

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: September 30, 2013

Date Approved by Curriculum and Programs: October 23, 2013

Effective: Fall 2014

1. **Course Number:** HIS227
Course Title: History of the Middle East
2. **Description:** This course explores the development and interactions of cultures in the region now referred to as the "Middle East" – Southwest Asia – and adjacent regions that today share many aspects of culture. The course covers the early civilizations of Mesopotamia, travel through the rise (and fall) of empires that spread through the region (such as the Persian, Islamic, Mongol, Ottoman and Safavid empires), explore the period of direct and indirect Western (European and American) intervention, the rise of fundamentalism and the Arab Spring.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes** (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following
 - identify and describe the key events and trends in Middle Eastern history
 - review and evaluate primary and secondary historical sources
 - compare through reading, critical discussion and argument the experiences and perspectives of populations in the Middle East
 - evaluate the history of the Middle East
 - assess the basic research methods in the construction of history identifying the bias that may develop and be exposed in the historical process
 - assess how evidence can be employed to support opposing conclusions
 - collect primary and secondary scholarly data to synthesize and construct a substantive research project
 - utilize maps and identify locations relevant to the course content outline
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisites** ENL101, and a 100-level history course
7. **Semester Offered:** Spring
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** Research work, reading analyses, exams, participation in class discussions.
9. **General Topical Outline:**
 - Introduction
 - Early Civilizations & Empires
 - Greek and Roman Influences
 - Byzantine Empire & the Rise of Islam
 - Islam's Golden Age

 - Age of Empires
 - The Rise of Europe and the Fall of the Ottoman
 - The World at War(s) and post-War Divisions
 - Post-War World 1940s-1970s
 - Taking Charge
 - Arab Spring