

Common Course Outline
POLS 247
Contemporary Middle East Politics and the U.S.
3 Semester Hours
Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Contemporary Middle East and the U.S. explores complex current issues in a political and historical context for understanding the Middle East. Topics include the American role in the region, arms proliferation, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian Question, the Gulf Wars, and terrorism. Students learn about the region through exposure to diverse source materials presenting a variety of perspectives.

Prerequisites: POLS 101

POLS 247 – 3 Credits –Contemporary Middle East and the U.S.

Overall Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. locate the Middle East region;
2. describe individual country's geography, including topography and natural resources;
3. discuss Middle East history and culture;
4. explain Middle East religions and their significance to empires and nation states;
5. evaluate the cultural complexities of the Middle East;
6. explain the region's religious diversity;
7. link current events to the cultural and historic legacies they survey;
8. analyze the U.S.'s role in shaping current events and contributing to the region;
9. describe Middle East principals including countries, peoples, personalities, international organizations, and terrorist groups;
10. assess the relationship of Middle East principals in #9 to the U.S.;

11. analyze the political and historical roles played by Europe, Asia, and Africa in the Middle East and
12. identify Middle East terrorist groups/liberation movements and their platforms.

Major Topics:

MEET THE MIDDLE EAST

- I. Introduction
- II. History, Religion and the Region
- III. Religious and Ethnic Minorities
- IV. Imperialism and The New State System

AMERICAN HISTORY AND THE REGION

- V. U.S. History in the Middle East: from Barbary Pirates to Iraq
- VI. Terrorism Emerges from the Post-Cold War Era

WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS AND WHERE THEY STAND WITH THE U.S.?

- VII. Terrorist Group Survey: National/Religious Affiliations & Sponsors

DEVELOPMENTS AND VIEWS

- VIII. The U.S. and Emerging Developments
- IX. American Viewpoints

Course Requirements:

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

A midterm and final examination containing multiple choice, short definition, and essay questions. In addition students will write a research paper approximately 8-15 pages in length on a selected topic of interest to master their comprehension of their country's role in the region.

Other Course Information:

The course is a political science elective.