



Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Department of Cultural Sciences

4HI465 Migration och politik i Mellanöstern, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Perceptions and Politics of Migration, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

History

Subject Group

History

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Arts and Humanities 2013-06-11

The course syllabus is valid from spring semester 2014

Prerequisites

Bachelor of arts and humanities or the equivalent.

Objectives

On completion of the course the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- Describe concepts and theories essential for the study of migration and minority societies and analyse their relevance for the study of migration processes in and from the Middle East.
- Describe the history and ramifications of migration processes in and from the Middle East, with regard to development and emancipation, as well as and with regard to conflicts, segregation, exploitation, prejudice, gender and human rights issues.
- Identify and describe examples of the formulation of individual, collective, national as well as transnational narratives about Middle Eastern migration, displacement and diasporas in various contexts and channels

Skills and Abilities:

- Apply concepts and theories of migration studies to specific empirical examples of migration processes in the Middle East, as well to examples of minority formation and diasporic communities with roots in the region.
- Analyze the political function of narratives and memories of migration in the construction of current individual, collective and national identities and imaginations, and its relevance for and application in current political agenda and

programs as well as public debates.

- Plan, conduct and report an empirical study with relevance for migration related issues in the contemporary Middle East or among minority communities with background in the region.

Critical Judgment and Evaluation:

- Critically compare and evaluate processes of migration, displacement and diasporization in different settings in the Middle East and minority communities with background in the region.
- Evaluate and formulate informed comments and responses to the rhetoric about migration, displacement and diasporization in current debates on local, national and regional identity in the Middle East, as well as current debates on human rights, religion and gender in multicultural societies.

Content

This course invites students to explore the multifaceted histories and realities of migration, as well as the political power associated with perceptions and memories of migration and displacement, with a focus on past and present migration processes in and from the Middle Eastern region. The course combines individual, Internet based studies and lectures, with a unique opportunity to intensive campus studies, lectures, discussions and fieldwork at the University of Ben Gurion in the Negev (Israel) and the Swedish Institute of Theology in Jerusalem.

Background

Migration is an issue of global relevance, with profound effects on economy, social structures, national and international politics, culture and identity. Migration may be a powerful factor of emancipation, personal and communal development and creative cultural impact, but it is also interconnected with the global unequal distribution of wealth and opportunity, international conflicts and refugees, politics of displacement, exploitation of labor, trafficking, overpopulation, segregated communities, insecurity, prejudice and racism. Consequently, past and present migration processes are inscribed in personal, communal, and national historical narratives and memories in most diverse ways, ranging from historiographies of success, development and optimism to narratives of conflict, poverty, suffering and trauma. Such narratives are channeled in politics, as concerns political programs, reforms and public political debate, national education, celebration of national rituals, as well as in the news media. In identity political discourse world wide, narratives of migration thus function as powerful tools for claims to political legitimacy and mobilization as well as to oppression and contest, appealing to shared perceptions of real or imagined pasts of migration, displacement, diasporization or conquest.

The course is offered as a joint course in collaboration between Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University, School of Global Studies, Gothenburg University, Faculty of arts and humanities, Linneaus University and Center for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center, Yarmouk University.

Type of Instruction

The course is planned to be given during the Spring semester 2014, March 31 – 5 June. The comprises the following course segments:

- an individual, Internet based, preparation phase (about 4 weeks);
- an intensive period of field work, lectures, seminars and group discussions in Jerusalem and the Negev (about 2 weeks);
- a concluding period of individual assignment work and online presentations (about 4 weeks).

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

The course will use both the Swedish grading system and the international ECTS grading scale (A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail).

The course is examined based on active participation in Internet seminars, campus based lectures and discussions as well as field trips (30%), a written assignment (50%) and on Internet based comments on other's assignments (20%).

Course Evaluation

When the course has finished, an evaluation is compiled. The results are reported to the students and then archived according to the rules of the school.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Literature

Stephen Castles & Mark J. Miller, *The Age of Migration. International population movements in the modern world*, Palgrave mcmillan, London 2009. 312 p. ISBN 780230517844.

Peter Seeberg & Zaid Eyadat *Migration, Security and Citizenship in the Middle East*, Palgrave mcmillan, London 2013. 224 p. ISBN 9781137345400.

Nur Masalha, *The Politics of Denial. Israel and the Palestinian Refugee Problem*, Pluto Press London 2003. 304 p. ISBN 0-7453-2121-6.

Leilah Farsakh, *Palestinian Labour Migration to Israel. Labour, land and occupation*, Routledge, London 2012. 304 p. ISBN 0-415-65064-X.

Selected articles 300p.