Bemidji State University

GEOG 3850: Geography of the Middle East

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

   Credits: 3
   Lecture Hours/Week: 0
   Lab Hours/Week: 0
   OJT Hours/Week: *
   Prerequisites: None
   Corequisites: None

   MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 08 - Global Perspective

   This course is designed to provide a more in depth look at the region we routinely describe as the Middle East. Geographically, we will examine activities in SW Asia and the nations of North Africa. We may extend our discussion to the countries of Afghanistan, the Sudan, South Sudan and Turkey to provide a more comprehensive analysis of a particular topic or subtopic. This is a highly complex region and may be looked at from numerous perspectives. Our objective thus is to examine the region through economic, cultural, environmental, urban and geopolitical lenses. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 5 & 8]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/25/2014 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

   1. Part I: Defining the Middle East
   2. Part II: Emergence and Evolution of this region
   3. Part III: Contemporary Challenges
   4. Part IV: Global and Geopolitical Future

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

   1. improve their public speaking skills in formal and informal sessions.
   2. demonstrate an in depth understanding of the Middle East (as geographically defined for this course) and its connections with the rest of the world.
   3. use events, issues and themes to explain the physical, cultural, economic, urban and political geography of the Middle East.
   4. interpret various media including textbooks, novels, films, journal articles and news sources to build their understanding of contemporary issues in the Middle East.
   5. apply their research skills by evaluating specific issues in the context of the Middle East to compose written reports.
   6. connect their knowledge of other regions of the world to explain the global significance of events that transpired in the Middle East.
   7. critically evaluate contemporary issues in the Middle East as they relate to the global economy or more universal issues of sustainability, planetary health, and plural societies.
   8. apply a broad and transferable geographic vocabulary to be used in other geography courses and elsewhere.
E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci
1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 08 - Global Perspective
1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
None noted