

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
Department of History  
Georgia Southwestern State University

**HIST 4780**  
**History of the Middle East**  
**Credit: Three (3) semester hours**

**Catalog description:**

**HST 4780. History of the Middle East.** The course covers the broad sweep of Middle Eastern history and culture. (3-0-3).

**Prerequisite(s):**

Completion of 6 hours of History core requirements

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the forces that molded the current Middle East.
2. Examine the origins of Middle Eastern history and focus on continuities from the Fertile Crescent onward;
3. Analyze the life of Muhammad and interpret the expansion of Islam;
4. Illustrate an understanding of the Sunni and Shi'ite splits;
5. Describe the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire and examine its impact on the area's historical development;
6. Assess the role of Western colonialism;
7. Evaluate rise of Arab nationalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century;
8. Debate the origins of the Arab-Israeli dispute;
9. Compare the roles of minorities in the Middle East;
10. Estimate the consequences from the current situation in the Middle East.
11. Write for history by analyzing sources to improve their critical thinking skills

**Outline:**

- I. Introduction
  - i. Prehistory
  - ii. Ancient Egyptian Civilization
  - iii. Biblical Israel
- II. Christianity
  - i. Christian Heresies
  - ii. Byzantium
- III. Islam
  - i. Life of Muhammad
  - ii. Religion of Islam
  - iii. Expansion of Islam
- IV. The Caliphates
  - i. The High Caliphate

- ii. The Umayyads
- iii. The Abbasids
- iv. Fatimids
- v. Mamluks
- V. Ottoman Era
  - i. Turkic Migration out of Central Asia
  - ii. Invasion of Asia Minor and Defeat of Byzantines
  - iii. Ottoman world empire
  - iv. Ottoman empire in disarray
- VI. Modernization and Westernization
  - i. British Imperialism in the Middle East
  - ii. French Imperialism in the Middle East
  - iii. The Ethiopian exception
- VII. Nationalism
  - i. Arab Nationalism
  - ii. Egyptian or "Pharonic Nationalism"
  - iii. Pan-Turkism
  - iv. Pan-Islam
  - v. De-colonization
  - vi. Independence
- VIII. War
  - i. World War I
  - ii. World War II
- IX. Middle East since Independence
  - i. The Arab-Israeli Dispute
  - ii. Lebanese Civil War
  - iii. Secularized Islam
  - iv. Islamic Revival

**Methods of Instruction:** Reading, Lecture, and classroom Discussion

**Methods of Evaluation:** A combination of Identification and Essay Examinations, as well as Analytical Writing Assignments

**Textbooks:**

Goldschmidt, Arthur, Jr. *A Concise History of the Middle East* (Fourth Edition). New York: Westview Press, 1991.

Mahfouz, Naguib. *Midaq Alley* (Second Edition). New York: Three Continents Press, 1990.

Warnock Fernea, Elizabeth, *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village* (Eighteenth Edition) New York: Anchor Books, 1989.