

HIS312 History of the Middle East

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

A survey of the history of the Middle East from the time of Muhammad (500 AD) through the beginning of the 21st Century. Specific emphasis is placed on the 20th Century and the decisions made that have resulted in the current world situation. The countries covered include Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. This is a writing intensive course.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Students will demonstrate competence in historical research
2. Develop an understanding of the religion of Islam
3. Gain knowledge about the history for the region of the Middle East
4. Analyze and distinguish between the inter-relationship of the Palestinian problem, colonialism, and foreign policy decisions of Western powers as drivers of the unrest in the area.

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Ochsenwald, W. & Fisher, S. N. (2011). *The Middle East: A history* (7th Ed.). McGraw-Hill..

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays.**
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays.**

Learning Activities

The bulk of this course will consist of two weekly discussion forums and a weekly short paper that focus on analyzing historical trends and using history to examine the Middle East of today. In addition, there is a presentation in Week 6 and a final project paper due in Week 7.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.2 (25) Activity 1.3 (25)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (25) Activity 2.2 (25)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (25) Activity 3.2 (25)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (25) Activity 4.2 (25)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (25) Activity 5.2 (25)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (25) Activity 6.2 (25)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (25) Activity 7.2 (25)	350
Assignments Activity 1.4 (50)	Assignments Activity 2.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 3.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 4.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 5.3 (50)	Assignments Activity 6.3 (150)	Assignments Activity 7.3 (250)	
110	110	110	110	110	110	340	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Week 1 - Rise of an Islamic World

- Activity 1.1: Introductory Discussion
- Activity 1.2 The Five Pillars of Islam
- Activity 1.3: Arab Imperial Expansion
- Activity 1.4: Shi'a and Sunni

Week 2 - Age of Islamic Empires

- Activity 2.1: Western 'Debt' to Islam
- Activity 2.2: Strengths and Weakness of the Ottoman Empire
- Activity 2.3: Ottoman Capitulations

Week 3 - WWI and Its Aftermath

- Activity 3.1: Kemalism
- Activity 3.2: Britain and France: The Mandate System
- Activity 3.3: WWI British Influence

Week 4 - War and Conflict

- Activity 4.1: Post-Ataturk Turkey
- Activity 4.2: Palestine: a Region in Conflict
- Activity 4.3: Kemalism with Later Turkish Leaders

Week 5 - Iran & Iraq as Key Powers

- Activity 5.1: Iran and American Interventionism

- Activity 5.2: Iraq and American Interventionism
- Activity 5.3: Saddam Hussein

Week 6 - A Millennial Mideast

- Activity 6.1: Egypt and the United States
- Activity 6.2: Saudi Arabia and the United States
- Activity 6.3: Presentation

Week 7 - Palestine & Israel

- Activity 7.1: Palestine and Israel: Sources of Conflict
- Activity 7.2: Solving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Activity 7.3: Position Paper

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.