

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences and Human Services
Date of Departmental Approval: December 2009
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Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number:** ANT215
Course Title: Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East
2. **Description:** This course is an overview of the cultures of the contemporary Middle East. Emphasis is placed on understanding the region's cultural, social, political, and religious diversity. Popular and academic conceptions (and misconceptions) of the region are examined and a general history of the region is introduced in order to develop an anthropological perspective on the contemporary culture as observed in the villages, towns, cities, and nations of the region.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
 - Identify the countries and major ethnic groups of the Middle East
 - Discuss major forms of cultural diversity in the Middle East
 - Outline major current events as they impact contemporary Middle Eastern society
 - Describe the dominant social forms observed in rural, village, and urban settlements
 - Locate the Middle East within the context of a global society
 - Apply the techniques of cultural anthropology and ethnographic research to the Middle East
 - Analyze the middle Eastern cultural practices
4. **Credits:** Three credits
5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Science
6. **Prerequisite:** ANT107 or SOC106
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall, Spring
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Evaluation of student performance is based upon completion of written assignments, examinations, and projects.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
 - The concept of "the Middle East" as a site for ethnographic inquiry
 - Ethnographies and Ethnographic Research
 - The geography of the middle East
 - The Major Regions of the Middle East
 - The Major Religions of the middle East
 - Issues and Contemporary State Systems
 - Identities: Tribe, Kinship, Marriage, the Family, Gender, Ethnicity
 - Pastoralism
 - Village Life, Agriculture and Trade
 - The Urban domain
 - The "New Middle East" in the context of a Global Society