

NWC 107 ✓
Middle Eastern Cultures
Course Outline

Title: Middle East Culture (NWC-107)

Credits: 3 S.H.

Level of Course: 100 level

Catalog Description:

A comprehensive historical-cultural approach to the study of Middle East Culture, illustrating the use of various social science concepts in gaining an understanding of an unfamiliar culture by examining the Islamic (Muhammadan) religion, the role of the Arabic language, geography and politics, the various social classes, including the role of women. the influence of Western powers, the origin and development of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab guerrilla movement.

Rationale:

The world is interdependent and all students need to understand diverse cultures.

Course Outline:

I. Introduction: The importance of the Middle East to the Western world.

II. The culture of the Middle East

- A. Who is an Arab?
- B. The cultural role of the Arabic language
- C. The Islamic religion
 - 1. Major beliefs
 - 2. The role of religion in society
- D. The confluence of geography and politics in regional and international affairs.
- E. The people of the Middle East
 - 1. Beduins
 - 2. Peasants (fellahs)
 - 3. Merchants
 - 4. Students
 - 5. Women

III. Selected history of the contemporary Middle East.

- A. Imperialism: The Western impact on the Middle East
- B. Turkey and Ataturk's reforms
- C. Jordan in local, regional and international politics
- D. Lebanon in local, regional and international politics
- E. The Arab-Israeli conflict
 - 1. The promises made to the Arabs and the Zionists
 - 2. The Palestine Mandate period and the emergence of Israel.
- F. The rise of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

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