

Department: History

Course No: 205

Credits: 3

Title: The Modern Middle East from 1700 to the Present

Contact: Nancy Shoemaker

ContentArea: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Diversity: CA4 International

Catalog Copy: 205. The Modern Middle East from 1700 to the Present Second semester. Three credits. Open to sophomores or higher. Azimi Tradition, change, modernization and development in the Middle East from the Ottoman decline and rise of successor states to the Arab-Israeli and oil crises.

Course Information: a-The course will explore the major developments in the Middle East from the late 1700s to the present day. b-The course involves a mid term and a final exam both consisting of essays. Weekly readings from assigned texts will be explained and discussed . Also students are required to write a paper normally consisting of a critical reading of an assigned book. c- The course will cover domestic responses to the challenge of Europe, the dislocation of traditional society, the rise of the intelligentsia, Anglo-French supremacy, the emergence of nationalism, the crisis of constitutionalism and liberal politics, the consolidation of states, the appeal of radical ideologies, the revival of Islam, as well as conflict and war in the area. The course will also deal with the configuration of civil society, education and culture, ethnicity and gender, urbanization, and social stratification.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: Goals 2, 3, 4, and 6 are integral to this course. By providing a vista into the history of an important and often misunderstood and misrepresented part of the world, the course widens the students' intellectual horizons, sharpens their critical ability in discerning misrepresentation, and helps them to become more aware of, morally sensitive to, and appreciative of human diversity.

CA1 Criteria: This course aims to help students enhance the breadth of their historical knowledge, acquire greater analytical skills, and a critical cast of mind. The students are, for instance, encouraged to probe critically how the popular media represent historical reality, cultural sensibilities as well as current affairs.

CA4 Criteria: This course seeks to enable students to acquire greater understanding of the diversity of human experience, culture and values. It also emphasizes that despite socio-cultural diversity, people inhabit the same universe and have more in common than is often assumed. The course also increases students' awareness of global socio-political, economic and cultural power relations.

Role of Grad Students: graduate assistants would help with the grading and be supervised by the instructor.

Supplemental Information: Revisions to History 205 (History of the Modern Middle East).

Specific Criteria Diversity/Multiculturalism outside of the United States (International)

-This course seeks to enable students to acquire, through the study of the modern Middle East, a greater understanding of the diversity of human experience, culture and values. It deals with issues of class, gender and ethnic identities, and the manner in which such issues and the notions of diversity and plurality have been handled in everyday life and have also been conceptualized. The course emphasizes that the Middle East is a mosaic of diverse religious, ethnic, linguistic and cultural groups which have cohabited over the centuries. Rather than being a monolithic religion, frozen in time as Orientalists wanted us to believe, Islam, both as a religion and as a civilization, has been multicultural from the outset. The students are thus given the opportunity to learn about and reflect on the diversity and complexity of cultures which are often treated in this country in a deeply reductionist manner. At the same time the course emphasizes that despite socio-cultural diversity, people inhabit the same universe and have more in common than is often assumed. The course also seeks to increase the students' awareness of global socio-political, economic and cultural power relations. The lectures, class discussions, reading assignments, quizzes, essay assignments and the audio-visual materials used are intended to achieve the above mentioned objectives, particularly the historically rooted and interrelated complexity and diversity of socio-cultural experiences of the peoples of the Middle East.