

**Saint Leo University**  
**School of Arts & Sciences**

**HTY 233**  
The Modern Middle East

**Course Description:**

A study of the social, political, religious and economic forces present in the modern Middle East, with emphasis on the period since World War I, Arab-Israeli conflict, and oil.

**Prerequisite:**

None

**Textbook:**

Goldschmidt, Arthur, & Al-Marashi, Ibrahim. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge, 12<sup>th</sup> edition, 2018. Print. ISBN# 9780813350912

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history of the Middle East from the time of Muhammed to the present (exams).
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of both sides of issues such as the Arab-Israeli conflict and the US intervention in Iraq (exams).
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic tenets of Islam (exams).
4. Students will acquire an understanding of daily life in the Middle East (papers).
5. Students will demonstrate their skills in reading and written communication (papers).

**Core Value:**

The Mission Statement and Core Values of Saint Leo University are fundamental to all courses. The History Department has identified the following Saint Leo University Core Values to be included in the curriculum for this course:

- Excellence: to develop accurate knowledge about a part of the world vital to the interests of the United States.
- Respect: to gain an appreciation for a culture and society commonly misunderstood in the West.

**Evaluation:**

In this course, students will be evaluated by the following methods:

1. Exams 45%
2. Paper 20%
3. Presentation 20%
4. Discussions 15%

**Assessment of the Learning Outcomes:**

Course Learning Outcome	Assessment Method
1	Exams
2	Exams
3	Exams
4	Book Review, Slide Show
5	Book Review, Slide Show

**Grading Guide:**

<u>Grade</u>		<u>Percentage</u>
A	Exceptional	94% to 100%
A-	Superior	90% to 93%
B+	Excellent	87% to 89%
B	Very Good	84% to 86%
B-	Good	80% to 83%
C+	Above Average	77% to 79%
C	Average	74% to 76%
C-	Below Average	70% to 73%
D+	Marginal	67% to 69%
D	Poor	60% to 66%
F	Failure	Below 60%

**Course Schedule:**

**Module 1                    The Middle East Today**

**Objectives**

- When you complete this module, you should be able to:
- Identify the various cultural, political, economic and social aspects of the present-day Middle East.
  - Discuss the Arab Spring and how it impacted the Middle East today.
  - Assess how the Arab Spring influenced the Syrian Civil War and the rise of the Islamic State.

**Readings**

Chapter 1  
Chapter 22

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Slide Show</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 2                    The Origins of Islam**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Construct a biography of the life of the Prophet Muhammad.
- Recognize the Five Pillars of Islamic Faith.
- Analyze and provide examples of why these pillars of faith are important in the daily lives of devout Muslims.

**Readings**

Chapters 3, 4

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 3                      The Arab Empires and the “Golden Age”**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Trace the spread of Islam from the Arabian Peninsula throughout the Middle East and North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula during the Umayyad and Abbasid empires.
- Describe how this spread of Islam impacted life in the Middle East for Muslims and non-Muslims.
- Discuss the cultural achievements of the Golden Age (750-1000) in philosophy, math, science, literature and architecture.
- Discuss how the rise of the Turks, the Crusades, and the Mongol Invasion led to significant changes in the Muslim Empire.

**Readings**                      Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Exam 1</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 4**                      **Ottoman Empire**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Trace the origins and the rise of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East.
- Explain how they gained power in the Middle East.
- Identify the reasons for the decline of the Ottoman Empire.

**Readings**

Chapters 9, 10

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 5 Middle East in the 19th Century**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Identify and explain the reasons for the rise of an independent Egypt by the 19th century.
- Describe nationalism and how it compared to the beliefs of Islam.
- Correlate how the rise in nationalism in Europe/European colonialism and dominance impacted the Middle East.
- Explain how the rise of power in Europe contributed to the further decline of the Ottoman Empire.

**Readings** Chapters 11, 12

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion questions	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates for each discussion	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Exam 2</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 6**                      **Middle East from WWI to WWII**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Describe the role of the Middle Eastern countries in the European war effort.
- Explain how the Middle East was impacted by the outcome of World War I.
- Identify how the interwar years and World War II shaped the Middle East by the post-World War II period.
- Explore the origins of Zionism and the beginning of conflict in Palestine.

**Readings**

Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT



**Module 7                      The Arab-Israeli Conflict After WWII**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Specify why the state of Israel was created.
- Explain the role of the United Nations in the creation of Israel.
- Describe the impact of the Arab-Israeli wars in the decades that followed the creation of Israel.
- Develop a strategy for creating peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

**Readings**                      Chapters 17, 18

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion questions	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates for each discussion	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Book Review</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

**Module 8**                      **Iran, Iraq and the War on Terror**

**Objectives**

When you complete this module, you should be able to:

- Recount the evolution of modern international terrorism from regional Palestinian movements to the globalization of terrorism by groups such as Al-Qa'ida.
- Explain how the Afghan Mujahideen movement during the Soviet-Afghan war contributed to the globalization of terrorist networks and the creation of Al-Qa'ida.
- Explore the rise of global terrorism by religious ideological groups such as Al-Qa'ida, and the factors involved in this global transformation of terrorist groups.

**Readings**                      Chapters 19, 20, 21, 23

**Assignments**

<b>Items to be Completed:</b>	<b>Due No Later Than:</b>
Read the assigned materials	
Post an initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit <i>Exam 3</i>	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT