

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 251

History of the Middle East

Prerequisites

None

Course Description

Surveys intellectual, cultural, social, economic and religious patterns in the civilizations of the Middle East. Covers Semitic, Indo-European, and Turkic-speaking peoples from pre-Islamic to the present. Part I of II.

This course is an introduction to the history and civilization of the modern Middle East (West Asia - North Africa). This course begins as a survey of early history of the region, commencing with the origins of Islam. The course reviews the pre-modern empires of the region, their subsequent collapse; then renaissance of the 19th and 20th centuries and move toward independence. The course examines the newly emergent "Islamist" and Pan-Arabism" ideologies of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Students will analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in pre-modern world civilizations.

Students will be introduced to useful skills for historical analysis and interpretation. Students will strengthen skills in interdisciplinary studies and global awareness.

Semester Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Cleveland, William L. A History of the Modern Middle East, 5th Edition. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0813348339

Other Required Materials:

External links as provided by Instructor.

Course Outcomes

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Identify Middle Eastern region and nation states on political maps, as well as, physical maps
- Students will have a basic understanding the chronology and historical time periods studied, as well as are able to consider and analyze the past in a variety of methodologies and make relevance to the present events regionally and globally.

Topical Description

1	Geography of the Middle East
2	The Islamic Background The Emergence of "Islamic" Civilizations The origins of Islam
3	The Imperial Safavid The development of the Ottoman Empire
4	Contributions of Muhammad Ali and Mahmud II Ottoman Reforms - Egyptian and Iranian Reforms Reforms in the Central Arab World-Constitutional Solutions Iran and Turkey
5	Involvement of European imperialism in the Middle East at the end of the 19th and early 20th centuries
6	The involvement of Great Britain in the areas of Egypt, Iran, and Transjordan from the end of WWI to the end of WWII
7	The currents of regionalism, Pan-Arab Nationalism, and Islamic solidarity as represented in Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia from WWI to the end of WWII
8	Reasons and actions of American foreign policy in Turkey and Iran post WWII to the 1970's
9	Egypt and Lebanon in the 1970's and 80's
10	The Islamic Revolution in Iran
11	The Gulf Wars
12	Challenges to New "Islamism" and Change

Notes to Instructors

None