

COURSE OUTLINE

ARAB-220

Cultures of the Middle East

3 Semester Credits

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course is an introduction to the culture and society of the Middle East. Students will study the geography and history of the Middle East and Northern Africa as they apply to the development of various cultures, attitudes, and beliefs. They will compare and contrast various institutions, both governmental and social, among the countries of these regions. Students will also look at the expression of the culture through art, music, food, dress, and literature. Taught in English; this course does not fulfill the world languages sequence requirement. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as ANTH-220.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Define the Middle East and the Arab World.
2. Identify the effects of climate and geography on the culture and people of the region.
3. Delineate the broad scope of history focusing on life changing events.
4. Analyze the impact of religion on the people and institutions of the region.
5. Recognize the main ethnic divisions and groups of the region.
6. Demonstrate and understanding of the ancient traditions, values and folklore as they exist today in the Modern world.
7. Understand the social structures, such as tribe, extended family, and nuclear family.
8. Learn how the economy is embedded in the society (reciprocity and redistribution).

Major Topics

- I. What is the Middle East?
- II. The history of the Middle East.
- III. The human and cultural geography of the Middle East.
- IV. Major religions of the region and their relationship.
- V. Expression of values, beliefs and traditions through art, literature, and culture.
- VI. Communal and ethnic identities: the role of tribalism, leadership and power.
- VII. The Economy of the Middle East: the role of oil and agriculture.

Course Requirements

The final grade for ARAB-220 will be determined by the individual instructor but may include formal writing assignments, an oral presentation, quizzes, a mid-term, and a comprehensive final exam.

Other Course Information

This course is an Interdisciplinary and Emerging Issues core course, a Humanities elective, a Social Sciences elective, and an Arts and Sciences elective.