

**COURSE OURLINE**  
**ENGL-214**  
**Middle Eastern Literature**  
**3 Credits**

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Description**

Middle Eastern Literature in English translation will examine major works by Arab and Arab-American writers from the advent of World War II to the present. The course will introduce students to major Middle East literary topics and themes, most notably from those countries that felt the greatest impact of Western influence, signaling a change in literary technique and theme: Egypt, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran and Iraq. Genres studied will include the novel, the short story, poetry and historical nonfiction necessary for understanding the broad social, cultural and political changes wrought by Western presence, including the changing roles of women in Arab/Islamic culture. The course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

**Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning**

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. Recognize literary terms, concepts, critical strategies and stylistic characters in the texts studied.
2. Demonstrate critical and independent thinking in the interpretation of texts.
3. Write analytically about literary works, using appropriate research and documentation.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of ways the literature studied reflects its intellectual, social, historical and multicultural contexts.
5. Evaluate the power of literature to address values and goals and to challenge human endeavors.
6. Identify examples of and explain the significance of indigenous Middle East cultures responding to Western colonialism.

**Major Topics**

- I. Indigenous literature.
- II. Literature of Western Colonialism.
- III. Literature of War: World War II, Arab/Israeli conflict, Iraq War.
- IV. Literature of Middle East cultural values: family, religion and gender.
- V. Arabic Fiction and Poetry from World War II to the present.

**Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but may include exams, essays and class participation. Specific writing assignments will require at least 2,500 words of formal writing exhibiting college writing standards, as well as informal, in-class assignments to explore ideas and respond to class materials and discussion.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is a Literature and Humanities core course and an Arts and Sciences elective.