

University of Southern Denmark, 1 September 2011:
Mediterranean Perspectives

Introduction: Presentation of the centre.
"Mediterranean Perspectives",
curriculum and study programme.
The teaching material. Means of communication.
The cooperation with University of Jordan.
Opening lecture

Associate Professor, PhD Peter Seeberg
Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies
University of Southern Denmark

110901 Peter Seeberg

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK.DK

Outline:

- Welcome to the Middle East programme, welcome to University of Southern Denmark and to the Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies
- The overall ideas behind the programme
- Presentation of the "Mediterranean Perspectives" curriculum and study programme
- The teaching material
- Means of communication etc.
- Opening lecture

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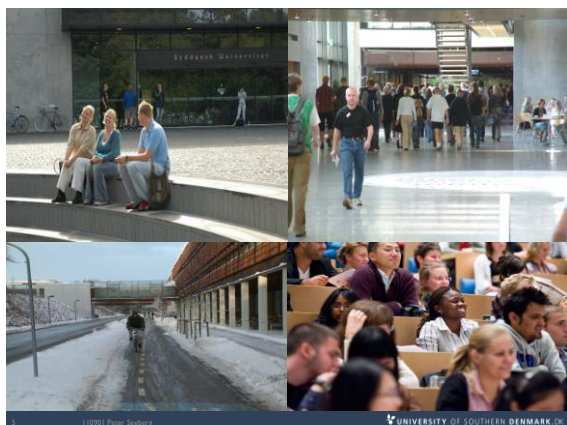


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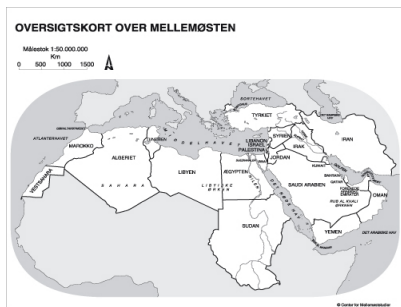


Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies?

- From our homepage:
- *...the centre has committed itself to engage into research in the relations and developments of the modern Middle East.... and Arab language with main emphasis upon communicative Arabic*
- *Furthermore, the Centre conducts research into Migration Studies and Mediterranean Studies*
- *Our research is conducted in cooperation with national as well as international scientific institutions in addition to being in close contact with institutions that utilize the results produced in the Centre so as to ensure its applicative dimensions (for instance the Ministry of Foreign Affairs...)*
- *...the center was established 1 September 1983!*

Our "definition" of the Middle East

- ...from Morocco to Iran
- ...from Turkey to Sudan



The Center, staff (2011):

- 2 Professors
- 6 Associate Professors
- 3 Assistant Professors
- 2 Fixed Term Lecturers
- 1 Assistant Lecturer
- 2 External Lecturers
- 1 Project Manager
- 4 Ph.D.-Students
- 2 Secretaries

The Centre, research...examples

- Relations between the EU and the Middle East
- Democracy promotion and authoritarianism in the Middle East
- Radical movements among Palestinians in the Middle East
- Saudi-Arabic opposition in exile
- Political Islam in Turkey
- American Foreign Policy in the Middle East
- Arabic as a Foreign Language
- "Living in Metropolis"
- Dubai as a 'developmental state'
- Recent developments in the GCC-states
- Travel literature and Orientalism...
- Radical Islamic groups in Denmark and England

The Centre, study programmes:

- Graduate program in Middle East Studies
- Bachelor program, Islam and Politics
- Middle East Studies, Open University
- Master Program: Globalization and Integration
- Immigration Studies, Open University

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The MA-programme: headlines from the Intro...

- ...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...
- Despite the Middle East forming part of the international world order, the region has its own specific historical, cultural and religious features.
- ...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....
- 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...

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Courses...

B. Course model and overview of examinations

§ 6. Course model – Distribution of teaching and examinations

Subject	Title of subject	Descr. f §	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.						
Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East	12	3				1.		X		10	IHKS	
History of research on the Middle East	13	3				1.		X		10	IHKS	
Mediterranean Perspectives	14	3				1.		X		10	IHKS	
Culture and Religion in the Middle East	15		3			2.		X		10	IHKS	
Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	16		3			2.		X		10	IHKS	
Special study area 1	17		3			2.	X			10	IHKS	
Special study area 2	17			3		3.	X			10	IHKS	
Economics and Natural Resources in the Middle East	18			3		3.		X		10	IHKS	
Work placement/ placement abroad	19			About 3 months		3.			X	10	IHKS	
Dissertation	20				X	4.				30	IHKS	

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Internship and dissertation

Internship/placement

- ...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

Dissertation

- the dissertation should show amongst other things 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...
- 60-100 pages, normally individual, external examination...

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Students – intake and perspectives

- The programme established in 2005
- Since then 25-30 students per year, slightly increasing tendency...
- Increasing part of the students from other European countries, recently also a minor number of students from outside of Europe...(in 2011: 8)
- The last three years 10 students from Jordan have taken part in the Mediterranean Perspectives, as part of the DJUCO-project
- Cooperation with Aarhus (not really developed yet...)
- Reforms on the way, in the first case with the exams, this year we are going through an accreditation process, which just started...
- Similar programme in Lund from 2008, different programmes in Aarhus and Copenhagen

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The overall ideas behind the programme in Middle East Studies and the course in Mediterranean Perspectives

- 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 – on an international academic level
- The course in Mediterranean Perspectives: See p. 11 in the curriculum
- 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
- The course focuses on a) the EU as an agent in foreign policy and b) the question of security in the region, c) European policies of partnership and neighbourliness, d) the Barcelona process and attempts to promote democracy and human rights in the Arab states and Turkey. Other aspects will be e) migratory movements from a Mediterranean perspective, f) the emergence and role of Islamist movements, and g) relations between the ruling elites and the opposition in states to the south and east of the Mediterranean.

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Mediterranean Perspectives – themes,
University of Southern Denmark, 1, 8 and 15 September

- 1 September: Introduction and opening lecture
- 8 September: Changing agendas in the Mediterranean Region and the Middle East. The European Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) – its history and perspectives
- 15 September: The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) – new perspectives on European foreign and security policy. Discourses on EU security and the Mediterranean



Mediterranean Perspectives – themes,
University of Southern Denmark, 3-14 October

- The 2008 Mediterranean Union. A re-launching of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership or new perspectives for Euro-Arab Relations?
- The authoritarian regimes of the Middle East and the Arab Spring
- Democracy in the Middle East vs. authoritarian resilience: Theoretical discussions and policy implications
- The EU, Jordan and Lebanon – case studies
- Turkey and the EU – the bumpy road towards membership of the EU
- AKP and the EU: towards a new Turkish foreign policy profile
- The EU, the US – NATO and the Gulf
- Migration, security and the Mediterranean cooperation



Mediterranean Perspectives – themes,
University of Southern Denmark, 10 and 17 November

- The EU, the Maghreb and the Arab Spring
- Recent developments. Conclusions & closing remarks

• January 2012: Exams at University of Southern Denmark



The teaching material

• Peter Seeberg (ed., 2007): *EU and the Mediterranean. Foreign Policy and Security*. Odense, University Press of Southern Denmark

- Compendium: Mediterranean Perspectives
- The lectures
- Students presentations
- Supplementary material

Means of communication

- The seminars
- Study groups in between the seminars – highly recommended
- The e-learning platform (Blackboard) – all material, powerpoint-slides etc. will be available there
- Student presentations – slides and supplementary material
- Mail, telephone – don't hesitate if in doubt about anything
- Lone: 6550 2183; Pia 6550 2177; Linda: mefa@hist.sdu.dk











The history of Europe – concept and reality.....

- After the Fall of the Roman Empire a transition of Europe took place, where local centres were established
- The formation of Europe gradually took place (in a sense it is still ongoing) – and the building stones were:
 - and intolerant and excluding, yet incoherent Christianity
 - invasions and conflicts – establishing the polycentric Europe
 - religious territories contributing to the Christian, yet divided continent
 - the Monks creating continuity and attention to time
 - a focus on the “other” – being first wandering tribes, then Byzantium and later the Islamic world
 - a ruralization and territorialization of Europe...
- later on the breakthrough of modern times – with the Renaissance, the printing revolution, the religious reforms by Luther and Calvin and the creation of the Protestant, hard-working (north-western) European individual

From European reconstruction to a Pan-European EU

- The history of European integration goes back to the period between the wars, but was stopped by the flood of fascism in Europe
- After World War II the most important problem was the contradictions between Germany and France
- The founding fathers of the EU, Jean Monnet & Robert Schumann, launched the idea of gradual integration based on “neutral” coal- and steel cooperation
- The US encouraged the reconstruction of Europe via the Marshall-plan, which of course is about exports to Europe, but also about the threat from the Red Army and the Communist Parties – we are back in the (coldest of the) Cold War period
- Important for European self-perception was also the gradual recognition of the UK and France as being second hand powers (obvious in 1956) – together with the obvious advantages of economic cooperation (single market, Euro etc.)
- The “ever closer union” was a reality in the minds of pro-Europeans from the launching of the treaty of Rome in 1957 – 54 years ago...



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