects. In this way the course is constructed with a view to being able to contribute a Middle East input to other courses not only at the University of Southern Denmark but also at other Danish, Scandinavian or European universities.

The M.A. degree course includes 'special subjects' and 'open subjects'. 'Special subjects' are subjects whose academic content is more closely defined in this curriculum. 'Open subjects' are subjects that the Board of Studies can approve as supporting the programme's academic profile and/or can provide students with the opportunity to give their M.A. degree a particular emphasis. The Board of Studies assesses whether each subject is constituent when it approves the range of open subjects on offer during the semester.

The M.A. degree course in Middle East Studies consists of

- constituent subjects, comprising 80 ECTS: Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East, History of research on the Middle East, Mediterranean Perspectives, Culture and Religion in the Middle East,

Politics and International Politics in the Middle East, Special study area, Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East, and Work Placement.

- of these, special subjects make up 60 ECTS points, the open subjects 10 ECTS points and the work placement 10 ECTS points
 - the optional course comprises 10 ECTS points, see § 17
 - the M.A. thesis makes up 30 ECTS
- Total 120 ECTS

§ 4. Entry requirements

Requirements for acceptance for the master's degree programme in Contemporary Middle East Studies are as follows

Students are required on their B.A. course to have acquired a basic introduction to the two subject areas in which they will specialise in Middle East Studies, namely:

A) History and social relations (subjects and topics such as social relations (including comparative social description), historical analysis, international politics and international economics as well as political science and political structures) and

B) Culture (subjects and topics such as history of culture, intercultural relations, cultural analysis alongside media and literature).

Within these two main areas students should have acquired a minimum of 60 ECTS (with a minimum of 10 ECTS in each area).

A part of the ECTS requirement can be met if the areas mentioned are included in a B.A. project.

In this regard B.A. degrees in History, English, Religion, French, Journalism, Ethnography, Geography, Negot, Philosophy and Political Science provide direct access to the M.A. degree course.

B.A. graduates in Media Studies can be accepted for the course under the following conditions.

B.A. graduates in Media Studies will be accepted for the course if they have the relevant options (and there by fulfill the requirements)

or, in the case of single subject B.A. graduates, have topic of preference and a B.A. project that fulfils the requirement for a minimum of 10 ECTS in the main area of History and Social Relations.

Students with B.A. degrees in other academically related areas will be able to be accepted on specific assessment by the Board of Studies, if in their B.A. degree they have fulfilled the requirement for a minimum of 60 ECTS points in the two main areas with a minimum of 10 ECTS points in each area.

Required English levels:

English level B (Danish Scale) – general entry requirement – compares to: IELTS 6.5 or TOEFL 575/230/88 or CAE with a min. result of C.

§ 5. M.A. degree

The M.A. degree in Middle East Studies gives students the right to the title Master of Arts (MA) in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies. In Danish: cand.mag. i mellemøststudier

B. Course model and overview of examinations

§ 6. Course model – Distribution of teaching and examinations

Subject		Distribution of teaching (hours per week)				Placing of exam.	Open subjects	Special subjects	Work Placement	ECTS weight	Discipline responsible
		1. sem.	2. sem.	3. sem.	4. sem.						
Title of subject	Descr. I §										
Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East	15	3				1.		X		10	IHKS
Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East	16	3				1.		X		10	IHKS
Mediterranean Perspectives	17	3				1.		X		10	IHKS
Culture and Religion in the Middle East	18		3			2		X		10	IHKS
Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	19		3			2.		X		10	IHKS

Special study area – elective courses	20		3			2.	X			10	IHKS
Special study area – elective courses	20			3		3.	X			10	IHKS
History of research on the Middle East	21			3		3.		X		10	IHKS
Work placement/placement abroad	22			About 3 months		3.			X	10	IHKS
MA-thesis	23				X	4.				30	IHKS

§7 Outline of examinations

Overview	Examinations, references etc.					
Subject	Examination form:	Moderator:	Exam Duration:	Assessment	ECTS weight	Descr. in §
Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East	Written home assignment	Internal		7-grade scale	10	15
Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East	Written home assignment	Internal		7-grade scale	10	16
Mediterranean Perspectives	Oral synopsis exam	Internal	30 min.	7-grade scale	10	17
Culture and Religion in the Middle East	Active participation	No moderator		p/f	10	18
Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	Written assignment or oral synopsis exam	External	30 min.	7-grade scale	10	19
Special study area – elective courses	Written assignment or oral synopsis exam	Internal	30 min.	7-grade scale	10	20
Special study area – elective courses	Written assignment or oral synopsis exam	Internal	30 min.	7-grade scale	10	20
History of research on the Middle East	One week home assignment	Internal		7-grade scale	10	21
Work placement/project period	Written report	Internal		7-grade scale	10	22
MA-thesis	MA-thesis	External		7-grade scale	30	23
ECTS points total					120	

C. Special definitions and examination provisions for the subject

§ 8. Common provisions

In the Common Provisions for degrees in the Humanities, see the curriculum section IV, can be found definitions of the following:

- ECTS (§ 26)
- Characters (§ 28)
- Standard pages (§ 27)

In addition rules are laid down for:

- MA thesis (§ 16)
- Summary relating to the M.A. project (§ 17)
- Individual examinations (§ 10)
- Internal and external examinations (§ 6)
- Proficiency in spelling and linguistic expression (§ 9)
- Language of examinations (§ 11)
- Web references in thesis and other written home assignments (§ 18)
- Rules for the conduct of re-examination and in the event of illness (§ 13)
- Rules for student activity (§ 31)

§ 9. Written assignments

Written assignments and the thesis are covered by the regulation, see Common Provisions, on proficiency in spelling and linguistic expression.

§ 10. Deadlines for submission of written assignments

The deadlines for the submission of written assignments are 1st June and 1st January respectively or forthcoming workday.

§ 11. Language of instruction and examination

The language of instruction and examinations is English. Since some topics within the courses and subject matters for MA-Thesis can be related to a Danish context (for instance problems related to migration theory, integra-

tion activities or the like) it can, if this is meaningful, be allowed to submit written assignments and/or Thesis in Danish. Such practices must be approved of by the Study Board.

§ 12. Work placement/project period

The M.A. degree in Middle East Studies involves a work placement that comprises an integral part of the course.

The rules for the placement are as follows:

The third semester of the course includes a work placement with a duration of approx. 3 months. It is recommended that the work placement takes place in a company, an organisation or a political or administrative unit in the Middle East such as UNHCR, Danish representative bodies in the region, local ministries, NGO's, the media or educational institutions.

In the event that a placement of this kind not being desirable in relation to the student's expected area of occupation, the requirement for a work placement can be fulfilled by organisations, companies etc. in Denmark, Europe or Scandinavia who work with issues of relevance to the Middle East, such as Dansk Flygtningehjælp (Danish Refugee Aid), local authority integration units, schools with a high percentage of students with a Middle Eastern background, companies operating in the Middle East etc. If any doubt arises as to the relevance of the placement the decision will be left to the Board of Studies.

It is the responsibility of students themselves – in consultation with the teacher responsible – to find and organise the placement. This process will already get under way in the 2nd semester. An agreement regarding the work placement is concluded between the student and the work place. A supervisor for the work experience is appointed from among the academic staff to monitor its relevance to the subject. It should be clear from the agreement what the subject-related content is and what relevance this content has for the overall aims of the course.

The project supervisor must to a reasonable extent provide guidance for the student in question as regards the work placement. The supervisor for the work experience will typically also be the examiner for the student's placement report or home assignment.

At the conclusion of the work experience the student must submit a report of about 20 standard pages including any supplementary material. The assignment should provide documentation that the academic content of the placement was satisfactory. The board of studies appoints an examiner to assess the report. The report is assessed according to the 7-scale system.

§ 13. Access to electronic media for examinations

For oral examinations access to electronic media, data bases etc that have relevance to the subject in question can be given upon application to the Board of Studies.

§ 14. Project-based teaching

A project-based course is one in which classroom teaching has been partially or wholly converted into supervision time in such a way that during the supervised period a home assignment is composed that is in accordance with the examination provisions for the subject.

In the event of a teacher wishing to design a course as project-based teaching, he/she must put together a teaching plan prior to the start of the course in which an account of the way it will develop is provided. On receiving a proposal from the teacher, it is up to the Board of Studies to reach a decision as to the extent to which the teaching should be designed as a project-oriented course.

In a project-oriented course the project and the question on which it is based are agreed individually between the supervisor and the student at the start of the supervision period following a proposal from the student – or students, if the project work is to be conducted in a group.

II. Description of disciplines in the M.A. degree

§ 15. Introduction to History and Society of the Middle East

a. Duration of the course

3 classes per week in the first semester.

Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

Students should at the end of the course be able to present a methodological overview of the modern history of the Middle East, i.e. account for the broad historical and social development across the whole of the Middle East since the First World War. In addition, students should be able to analyse illustrative examples from a variety of Middle Eastern contexts during the period.

c. Course content

Emphasis will be placed on the breakdown of the Ottoman empire, the decolonisation of the region, the modern Arab states, Palestine-Israeli conflicts and Arab nationalism.

d. Form of teaching

Lectures alternating with individual supervision in relation to the writing of assignments. Attempts are made to include relevant web-based sources as an integrated part of the teaching.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

The exam is a written home assignment based on a topic related to the themes of the course.

Examination form: Written home assignment

Length per student: Maximum 15 pages.

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Moderator: Internal

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS.

§ 16. Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East

a. Duration of the course

3 hours a week in the first semester.

Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

The aim of the course is that students should be able to demonstrate their understanding of the economic and social developmental process as it has taken place and is taking place in the individual countries and in the region as a whole.

c. Course content

Topics such as population growth, oil, water and other resources, international trade, globalisation, industrialisation, agriculture, and the construction of the social and health sectors will be taken up as subjects for analysis and discussion. Furthermore the course will provide an introduction to social research methods, hereunder survey methodology and qualitative research interviewing.

d. Form of teaching

The teaching takes the form of lectures, discussions and exercises based on textual analysis and readings.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 2, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

At the examination students must be able to define and elucidate a given issue in the subject area. The exam is a one week home assignment based on a question worked out by the teacher.

Examination form: Written home assignment

Length per student: Maximum 10 pages

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max. 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Duration: One week

Moderator: Internal

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

§ 17. Mediterranean Perspectives

a. Duration of the course

3 hours a week in the first semester. Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

The aim of the course is that students should be able to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of relations between Europe and the Middle East, of current changes in the Mediterranean region and of discussions about Mediterranean identity.

c. Course content

The course focuses on the EU as an agent in foreign policy and on the question of security in the region, on European policies of partnership and neighbourliness, on the Barcelona process and attempts to promote democracy and human rights in the Arab states and Turkey. Other aspects will be migratory movements from a Mediterranean perspective, the emergence of Islamist movements, and relations between

the ruling elites and the opposition in states to the south and east of the Mediterranean.

d. Form of teaching

Lectures alternating with presentations from the students, workshops and individual supervision in conjunction with the writing of assignments. Attempts are made to include the use of web-based sources as an integrated part of the teaching.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

The exam is an oral synopsis exam. A synopsis is understood as a minimum of two pages forming the basis of an oral presentation and a discussion with the examiners. The synopsis must be approved by the lecturer and submitted by the end of the course at the latest.

Examination form: Oral synopsis exam

Synopsis:

Length: Minimum 2 pages

Contribution from more than one student: No

Oral exam:

Duration per student: 30 minutes including moderation

Preparation: no preparation

Aids: All

Moderator: internal

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

§ 18. Culture and Religion in the Middle East

a. Duration of the course

3 hours a week in the second semester.

Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

At the conclusion of the course students should be able to present and analyse cultural, religious and anthropological issues in the modern Middle East, i.e. should be able to take a cultural analytical perspective and independently and systematically be able to analyse issues relating, for example, to Islam, cultural traditions, gender politics, or popular culture.

c. Course content

More specifically the discipline seeks to develop cultural analytical knowledge and skills that will enable students to understand cultural and religious conditions in the Middle East in their historical context and in relation to the persistent process of modernisation and globalisation.

The course will also give students an understanding of the culture of the Middle Eastern diaspora in Denmark and Europe – including the status and significance of Islam in a Danish and European context.

d. Form of teaching

Lectures alternating with presentations from the students, workshops and individual supervision in conjunction with the writing of assignments. Attempts are made to include the use of web-based sources as an integrated part of the teaching.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 1, 2, 6, 9, 10. Grades are

given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

Active participation includes the writing of three written home assignments based on a particular text from the course literature. Each assignment must be submitted on the day of the lecture where the given text is going to be discussed. In this way, the exam is based on the active participation by the student and will be completed with the last lecture of the course. The course is mandatory, which means that active, regular, and satisfactory participation in the course is required. Active is defined as participation in all activities connected with the course (mandatory presence, homework, group exercises, and written exercises and assignments). The minimum requirements to be met by the student in order to pass the course are stipulated at the beginning of the semester.

Length per student: 3-5 pages per written assignment

Form of examination: Active participation

Moderator: None

Assesment: Pass/fail

Weighting: 10 ECTS.

Reexam: The reexam is a 10 pages home assignment based on a question worked out by the teacher

Form of examination: Written home assignment

Length: Minimum 10 pages

Contribution from more than one student: No

Moderator: None

Assessment: Pass/fail

Weighting: 10 ECTS.

§ 19. Politics and International Politics in the Middle East

a. Duration of the course

3 hours a week in the second semester.

Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

The aim of the course is that students should be able to demonstrate that they have an overview of the political development in the individual countries and in the region as a whole and that they understand

the international aspects of the political challenges facing the Middle East. In addition the aim is for students to show a confident command of theories dealing with the phenomena dealt with on the course.

c. Course content

The course will focus on areas such as forms of government, the building of nations and identity, media conditions and civil society. The course will also provide an overview of, for example, the policies of the superpowers in the region, the Palestinian conflict, security policy, terror, processes of democratisation, the significance of political Islam.

d. Form of teaching

Lectures alternating with presentations from the students, workshops and individual supervision in conjunction with the writing of assignments. Attempts are made to include the use of web-based sources as an integrated part of the teaching.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

Students can choose between the following forms of examination:

- an oral synopsis exam. A synopsis is understood as a minimum of two pages forming the basis of an oral presentation and a discussion with the examiners. The synopsis must be approved by the lecturer and submitted by the end of the course at the latest.

Examination form: Oral synopsis exam

Synopsis:

Length: Minimum 2 pages

Contribution from more than one student: No

Oral exam:

Duration of exam per student: 30 minutes including moderation

Preparation: no preparation

Moderator: external

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

– a home assignment

Examination form: Written home assignment

Length per student: Maximum 15 pages

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max. 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Moderator: External

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

§ 20. Special study areas – elective courses

a. Duration of the course

3 classes per week in the second semester and 6 classes per week in six and a half weeks in November and December in third semester.

Weighting: 10 ECTS for each area

b. Aims

The aim of the course is that students should be able to demonstrate relevant knowledge about and a confident command of the theoretical aspects of the phenomena that are covered on the course. Students should be able to demonstrate particular understanding of a selected theme or a selected geographical area in the Middle East. Furthermore students should provide documentation for their understanding of relevant research strategies in research on this particular theme or geographical area.

c. Course content

The aim of the two special study areas is *either* to make a selected geographical area – such as Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran or the Gulf States – the object of an indepth interdisciplinary study that allows methods and academic techniques in, for example, history, political science, economics and comparative religion to be used in relation to the same country of geographical region, *or* to elucidate a

given theme. Examples of the latter might be: The media in the Middle East, Al-Qaida and Islamic terrorism, educational conditions and policy in the Middle East, secular and religious Zionism, the significance of the Holocaust in Israeli and European thinking, Euro-Islam etc.

d. Form of teaching

Lectures, workshops with student presentations, individual supervision. In addition the aim is to make an excursion to the region. Informational media such as websites, film, TV and radio and local English-language newspapers are expected to be employed when they represent input relevant to the subject. A requirement for the course is that students participate actively and undertake extensive reading outside the class.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

Students can choose between the following forms of examination:

- an oral synopsis exam. A synopsis is understood as a minimum of two pages forming the basis of an oral presentation and a discussion with the examiners. The synopsis must be approved by the lecturer and submitted by the end of the course at the latest.

Examination form: Oral synopsis exam

Synopsis:

Length: Minimum 2 pages

Contribution from more than one student: No

Oral exam:

Duration of exam per student: 30 minutes including moderation

Preparation: no preparation

Aids: All

Moderator: internal

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

– a home assignment

Examination form: Written home assignment

Length per student: Maximum 15 pages

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max. 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Moderator: internal

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

§ 21. History of research on the Middle East

a. Duration of the course

6 classes per week in six and a half weeks in November and December in third semester

Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

At the end of the course students should be able to present an overview of the history of research on the Middle East with special emphasis on the period after 1900. Students should be able to demonstrate understanding of and independently analyse a variety of analytical strategies, academics traditions and ideologies that have had significance both for the subject and for an understanding of the Middle East.

c. Course content

Teaching takes its starting point in issues relating to phenomena such as orientalism, Occidentalism, modernity, traditionality, development, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism and post-colonialism. Teaching will be based on selected texts that illuminate various approaches to the study of the Middle East in recent times or that are of central signifi-

cance to the dialogue between Europe and the Middle East. These texts can be political, philosophical or literary in nature.

d. Form of teaching

Lectures alternating with presentations from the students, workshops and individual supervision in conjunction with the writing of assignments. Attempts are made to include web-based sources as an integrated part of the teaching. At the examination students must be able to define and elucidate a given issue in the subject area.

e. Examination specifications

A fixed syllabus is submitted corresponding to subject matter covered by the teaching and extending to about 800 to 1000 pages.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

The exam is a one week home assignment based on a question worked out by the teacher

Examination form: Written home assignment

Length per student: Maximum 10 pages

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max. 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Moderator: Internal

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

§ 22. Work placement/project period

a. Duration of the course

See (c).

Weighting: 10 ECTS

b. Aims

At the conclusion of the project/placement period students should be in a position to work independently in the preparation and execution of project processes, making use of relevant theoretical and methodological elements taken from the M.A. degree course and should have theoretical considerations relating to the project process.

The student should be able independently to plan and manage activities for the employer (i.e. organization, company etc.), thus developing abilities of dealing with unfamiliar realities in the given context

c. Course content

The third semester of the course includes a work placement with a duration of approx. 3 months. It is recommended that the work placement take place in a company, an organisation or a political or administrative unit in the Middle East such as UNHCR, Danish representative bodies in the region, local ministries, NGO's, the media or educational institutions. In the event that a placement of this kind not being desirable in relation to the student's expected area of occupation, the requirement for a work placement can be fulfilled by organisations, companies etc. in Denmark, Europe or Scandinavia who work with issues of relevance to the Middle East, such as Dansk Flygtningehjælp (Danish Refugee Aid), local authority integration units, schools with a high percentage of students with a Middle Eastern background, companies operating in the Middle East etc. If any doubt arises as to the relevance of the placement the decision will be left to the Board of Studies of the Centre for Middle East Studies.

It is the responsibility of students themselves – in consultation with the centre – to find and organise the placement. This process will already get under way in the 2nd semester.

d. Form of teaching

See (c).

e. Examination specifications

None

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 2, the focus

in this subject being particularly on nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

The work placement concludes with a report of about 15 pages including supplementary material which can structurally be compared to a home assignment. The report is written on the basis of a question that has been approved by the supervisor/examiner and takes its point of departure in the work placement activities.

Examination form: Written report

Length per student: Maximum 15 pages

Moderator: Internal

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max. 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Assessment: 7-grade scale

Weighting: 10 ECTS

§ 23. MA-Thesis

a. Length of the MA-Thesis

The thesis is written in the 4th semester and concludes the degree course. Weighting: 30 ECTS

b. Aims

The thesis is the final examination on the M.A. degree course and should show that the student has acquired the competences described in § 2 of the present curriculum.

This means that the thesis should demonstrate the student's ability independently to address and account for a subject-related issue in an accessible manner. This involves students demonstrating their ability to define and solve a problem area and to employ the methods of the subject in a critical and independent way.

c. Content of the MA-Thesis

Students themselves choose the topic of their thesis, which is worked on under the supervision of a teacher from the Centre for Middle East Studies. The delimitation and formulation of the assignment are agreed between the student and the supervisor.

d. Form of the MA-Thesis

Once the topic for the thesis has been established, both the student and the supervisor sign a thesis contract with a deadline for submission of no more than 6 months. In conjunction with this a thesis statement is completed and handed in to the secretariat according to the rules locally applicable.

e. Examination specifications

In their thesis students should demonstrate that they have acquired an in-depth understanding of the issue or issues that the thesis addresses. The thesis should contain theoretical, methodological and presentational considerations at a high level and demonstrate an overview of relevant subject-related literature in the area.

f. Assessment criteria

Taking account of the form of examination and the level of the current semester, emphasis is placed on the degree to which the students' performance lives up to the described aims and the degree to which students have a command of the general skills outlined in § 1, the focus in this subject being particularly on nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14. Grades are given in relation to the degree to which target aims are satisfied, as described in the provisions of the grading scale system.

g. Examination requirements

Examination form: MA-Thesis

Length per student, thesis: 60-100 pages.

Length per student, summary: 1-2 pages.

Contribution from more than one student: Yes. Max. 3 students. The contribution of each individual student must be identifiable.

Language: As a rule in English

Language of summary: English.

Moderator: External

Assessment: 7-grade scale. The summary forms part of the total assessment of the thesis. The summary can, therefore, influence the grade positively or negatively.

Weighting: 30 ECTS

III. Coming into force and transitional provisions

This present curriculum has been developed in relation to provision no. 814 of 29th June 2010 regarding BA and postgraduate degrees at universities and applies to students matriculating on 1st September 2012 or thereafter.

Overgangsordning:

Curriculum 2010	Curriculum 2012
Introduction to History and Society of the Middle East	Introduction to History and Society of the Middle East
History of Research on the Middle East	History of Research on the Middle East
Mediterranean Perspectives	Mediterranean Perspectives
Culture and Religion in the Middle East	Culture and Religion in the Middle East
Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	Politics and International Politics in the Middle East
Special Study area 1	Special Study area
Special Study area 2	Special Study area
Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East	Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East
Work placement	Work placement

Approved with alterations by the Board of Studies for Middle East Studies
31 January 2012.

Approved by the dean of Faculty of Humanities 12 April 2012.

IV Common provisions for the Faculty of Humanities

You are referred to the Humanities Faculty homepage for an updated version:

www.sdu.dk/hum/faellesbestemmelser