

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**HISTORY 148 – THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST**

3 hours lecture, 3 units

**Catalog Description**

A historical survey exploring the history of the modern Middle East. The course includes background material on the origin and spread of Islam, Islamic dynasties and civilizations. Major emphasis on the Ottoman Empire, the colonial era, rise of 20th century independent nation-states, creation of Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict, 20th and 21st-century wars and conflicts, famous political/religious leaders, intellectual/scientific accomplishments, and artistic/literary works.

**Prerequisite**

None

**Course Content**

Within the broad historical sweep of Modern Middle Eastern History, analysis of the following major topics and sub-areas may include but are not limited to:

- 1) Islamic Civilization and Empire (600-1453)
  - a. Life of Muhammad
  - b. Bedouin Arabs
  - c. Mecca/Medina
  - d. Abu Bakr
  - e. Umayyad Dynasty
  - f. Abbasid Dynasty/Baghdad
  - g. Harun al-Rashid
  - h. Seljuk Turks/Saladin
  - i. Fatimid Caliphate
  - j. Samanid Dynasty
  - k. Timurid Empire
  - l. Hulagu/Tamerlane
- 2) Ottoman Empire (1260-1922)
  - a. Osman and Early Ottoman sultans
  - b. Siege of Constantinople (1453)
  - c. Suleiman the Magnificent
  - d. Selim I
  - e. Janissaries
  - f. vizier/pashas
  - g. Mameluke Dynasty (Egypt)
  - h. Tulip Period (18th Century)
  - i. British control of Egypt (19th and 20th centuries)
  - j. Ottoman Empire and First World War
  - k. T.E. Lawrence/Gertrude Bell
  - l. Armenian Genocide
  - m. European Mandate System
- 3) Persian/Iranian History (7th century to Present)
  - a. Sassanid Dynasty
  - b. Safavid Empire/Isfahan
  - c. Abbas the Great

- d. Qajar Dynasty
  - e. Pahlavi Dynasty
  - f. Reza Khan/Mohammad Reza Pahlavi
  - g. Iranian Revolution (1979) and the birth of the Islamic Republic
  - h. Ayatollah Khomeini
  - i. Iranian Hostage Crisis
  - j. Iran-Contra Affair
  - k. Mohammad Khatami
  - l. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- 4) History of Israel/Arab-Israeli Conflict
- a. Theodore Herzl/Zionism
  - b. Balfour Declaration
  - c. Arab League
  - d. David Ben-Gurion
  - e. Palestinian Liberation Organization
  - f. Yasser Arafat
  - g. West Bank/Gaza Strip
  - h. Moshe Dayan
  - i. Golda Meir/Menachem Begin
  - j. Ariel Sharon/Yitzhak Rabin/Shimon Peres
  - k. Benjamin Netanyahu/Ehud Barak
  - l. Mahmoud Abbas
- 5) Prominent Middle Eastern Leaders (20th century)
- a. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk
  - b. Hussein Family/King Faisal
  - c. Saud Dynasty
  - d. Gamal Abdel Nasser/Anwar Sadat/ Hosni Mubarak
  - e. Hafez Assad/ Bashar al-Assad
  - f. Mummar Qaddafi
  - g. King Hussein
  - h. Saddam Hussein
- 6) Middle East Conflicts and Wars
- Islamic Conquest (7th and 8th centuries)
- a. Islamic Conquest
  - b. Byzantine and Arab Wars and the Crusades
  - c. Mongol Invasion
  - d. Crimean War
  - e. World War I and II In the Middle East
  - f. Israeli War of Independence
  - g. Arab-Israeli Conflict
  - h. Der Yassin Massacre
  - i. Suez War (1956)
  - j. Six Day War (1967)
  - k. War of Attrition (1967-1970)
  - l. Munich Olympics (1972)
  - m. Yom Kippur War (1973)
  - n. Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)
  - o. Black September (1970)
  - p. Libya-Egypt Conflict
  - q. South Lebanon Conflict
  - r. Sabra and Shatila Massacres (1982)
  - s. Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)
  - t. Gulf War (1991)
  - u. Palestinian Intifadas

- v. Iraq War (2003)
  - w. Lebanese War (2006)
  - x. Arab Spring (2012)
  - y. Egyptian Revolution and Counter-Revolution
  - z. The Yemen War
- 7) Organizations/Groups/Ethnicities
- a. Armenians/Kurds
  - b. Palestinian Arabs
  - c. Middle Eastern Jews and Christians
  - d. Druze Muslims
  - e. Sunni and Shiite Muslims
  - f. Sufism
  - g. Baha'i Religion - Persia
  - h. Wahhabism
  - i. Muslim Brotherhood
  - j. Young Turks
  - k. Pan-Arabism
  - l. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
  - m. Haganah
  - n. Ba'ath Party
  - o. Hamas/Hezbollah
  - p. Al Qaeda and ISIS
  - q. Palestinian Authority
  - r. Wafd (Egyptian Political Party)
  - s. Middle Eastern diaspora communities in Europe and the US
- 8) Artistic/Literary/Cultural/Intellectual Achievements
- a. House of Wisdom (Baghdad)
  - b. "Islamic Golden Age"
  - c. Arab, Persian, Ottoman Poetry and Literature
  - d. Arab Philosophy and Intellectual History
  - e. Arab medicine/physicians
  - f. Arabic numerals/mathematics
  - g. Arab astronomy/science
  - h. Persian Safavid art
  - i. Muslim/Ottoman architecture
- 9) Conferences/Meetings/Treaties (20th Century)
- a. Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)
  - b. Faisal-Weizmann Agreement (1919)
  - c. Teheran Conference (1943)
  - d. Baghdad Pact (1955)
  - e. Camp David Accords (1979)
  - f. Madrid Conference (1991)
  - g. Oslo Accords (1993)
  - h. Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty (1994)
  - i. Camp David Summit (2000)
- 10) Economic History
- a. the Middle East and trade in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean
  - b. the Petroleum industry in the Middle East

### Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze historical sources to formulate a purposeful historical thesis.
- 2) Explain relationships between causes of historical events and their effects.

- 3) Distinguish the features of the modern Middle East within their appropriate geographical and chronological setting.
- 4) Compare the interactive political, economic, social and cultural forces which shaped modern Middle Eastern events.
- 5) Distinguish the distinguishing features among the modern Middle East's major religions, ideologies, and institutions.
- 6) Explore the history and transforming effects of Islam and Islamic civilization on the Middle East.
- 7) Evaluate the origins, reach, accomplishments and demise of the Ottoman Empire.
- 8) Analyze the impact of Persian/Iranian history and events in forging the modern Middle East.
- 9) Describe the historical backdrop and events leading to the creation of modern 20th century Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.
- 10) Detail the creation of Israel and analyze the features of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- 11) Describe the ongoing conflicts/wars and treaties found within the 20th century Middle East.
- 12) Compare and assess the interaction between the Middle East and various Western powers during the modern period.
- 13) Define key terms found in the religious/political/cultural vocabulary of the modern Middle East.
- 14) Evaluate the literature, art and intellectual traditions from the modern Middle East.
- 15) Discuss current Middle Eastern geopolitical issues and problems from a modern historical context.
- 16) Analyze primary documents from the modern Middle East.
- 17) Discuss significant novels, films, and autobiographies from the modern Middle East.
- 18) Compose written assignments reflecting analytical understanding of the modern Middle East's historical forces, people and events.
- 19) Arrange and interpret books, articles, and non-print resources on relevant modern Middle East topics for research papers.

### **Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes and/or exams that measure the student's ability to identify and recall major themes, events and figures in Middle Eastern history.
- 2) Quizzes and/or exams that measure and verify the student's ability to identify the relationship between physical geography and climate on the development and/or collapse of civilizations and recognize changes in political geography.
- 3) Write a timed in-class essay that evaluates and verifies the student's ability to formulate an argument based on historical theories, organize information chronologically and thematically, and recall major themes, events, and figures in Middle Eastern history.
- 4) Write analytical papers that assess the student's ability to recognize themes, organize information, and interpret the significance of literature in Middle Eastern culture.
- 5) Develop and support an argument or thesis statement with historical evidence. Compile sources and write a research paper that demonstrates the student's ability to discriminate between primary and secondary sources, evaluate the relative quality of sources, organize information, and formulate an informed point of view and argument.

### **Special Materials Required of Student**

None

### **Minimum Instructional Facilities**

- 1) Smart classroom with writing board, overhead projector/screen
- 2) Library with adequate collections in Middle Eastern History

### **Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture

- 2) Multimedia presentations
- 3) Group projects, discussion

### **Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) Reading, reading response questions, reading journals
- 2) Map exercises
- 3) Field exercises including museum and library research and historic sites

### **Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative examples):
  - a. Cleveland, William L. and Bunton, Martin. *A History of the Modern Middle East* 6th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2016.
  - b. Gelvin, James L. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. 5th ed. London: Oxford University Press, 2020.
  - c. Pappé, Ilan. *The Modern Middle East*. 3rd ed. London, UK: Routledge, 2014.
  - d. Tucker, Ernest. *The Middle East in Modern World History*. 2nd ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2019.
  - e. Goldschmidt, Arthur Jr. and Davidson, Lawrence. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. 12th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2018.
  - f. Rogan, Eugene. *The Arabs: A History*. New York: Basic Books, 2017.
- 2) Supplemental:
  - a. Clancy-Smith and Smith, *The Modern Middle East and North Africa: A History in Documents*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
  - b. Smith, Charles D. *Palestine and the Arab-Israel Conflict: A History with Documents*. 9th ed. Boston, MA: Bedford St. Martins, 2016.
  - c. Smith, Dan. *The Penguin State of the Middle East Atlas*, New York: Penguin, 2016.
  - d. Satrapi, Marjane. *The Complete Persepolis*. New York: Pantheon, 2004.
  - e. Tolan, Sandy. *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2006.
  - f. Provence, Michael. *The Last Ottoman Generation and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze, evaluate, and interpret primary and secondary sources.
- 2) Analyze and apply historical patterns and current events to students' own lives and experiences.
- 3) Analyze how power operates in society, through the categories of race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality.
- 4) Develop and support an argument or thesis statement with historical evidence.