

CURRICULUM 2007

Middle East Studies

THE GRADUATE PROGRAMME

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

ODENSE

WWW.SDU.DK

Introduction

The Middle East, defined as the area bounded by Morocco in the west, Iran in the east, Yemen in the south and Iraq and Turkey in the north, consists of a number of states and communities which are in a rapid cultural, political, religious, social and technological process of change due to the increased interaction with the rest of the world.

In this context the Middle East is an integrated part of the modern social order, and not least from a European point of view, the region constitutes an area of vital importance, politically and economically. This is reflected in the daily news flow from the region, and in the great interest invoked by the Middle Eastern peace process, the wars in the region, the Islamic movements, the development of oil prices, ethnic minority problems, the demographic development etc. This applies for both Europe and the international community, and there are no immediate indications to expect a change in the following: the Middle East is Europe's closest neighbour, and this relation will also in future be tied up with conflictuality on all levels.

Although the Middle East is part of the international world order, the region has its specific historical, cultural and religious characteristics. The region is for instance marked by the Arab-Islamic civilisation and by the desire to preserve or modernise this civilisation within the framework of the global society or in opposition to this. This signifies that we in the Middle East find a number of fragmentary and hybrid forms between the traditional culture and the cultural, economical and political modernity, which are increasingly setting the agenda.

These fragmentary and hybrid forms between a traditional and a modern culture pattern are also found within the large Middle Eastern populations in Europe. There are in total 15-20 million people of Middle Eastern background in Europe, which indicates that the Middle East no longer is solely localised to the region, but that Middle Eastern culture is becoming part of European culture as well. This process is far from finished, and on no account can it be claimed that this process has been unproblematic. On the contrary, the integration of Middle Eastern immigrants and refugees in the European states constitutes a significant complex of problems, which will also in future give rise to political, administrative and pedagogical

considerations. This applies both in relation to a targeted process of integration, and concerning e.g. the status of Islam, the establishment of Middle Eastern institutions etc.

The purpose of the graduate programme in Middle East Studies is to provide thorough knowledge of contemporary historical and political conditions of the Middle East. The student will acquire both historical overview of the Middle East and detailed insight into central issues of the shaping of the modern Middle East - issues which have contributed and will continue to contribute to form the Middle East, Middle East Studies, and the processes that will characterise the region and the research fields in the beginning of the 21st century.

The study programme will also focus on the Middle East involving issues concerning Mediterranean perspectives, cultural encounters, refugee problems and human rights issues and European and Danish integration. The study programme has its point of departure in a historical and political perspective but generally advances an interdisciplinary approach to Middle East Studies. This signifies that the region will be illustrated and analysed from various academic approaches.

The study programme has a prescribed period of two years of full-time study, but is designed to enable studying a few courses as independent modules that may become part of other study programmes or universities.

The study programme includes a placement in corporations, organisations or the like in the Middle East, or with connections to the Middle East.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Academic Section	
I. Regulations for the Graduate Programme in Middle East Studies	5
A. Aim and Prerequisites.....	5
§ 1. Description of Aim.....	5
§ 2. Competence and Job Opportunities	5
§ 3. The Structure of the Study Programme.....	7
§ 4. Admission Requirements.....	7
§ 5. The Master’s Degree.....	8
B. Course Model and Exam Survey	9
§ 6. Course Model – Distribution of Courses and Exams	9
§ 7. Exam Survey	10
C. Specific Definitions and Exam Regulations Concerning the Study Programme.....	11
§ 8. General Provisions	11
§ 9. Placement.....	11
§ 10. Access to Electronic Media at the Exam.....	12
§ 11. Project Oriented Instruction.....	12
§ 12. Arabic Introductory Course	13
II. Description of the Courses in the Graduate Programme	15
§ 13. Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East.....	15
§ 14. The Research History of the Middle East.....	16
§ 15. Mediterranean Perspectives	17
§ 16. Culture and Religion in the Middle East	18
§ 17. Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	19
§ 18. Thematic Study 1 & 2.....	20
(Open Courses. Thematic Study 1 is also an elective).....	20
§ 19. Arabic Course – Introductory (Open Course, elective).....	21

§ 20. Economy and Natural Resources in the Middle East....	22
§ 21. Placement	23
§ 22. Thesis	24
III. Effective Date and Interim Regulations	27
General Section	
IV. General Provisions	29

Academic Section

I. Regulations for the Graduate Programme in Middle East Studies

Pursuant to the ministerial order no. 338 of 6th May 2004 concerning undergraduate and graduate programmes at universities, the following graduate programme in Middle East Studies is offered.

A. Aim and Prerequisites

§ 1. Description of Aim

The duration of the graduate programme is two years of full-time study, corresponding to 120 ECTS. The purpose of the study programme is to provide the student with a fundamental knowledge of the social and cultural conditions of the modern Middle East. More specifically, the purpose is to qualify and enable the student to work independently, and from a safe methodological and analytical grounding deal with delimited historical, political, economical, cultural and religious issues in the region. The completion of the graduate programme qualifies the student to apply for the PhD programme.

§ 2. Competences and Job Opportunities

The purpose of the study programme is to impart qualifications to the students which will motivate them to seek jobs and work functions in the Middle East, and which will qualify them in connection to these, including jobs with Middle Eastern connections in a European or Danish context. It is, furthermore, the purpose to impart qualifications to the students which will qualify them in relation to the Danish, Scandinavian and European sector of integration. Therefore, it is expected that a large proportion of graduates after completion of the study programme will obtain employment

in private corporations, international organisations, interest organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or public institutions abroad, as well as there are good employment opportunities in a European and Danish context.

The graduate programme in Middle East Studies is designed with reference to fulfilling the objective of the Bologna Declaration, which call on the educational institutions within the EU to strengthen the competitiveness to the outside world concerning internationalisation.

The graduate programme in Middle East Studies is designed as a study programme of international standard. The study programme is offered in a Danish, Scandinavian and international context. Furthermore, the intent is that the skills and knowledge acquired by the students during the course of study are applicable in a communication context. This should be seen in continuation of the Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies' long-standing experience with commissioned assignments and external information activities for public and private corporations.

In connection with the establishment of the study programme, the requirement for a new graduate programme in Middle East studies has been surveyed. A variety of institutions, interest organisations, corporations and representations interested, for different purposes, in graduates with expertise in the modern Middle East, have given positive response to the relevance of the study programme. There is a growing employment market containing traditional academic positions in e.g. international organisations, as well as more unconventional positions in sales and marketing, or consultant positions in international or national NGOs.

Furthermore, placement opportunities for prospective students have been surveyed in order to enable the obligatory placement, and to ensure the international aspect of the study programme. In this connection, positive response about the relevance of the study programme have been received from international organisations, interest organisations, corporations, Danish humanitarian organisations, Danish representations in the Middle East, Danish institutions and ministries, NGOs, EU authorities, Danish municipalities, research centres in the Middle East and in European countries. Some of the courses are offered in English, and starting September 2007 this applies for the complete study programme. The intent is partly to raise the English qualifications of the students, and partly to strengthen their

motivation to manage work functions in the Middle East where English is the colloquial language.

The study programme includes an elective in Arabic. The purpose of the course is to provide the student with an introduction to Arabic, and to qualify the student to handling everyday situations while residing in the Middle East.

§ 3. The Structure of the Study Programme

The study programme is structured as a unified whole, but the specific arrangement enables the student to take parts of the study programme as single subjects. Therefore, the study programme is structured with reference to contributing with inputs of academic Middle Eastern relevance not only to other studies from Southern University of Denmark, but also from other Danish, Scandinavian or European universities.

The graduate programme includes “core courses” and “open courses”. “Core courses” are courses of which academic content is specified in the curriculum. “open courses” are courses which the Study Board can approve as supporting the academic profile, and/or can give the student opportunity to give the graduate programme a specific note. The Study Board assesses whether the course is constitutive by approval of the offered open courses of the semester.

The graduate programme in Middle East Studies comprises

- constitutive courses, which constitute 80 ECTS: Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East, the Research History of the Middle East, Mediterranean Perspectives, Culture and Religion in the Middle East, Politics and International Politics in the Middle East, Thematic Study 2, Economy and Natural Resources in the Middle East, and Placement
- of which core courses constitute 60 ECTS points, the open course 10 ECTS points and the placement 10 ECTS points
- the elective constitutes 10 ECTS, see § 18 and 19
- the thesis constitutes 30 ECTS
in total 120 ECTS

§ 4. Admission Requirements

The study programme is designed with reference to students holding a Bachelor’s degree in History, Ethnography, Geography, English, Religion, Media Studies, Journalism, Negot, Political Science or Philosophy.

To meet the admission criteria, it is required that the students in the undergraduate programme have acquired a fundamental introduction to the two main subject areas, in which you specialise during the graduate programme in Middle East Studies. These are:

A) History and social conditions (courses and subjects such as social conditions (including comparative description of society) historical analysis, international politics and international economics and also political science and political structures) and

B) Culture (courses and subjects such as history of civilisation, intercultural relations, culture analysis and also media and literature).

The students must have acquired as a minimum 60 ECTS (minimum 10 ECTS in each main subject area) in the two main subject areas. Part of the ECTS requirement can be met by including the aforementioned subjects in the BA project.

In accordance with this, Bachelor's degrees in History, English, Religion, French, Journalism, Negot and Philosophy qualify for admission to the graduate programme.

Bachelors of Media Studies and Political Science can be admitted under following prerequisites: Bachelors of Media Studies will be admitted if they have a relevant minor (and thereby meet the requirements), or for the single subject Bachelors in concern, if they have a themed subject and a BA project which meet the requirement of a minimum 10 ECTS within the main subject area History and social conditions. Bachelors in Political Science can be admitted if they have completed a culture related elective (7,5 ECTS), plus a relevant BA project, thus having minimum 10 ECTS in the Culture main subject area.

Students with other corresponding undergraduate programmes will be qualified for admission after an assesment from the Study Board, if they in the course of the undergraduate programme have met the requirements of minimum 60 ECTS in the two main subject areas, with a minimum of 10 ECTS in each of the main subject areas.

§ 5. The Master's Degree

A completion of the graduate programme in Middle East Studies entitles the student to the title of Master of Arts in Contemporary Middle East Studies.

B. Course Model and Exam Survey

§ 6. Course Model – Distribution of Courses and Exams

Courses		Distribution of courses (lessons per week)				Distribu- tion of exams	Open courses	Core courses	Placement /study abroad	ECTS weight	Institute
Course title	Cf. §	1. semester	2. semester	3. semester	4. semester	Semester					
Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East	13	3				1.		X		10	IHKS
The Research History of the Middle East	14	3				1.		X		10	IHKS
Mediterranean Perspectives	15	3				1.		X		10	IHKS
Culture and Religion in the Middle East	16		3			2.		X		10	IHKS
Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	17		3			2.		X		10	IHKS
Elective: a) Thematic Study 1	18		3			2	X			10	IHKS
b) Arabic Course – Introductory	19		3			2.	X				IHKS
Thematic Study 2	18			3		3.	X			10	IHKS
Economy and Natural Resources in the Middle East	20			3		3.		X		10	IHKS
Placement/study abroad	21			Ca. 3 months		3.			X	10	IHKS
Thesis	22				X					30	IHKS

§ 7. Exam Survey

Survey	Exam, references etc.					
Courses:	Exam form	Censorship	Exam duration	Marking	ECTS weight	Cf. §
Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	13
The Research History of the Middle East	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	14
Mediterranean Perspectives	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	15
Culture and Religion in the Middle East	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	16
Politics and International Politics in the Middle East	Oral exam or home assignment	External	30 min.	7-point scale	10	17
Elective: a) Thematic Study 1	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	18
b) Arabic Course – Introductory	Oral and written exam	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale		19
Thematic Study 2	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	18
Economy and Natural Resources in the Middle East	Oral exam or home assignment	Internal	30 min.	7-point scale	10	20
Placement	Written report / home assignment	Internal		7-point scale	10	21
Thesis	Master's thesis	External		7-point scale	30	22
ECTS in total:					120	

C. Specific Definitions and Exam Regulations Concerning the Programme

§ 8. General Provisions

In the General Provisions for the humanities programmes, cf. chapter IV in the curriculum, definitions of the following are provided

- ECTS (§ 26)
- Keystrokes (§ 28)
- Standard page (§ 27)

Furthermore, rules on the following have been stipulated

- Thesis (§ 16)
- Thesis summary (§17)
- Individual exams (§ 10)
- Internal and external exams (§ 6)
- Spelling and writing skills (§ 9)
- Examination language (§ 11)
- Web references in theses and other written home assignments (§ 18)
- Regulations for conduct of re-exams and make-up exams (§ 13)
- Regulations for study activity (§ 31)

The written assignments and thesis are covered by the set rule on spelling and writing skills, cf. General Provisions § 9. The programme is internationally oriented and all courses are taught in English. The language at the oral exams is English, the written assignments and thesis should be written in English. The Study Board can determine on application if the language in connection with the oral exams can be Danish and that the written assignments and/or thesis can be written in Danish.

§ 9. Placement

The graduate programme in Middle East Studies includes a placement, which is incorporated as an integrated part of the study programme.

The regulations on placements are as followed:

A placement of about three month's duration is incorporated in the 3rd semester of the study programme. It is recommended that the placement is held in a corporation, an organisation or a political or administrative unit in the Middle East e.g. UNHCR, the Danish representations in the region, local governments, NGOs, the media or institutions of higher education etc.

If a placement is unrequested in relation to the expected future occupation of the student, the requirement on placements can be offset by placements via organisations, corporations, etc. in Denmark, Europe or Scandinavia which are engaged in issues of Middle Eastern relevance. Possible placement providers could be e.g. Danish Refugee Council, integration units in local authorities, schools with a high percentile of students of Middle Eastern backgrounds, corporations working in the Middle East etc. The relevance of the placement provider will be determined by the Study Board.

It is the students' responsibility to find and organise the placement in concert with the supervising teacher. This process begins as early as the 2nd semester. A joint placement agreement will be drawn up between the Study Board, the student and the host. A placement supervisor in charge of academic supervision will be appointed by the Study Board among the academic staff of the centre. The application must clarify the academic content and the relevance it has for the objective of the study programme.

The placement supervisor must supervise the student to a fair extent (this will be determined by the Study Board) regarding the course of the placement. Normally the supervisor is also the examiner on the student's report or home assignment.

The student must by the close of the placement hand in a report to the Study Board of approximately 20 standard pages, inclusive of the appendix. The report must document that the academic content, which the student has referred to in his/her application, has been sufficient. The Study Board appoints an examiner to assess the report. The report will be assessed according to the 7-point scale.

§ 10. Access to Electronic Media at the Exam

On application to the Study Board, access can be permitted to electronic media, databases etc. of academic relevance to the course in question at the oral exam.

§ 11. Project Based Instruction

In this course the classroom instruction has been completely or partially converted to hours of supervision. A home assignment is drawn up during the course of supervision in accordance with the exam regulations of the course.

If a teacher wishes to organise a course as a project oriented course, he/she must prior to course commencement draw up a syllabus which accounts for the course. The Study Board will then determine after motion from the teacher, whether the course should be organised as a project based course.

At the commencement of supervision in a project based course, a draft of the project and the statement thesis are agreed upon individually between the supervisor and the student or students if the project is prepared in a group.

§ 12. Arabic Introductory Course

The graduate programme in Middle East Studies includes an introductory course in Arabic as an open elective course. The purpose of the course is to provide an introduction to skills such as fluency, listening, reading, and writing in Arabic through dialogues and exercises. The course is equivalent in both extent and content to the Open University Arabic introductory course.

It is the aim of the course to provide an introduction to spoken Arabic in the shape of Modern Standard Arabic, a central variant of spoken Arabic and also written Arabic (Modern Standard Arabic) as they appear in e.g. newspapers and magazines. The course must familiarise the students with Arabic script, pronunciation and basic sentence structures so they can manage basic situations of communication.

Students, who can document that they have otherwise acquired the level of language proficiency required for the exam, can be exempt from the exam on application with proper documentation to the Study Board.

II. Description of the Courses in the Graduate Programme

§ 13. Introduction to History and Society in the Middle East

a. Course Extent:

2 lessons per week and 1 double-lecture every two weeks during 1st semester.
Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. Aim and Content of the Course:

The aim is to provide the student with a methodical overview of the history of the modern Middle East. Focus will be on the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the decolonisation of the region, modern Arab states, the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts and Arab nationalism.

In addition the student will attend a series of lectures that deal with specified subjects every two weeks. There will be 6 lectures by different lecturers from the Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies highlighting recent research areas at the Centre.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

Lectures alternating with individual supervision in connection with any written assignments. It is pursued that the application of relevant web-based sources is included as an integral part of the course.

d. Exam Requirements:

At the exam the student must be able to delimit and expound a given problem within the field of the course. The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 800-1000 pages.

e. Exam Regulations:

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:

– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to prepare an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7- point scale

– a home assignment
Number of pages per student: 15 pages
Censorship: internal
Marking: 7- point scale

§ 14. The Research History of the Middle East

a. **Course Extent:**

3 lessons per week during 1st semester.
Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. **Aim and Content of the Course:**

The aim of the course is to provide the student with an overview of the research history of the Middle East. The course takes its point of departure in problems related to concepts such as Orientalism, Occidentalism, modernity, traditionalism, development, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, and post-colonialism. The course will be based on selected texts which expound different approaches to the study of the Middle East in modern times, or which are of significant importance to the European-Middle Eastern dialogue. These texts can be of political, philosophical or literary nature.

c. **Teaching and Work Methods:**

The teaching consists of lectures and discussions based on text readings.

d. **Exam Requirements:**

At the exam the student must demonstrate an overview of the history of Middle Eastern Research History as well as the ability to discuss various theoretical and methodological problems in relation to the study of the Middle East. The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 800-1000 pages.

e. **Exam Regulations:**

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:

– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to organise an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

– a home assignment
Number of pages per student: 20 pages
Censorship: internal
Marking: 7-point scale

§ 15. Mediterranean Perspectives

a. **Course Extent:**

3 lessons per week during 1st semester.
Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. **Aim and Content of the Course:**

The aim is to provide the student with a profound understanding of the relations between Europe and the Middle East, current transformations in the Mediterranean region and the discussions about Mediterranean identity. The course will focus on EU as a foreign policy actor and the question of security in the region, European partnership- and neighbourhood-policies, the Barcelona-process and the attempts of promoting democracy and human rights in the Arab states and Turkey. Other aspects will be migration movements in a Mediterranean perspective, the rise of Islamist movements and the relations between governing elites and opposition in the states south and east of the Mediterranean.

c. **Teaching and Work Methods:**

Lectures alternating with student presentations, workshops and individual supervision in connection with any written assignments. It is pursued that the application of relevant web-based sources is included as an integral part of the course.

d. **Exam Requirements:**

At the exam the student must document a thorough knowledge of the problems discussed in the course. Emphasis will be on a methodical overview and an independent command of the material. The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 800-1000 pages.

e. **Exam Regulations:**

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:
– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to prepare an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: internal
Marking: 7-point scale

– a home assignment
Number of pages per student: 20 pages
Censorship: internal
Marking: 7-point scale

§16. Culture and Religion in the Middle East

a. Course Extent:

3 lessons per week during 2nd semester.
Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. Aim and Content of the Course:

The course aims at providing the student with a methodical overview of relevant cultural, religious and anthropological problems in connection with the modern Middle East. More specifically, the course aims at providing the student with culture analytical knowledge and competence, which enable the student to understand cultural and religious relations in the Middle East in their historical context, and in relation to the ongoing modernisation and globalisation process. The course will likewise expound the Middle Eastern Diaspora cultures in Denmark and Europe – including the status and importance of Islam in a Danish and European context.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

Lectures alternating with student presentations, workshops and individual supervision in connection with any written assignments. It is pursued that the application of relevant web-based sources is included as an integral part of the course.

d. Exam Requirements:

At the exam the student must be able to delimit and expound a given problem within the field of the course. The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 800-1000 pages.

e. Exam Regulations:

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:

– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to prepare an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes
Exam aids: all aids allowed
Censorship: internal
Marking: 7-point scale

– a home assignment
Number of pages per student: 20 pages
Censorship: internal
Marking: 7-point scale

§ 17. Politics and International Politics in the Middle East

a. **Course Extent:**

3 lessons per week during 2nd semester.
Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. **Aim and Content of the Course:**

The aim of the course is to provide the student with an overview of the political progress in the individual countries and in the region as a whole. Focus will be on forms of government, the creation of a nation and an identity, media relations, civilian societies etc. Furthermore, the course will provide an overview of the politics of the Great Powers in the region, the Palestine conflict, security policy, terror, processes of democracy, the importance of political Islam etc.

c. **Teaching and Work Methods:**

Lectures alternating with student presentations, workshops and individual supervision in connection with any written assignments. It is pursued that the application of relevant web-based sources is included as an integral part of the course.

d. **Exam Regulations:**

At the exam the student must be able to delimit and expound a given problem within the field of the course.

The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 800-1000 pages.

e. **Exam Regulations:**

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:

– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to prepare an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: external

Marking: 7-point scale

– a home assignment

Number of pages per student: 20 pages

Censorship: external

Marking: 7-point scale

§ 18. Thematic Study 1 & 2 – Open Courses

(Thematic Study 1 is also an elective)

a. Course Extent:

3 lessons per week during 2nd semester (Thematic Study 1) and during 3rd semester (Thematic Study 2).

Weight: 10 ECTS for each study.

b. Aim and Content of the Course:

The aim of the two optional courses is *either* to make a chosen geographical area such as Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Gulf states etc. the object for a thorough interdisciplinary study, so that methods and academic tools in e.g. History, Political Science, Economics and Religious Studies are applied in relation to the same country or geographic area, *or* to expound a given topic. As an example thereof, possible topics are e.g. Middle Eastern media, Al-Qaida and Islamic terrorism, educational conditions and politics in the Middle East, secular and religious Zionism, the importance of Holocaust in Israeli and European thought, Euro-Islam etc.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

Lectures, workshops including student presentations, individual supervision. The involvement of knowledge disseminating media such as web-sites, films, TV and radio and local English-language newspapers will be pursued, when they are of academic relevance. The course requires active student participation and comprehensive reading outside classes.

d. Exam Requirements:

At the exam the student must document a thorough knowledge of the problems discussed in the optional course. Emphasis will be on a methodical overview and an independent command of the material. The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 1000 pages for each study.

e. Examination Regulations:

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:

– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to organise an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions..

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

– a home assignment

Number of pages per student: 15 pages

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

§ 19. Arabic Course – Introductory (elective)

a. Course Extent:

Three lessons per week during the 2nd semester.

Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. Aim and Content of the Course:

The purpose of the course is to offer, through dialogue situations and exercises, an introductory Arabic course which includes an introduction to Arabic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.

The aim of the course is to give an introduction to spoken Arabic in the shape of a central variant of spoken Arabic and also to written Arabic (modern standard Arabic) as they appear in e.g. newspapers and magazines. The course must familiarise the students with Arabic script, pronunciation and basic sentence structures in order for them to manage basic communication situations.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

The speaking and listening skill of the student will be practised through dialogues, role playing, simulations, and listening exercises, while reading and writing skills will be practised through reading and writing exercises, dictation, cloze-tests etc.

d. Exam Requirements:

An ability to understand and answer everyday questions (introduction, asking for directions, etc.) and also to read and write basic sentences.

e. Exam Regulations:

The student will be tested in both the oral and written proficiency with a focus on communicative abilities. The oral exam will be in the shape of a basic dialogue involving questions and answers to situations which have been covered in class. Likewise, the student will be tested in written language proficiency in the shape of a reading and writing exercise. One grade is given in which the oral and written parts are of equal weight.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

Students who can document that they have otherwise acquired the level of language proficiency required for the exam can be exempt from the exam on application, with proper documentation, to the Study Board. In cases of doubt a specially organised exam can be conducted.

f. Further Studies:

If the student chooses to study Arabic Language Proficiency 1 at the open university, Cand. Negot., or BA in Arabic and Communication after passing the introductory Arabic course, it will be possible to obtain a reduction in the course requirements, corresponding to the level obtained in the introductory course. In order to obtain the reduction, the student will have to apply to the study board.

§ 20. Economy and Natural Resources in the Middle East

a. Course Extent:

3 lessons per week during 3rd semester.

Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. Aim and Content of the Course:

The aim of the course is to provide the student with profound knowledge of the economic and societal process of development in the individual countries, and in the Middle East as a whole. Subjects such as geography, population growth, oil, water and other resources, international commerce, globalisation, industrialisation, agriculture, the building of a health sector and the recent effort of building a media infrastructure, will be analysed and discussed.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

Lectures alternating with student presentations, workshops and individual supervision in connection with any written assignments. It is pursued that the application of relevant web-based sources is included as an integral part of the course.

d. Exam Requirements:

At the exam the student must be able to delimit and expound a given problem within the field of the course. The syllabus is fixed and corresponds to course covered material of approximately 1000 pages.

e. Exam Regulations:

The student can choose between the following forms of examination:

– an oral exam

The student has 30 minutes preparation time to prepare an oral presentation based on a question given by the examiner. The examination takes the presentation of the student as point of departure, followed by a discussion during which the examiner asks elaborative questions.

Duration per student: 30 minutes including marking

Preparation: 30 minutes

Exam aids: all aids allowed

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

– a home assignment

Number of pages per student: 15 pages

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

§ 21. Placement

a. Course Extent:

cf. section b.

Weight: 10 ECTS.

b. Aim and Content of the Course:

A placement of about three month's duration is incorporated within the 3rd semester of the study programme. It is recommended, that the placement is held in a corporation, an organisation or in a political or administrative unit in the Middle East e.g. UNHCR, the Danish representations in the region, local governments, NGOs, the media or institutions of higher education etc. If a placement is unrequested in relation to the expected future occupation of the student, the requirement on placements can be offset by placements via organisations, corporations, etc. in Denmark, Europe or Scandinavia, which are engaged in issues of Middle Eastern relevance. Possible placement providers could be e.g. Danish Refugee Council, integration units in local authorities, schools with a high percentile of students of Middle Eastern backgrounds, corporations working in the Middle East etc. The relevance of the placement provider will be determined by the Study Board.

It is the students' responsibility to find and organise the placement in concert with the centre. This process begins as early as the 2nd semester.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

cf. section b.

d. Exam Requirements:

At the exam the student must demonstrate that he/she has derived profit of academic relevance from the placement. The student must be able to discuss theoretical, as well as methodological problems in connection with the work performed. The material for the exam consists partly of relevant background material in connection with the placement and partly of collected material from the period of placement.

e. Exam Regulations:

The placement is concluded with a report of approximately 20 pages, inclusive of the appendix, which in structure resembles a home assignment. The report is prepared on the basis of a problem formulation approved by the teacher.

Number of pages per student: 20 pages

Censorship: internal

Marking: 7-point scale

§ 22. Thesis

a. Thesis Extent:

The thesis is written in the 4th semester and concludes the study programme
Weight: 30 ECTS.

b. Aim, Content and Extent of the Thesis:

The thesis must reflect the student's ability to independently account for an academic problem in a comprehensible manner. The student must demonstrate skills in delimiting and solving a problem by the individual and critical application of the methods of the study programme.

c. Teaching and Work Methods:

The student chooses the topic of the thesis which is prepared under supervision of a member of the academic staff from the Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies. The delimitation of the topic and assignment is agreed upon between the student and the supervisor, who both sign a thesis contract. The Study Board will subsequently set a deadline for submission not exceeding six months. In this connection a thesis declaration is signed and handed in at the secretariat. If the thesis is not submitted before the set deadline expires it is considered fail-

ed. The Study Board can under special circumstances and on application grant exemption from the deadline.

d. Exam Requirements:

The student must demonstrate that he/she has obtained a profound knowledge of the problem(s) treated in the thesis. The thesis must contain reflections on methodology, theory and argumentation of a high standard and demonstrate an overview of the relevant academic literature within the topic.

e. Exam Regulations:

Form of examination: MA-thesis. The thesis is written in English with a short summary in Danish. The thesis can be written in Danish on application to the Study Board.

Number of pages per student: 60-100 pages

Number of pages, summary: 1-2 pages

Censorship: external

Marking: 7-point scale. The summary is seen as part of the overall assessment of the thesis. The summary can as such influence the grade.

Weight: 30 ECTS

III. Effective Date and Interim Regulations

This curriculum has been prepared on the basis of the Ministerial Order No. 338 of 6 May 2004 concerning undergraduate and graduate programmes at the universities and is effective for students enrolled as on 1 September or later.

Approved by the Study Board for Center for Contemporary Middle East Studies,
December 5th 2006.

Approved by the dean of the Faculty of Humanities February 13th 2007.

General Section

IV. General Provisions for the Humanistic programmes at University of Southern Denmark

(For curricula effective as on 1 September 2005)

Are located on the homepage of the Faculty Secretariat, Main menu/Documents/Rules on the following web-address:

<http://www.humaniora.sdu.dk/typo/index/.php?id=386>

A printed version can be obtained on application to the secretary for the Teaching and Education Committee:

Else Jensen, Tel.: 6550 2079, e-mail: else@humsek.sdu.dk

Revised by the Teaching and Education Committee 8 March 2005