

COURSE OUTLINE

HIST 209

History of the Middle East

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

The student will be able to describe the historical development of the Near East from the earliest major civilizations through the twentieth century. This will include the spread of the Roman Empire and Christianity, the rise and spread of Islam, the impact of the Ottoman Empire, the division of the “Middle East” following World War I, and current religious, political, and international challenges of the area. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

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.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Identify the major geographic and climatological features of the Near East
2. Describe the general area that is identified as the Near East or Middle East
3. Summarize the sequence and characteristics of the major civilizations of the ancient Near East
4. Explain the impact of the Greeks and Romans on the History of the Near East
5. Explain the range and spread of Judeo-Christian culture in the Near East
6. Describe the advent and spread of Islam in the Near East and Arabia's role
7. Explain the impact of Arabic culture on the Near East
8. Analyze and evaluate the impact of the Crusades and the Mongolian invasion on the Near East
9. Identify and analyze the growth and spread of the Ottoman Empire
10. Explain Europe's interests in the Near East in the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century
11. Analyze the impact of World War I on the Near East and the subsequent partition of the Near East by European powers
12. Illustrate the status and events in the Near East post-World War II
13. Summarize the difference of Islamic vs. secular governments in the present day Near East
14. Analyze the historical influences that yield today's problems and challenges in the Near East
15. Deliver a formal presentation in class on an assigned topic relevant to the subject
16. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his/her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
17. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand. This will include diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pace, pitch, and volume.
18. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message.
19. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
20. Demonstrate the ability to communicate using appropriate language.

Major Topics

- I. Geography and climate of Near East
- II. Ancient Mesopotamia
- III. Early Empires of the Near East
- IV. Jewish and Christian Traditions
- V. Greek and Roman Invasions
- VI. Birth of Islam and Islamic Conquest
- VII. Crusades and Mongolian Invasion
- VIII. Ottoman Empire
- IX. European Imperialism
- X. Modern Middle East
 - a. Early twentieth century
 - b. Late twentieth and twenty- first centuries

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but may include exams, quizzes, written assignments, research papers, and class participation. Specific writing assignments (including research papers) will require at least 2,500 words of formal academic writing. In-class participation will explore historical theories, ideas, and current perspectives. Research assignments will focus heavily on historical analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Social and Behavioral Science Core course and a History Core course.