

# HIST-2031: ISLAM TO THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: HIST-2031 : Islam to the Modern Middle East**

**Board of Trustees:**

June 2020

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2021

**Subject Code**

HIST - History

**Course Number:**

2031

**Title:**

Islam to the Modern Middle East

**Catalog Description:**

This course examines Middle Eastern history from the time of Muhammad to the present with an emphasis on the 19th and 20th centuries; includes background into the religious diversity of the region, the Ottoman and Safavid empires, the era of European colonialism, the rise of feminism, and recent developments in the region.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-1010 College Composition I, or ENG-101H Honors College Composition I.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Acquire and evaluate diverse credible sources when examining Islamic identity and its development in the region.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

**Objective(s):**

1. Describe the historical context out of which Islam emerged and the extent of its geographic expansion over time.
2. Differentiate between cultural and religious traditions of Islam in and outside of the Middle East.
3. Evaluate the historical relationship between Islam and the other Abrahamic faiths in terms of culture, language, and traditions including science, literature, technology, and the arts.
4. Explain how major social and historical events have shaped Islamic politics and perspectives in the past and in contemporary societies.
5. Research Islamic civilization and the Middle East by utilizing credible primary and secondary resources either online and/or in print.
6. Research, organize, and prepare a written essay on a given topic related to Islamic history and culture using a variety of primary source documents, websites, and materials reflecting diverse perspectives.
7. Analyze the various forms of feminism which have shaped women's conditions and rights in the Middle East.
8. Formulate a prognosis on the relationship between the West and the Islamic world and ways these regions can better improve diplomatically for the future.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize historical Islamic practices and traditions and their influence on various cultures.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Describe the historical context out of which Islam emerged and the extent of its geographic expansion over time.
2. Differentiate between cultural and religious traditions of Islam in and outside of the Middle East.
3. Evaluate the historical relationship between Islam and the other Abrahamic faiths in terms of culture, language, and traditions including science, literature, technology, and the arts.
4. Explain how major social and historical events have shaped Islamic politics and perspectives in the past and in contemporary societies.
5. Research Islamic civilization and the Middle East by utilizing credible primary and secondary resources either online and/or in print.
6. Review the Muslim Diaspora and explain the impact on regions of the world including the United States and Europe.
7. Research, organize, and prepare a written essay on a given topic related to Islamic history and culture using a variety of primary source documents, websites, and materials reflecting diverse perspectives.

**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of the diverse people of the Middle East.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Differentiate between cultural and religious traditions of Islam in and outside of the Middle East.
2. Evaluate the historical relationship between Islam and the other Abrahamic faiths in terms of culture, language, and traditions including science, literature, technology, and the arts.
3. Explain how major social and historical events have shaped Islamic politics and perspectives in the past and in contemporary societies.
4. Research, organize, and prepare a written essay on a given topic related to Islamic history and culture using a variety of primary source documents, websites, and materials reflecting diverse perspectives.
5. Analyze the various forms of feminism which have shaped women's conditions and rights in the Middle East.
6. Formulate a prognosis on the relationship between the West and the Islamic world and ways these regions can better improve diplomatically for the future.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Quizzes and exams over course material
2. Weekly postings on discussion board
3. Monthly experiential learning assignments
4. Final essay
5. Oral/visual presentation (s) on specific topics
6. Final evaluation

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Introduction to Course, Methods, Historical Framework
  - a. Conceptual Definitions
  - b. Using primary sources
  - c. Placing Islamic History in Context
  - d. Myths and Misconceptions about Muslims
2. Pre-Islamic Arabia to the Time of Muhammad
  - a. Cultures, Traditions, and Influential Leaders
  - b. Geographical Context
3. Events and Leaders Shaping Early Islamic Civilizations
  - a. Muhammad and Foundations of Islam to 632 CE
    - i. Religious Practices
      1. The Five Pillars of Faith
      2. The 3 Duties of the Believers
    - ii. Islamic Law and Political Traditions
      1. The Concept of Shari'ah
      2. Medina's Constitution and Muhammad's Last Sermon

4. Islamic Expansion and Empire to 750 CE
  - a. Conflict and conquest: Egypt, Spain, Franks
  - b. Politics, philosophy, literature
5. The Development of Islamic Sciences
  - a. Medicine
  - b. Mathematics
  - c. Architecture
  - d. Engineering
  - e. Astronomy
6. Expansion within and without Islamic Organizations
  - a. Religious Development
    - i. Sunni and Shia Traditions
    - ii. Sufism and the Mystical Dimension
    - iii. Relations with other religions: the Crusades
  - b. Political Development of the Caliphates
7. Islamic Conquests and Spread of Islam
  - a. Persia
  - b. Islamic Conquests in North Africa
  - c. Andalusia "Islamic Spain"
  - d. Islamic Conquests in East Asia: India, China, East Indies
8. The Turks and the Ottoman Empire
  - a. Fall of Constantinople (1453)
  - b. Ottoman Civilization
    - i. Arts and Literature
    - ii. Sciences and Architecture
  - c. Role in the European Renaissance and Decline of Ottoman Empire
9. Rise of Western Dominance
  - a. Crusades to Colonialism
    - i. Decline of the Church and Rise of Nation-State in Spain, France
    - ii. Mercantilism and Imperialism
  - b. Orientalism and Islamic Response
10. Modern Era: Nineteenth century to Present
  - a. Concept of Modernity
  - b. Rise of Reformist Movements
  - c. Rise of Islamic Nationalism
11. Historical Impact on Contemporary Cultures and Events
  - a. Islam, Democracy, and Secularism
    - i. Algeria
    - ii. Turkey
    - iii. Pakistan
    - iv. Egypt
    - v. Libya
    - vi. Iraq
    - vii. Iran
  - b. Near East and Far East
    - i. Indonesia
    - ii. China
  - c. Eastern Europe and the Balkans
    - i. Soviet Union: Chechnya and Muslim republics
    - ii. Yugoslavia and Balkan 'ethnic cleansing'
  - d. The United States
    - i. Ahmadiyyah movement
    - ii. Nation of Islam
    - iii. The Rise of Orthodoxy: ISNA, ICNA, CAIR, etc.
12. Islam and the War on terrorism
  - a. 9/11 and its impact
  - b. Radical Muslim Groups and Terrorism
  - c. United States Foreign policy

- i. Palestine/Israel
  - ii. Saudi Arabia
  - iii. Afghanistan
  - iv. Iraq
  - v. Iran
- 13. Feminism
  - a. Western vs. Islamic Feminism
  - b. Discourse on the veil
  - c. The relationship between democracy and women's freedom and equality
- 14. Islamic Views on the Clash of Civilizations
  - a. Islamic Approach to Terrorism
  - b. Islam and Global Peace

## Resources

Esposito, John. *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?*. NY: Oxford, 2003.

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Esposito, John. *Islam: The Straight Path*. 5th ed. NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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Galvin, John. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. 4th ed. NY: Oxford University Press, 2016.

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Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

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Mernissi, Fatima. *Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood*. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Books, 1994.

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Belz, Mindy. *They Say We Are Infidels: On the Run from ISIS with Persecuted Christians in the Middle East*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2016.

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Amin, Qasim. *The Liberation of Women and The New Woman: Two Documents in the History of Egyptian Feminism*. Cairo: The American University of Cairo Press, 2005.

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Manji, Irshad. *The Trouble With Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*. NY: St. Martin's Press, 2003.

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Mernissi, Fatima. *Islam and Democracy: Fear of the Modern World*. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2002.

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Lewis, Bernard. *What Went Wrong? The Clash Between Islam and Modernity in the Middle East*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2002.

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Lyons, Jonathan. *The House of Wisdom: How the Arabs Transformed Western Civilization*. NY: Bloomsbury Press, 2009.

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Rogan, Eugene. *The Arabs, A History*. NY: Perseus Books, 2009.

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## Resources Other

### 1. Online Websites:

- a. The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago URL: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/>
- b. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs URL: <http://www.wrmea.org/>
- c. Al Jazeera URL: <http://www.aljazeera.com/>
- d. The Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan URL: <https://www.ii.umich.edu/cmenas/> (<http://catalog.tri-c.edu>URL: <https://www.ii.umich.edu/cmenas/>)
- e. The Arab American National Museum URL: <http://arabamericanmuseum.org/Home.id.2.htm>

### 2. Documentaries:

- a. Islam: Empire of Faith. Director, Robert Gardner. PBS Film, 2000.

- b. Faith Without Fear. Director, Ian McLeod. PBS Film, 2007.
- c. Umm Kulthum: A Voice Like Egypt. Director, Michel Goldman. Arab Film Distribution, 1996.
- d. Uncle Saddam. Presented by Joel Soler. Iraqi Forum for Democracy, Anaheim, California, 2000.
- e. Science and Islam. Presented by Jim Al-Khalili. BBC Four, 2009.
- f. My Country: My Country. Director, Laura Poitras. Zeitgeist Films, 2006.

## **Instructional Services**

### **OAN Number:**

Ohio Transfer 36 TMAH

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