

Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
International Studies Program

IS 2700: Perspectives on the Middle East
4 credits, Online, Fall 2018

Professor: Don Matthews
Office: Varner 404
Phone: 248-370-3525
E-mail: matthews@oakland.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 1:30–3:00

Contacting the Professor

Please contact me by email or by phone. You are also welcome to drop by my office during office hours or by appointment.

In addition, I strongly encourage you to post any comments or questions about the course in the News Forum, on the Moodle course page, so that the whole class can read your posts and my responses.

Course Description

Catalog Description: “An interdisciplinary study of the peoples of the Middle East and their traditional and modern civilizations.”

This course satisfies the General Education requirements in the Global Perspective Exploration and Writing Intensive in General Education.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GESLOs):

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of environments, political systems, economies, societies and religions of one or more regions outside the United States and awareness of the transnational flow of goods, peoples, ideas and values.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the role that different cultural heritages, past and present, play in forming values in another part of the world, enabling the student to function within a more global context.

Cross-cutting capacities: Social awareness and effective communication.

Prerequisite

WRT 160

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to identify major features of the Middle East’s physical geography. (GESLO 1)
2. The student will be able to explain major characteristics of the Middle East’s human geography and demographics. (GESLO 1)
3. The student will be able to explain the emergence of Islam as world religion and Islam’s relations with other religions. (GESLO 1 & 2)
4. The student will be able to explain major characteristics of the politics and development of the states of the Middle East. (GESLO 1 & 2)
5. The student will be able to identify influences of the past on the contemporary culture in the Middle East, including gender relations. (GESLO 1 & 2)
6. The student will be able to analyze sources of major contemporary conflicts in the Middle East. (GESLO 1 & 2)
7. The student will be able to identify examples of cultural and intellectual exchanges between the Middle East and the West and to explain their significance. (GESLO 1 & 2)

Required Textbook

Arthur Goldschmidt Jr. with Aomar Boum, *A Concise History of the Middle East*, 11th edition, Westview Press, 2016 ISBN 978-0-8133-4962-6

Other Required Readings

Other required readings are posted as pdf documents on the course Moodle page and are listed in the schedule below.

You can order your textbook directly from the OU bookstore at <http://oakland.bncollege.com/>. *You must have access to these by the beginning of the Topic 2/Week 2.*

In addition, there are also PowerPoint presentations, pdf files, pod casts, and films for each unit of the course. The presentations emphasize and clarify points in the textbooks and films.

Moodle and Conduct of the Course

This course is conducted entirely online through Moodle, Oakland University's course management system. You will use it to participate in online activities and to progress through the course. You can access Moodle at <http://moodle.oakland.edu> – log in there with your university supplied NETID username and password.

There are no scheduled face-to-face meetings in the course, and there are no online web conferences.

The Last Day to Drop the Class with 100% tuition refund

September 11

The Last Day for official withdrawal

November 7

Technical Skills Required

Using your chosen computer operating system and a web browser

Following online directions for using a new program

Typing at least 20 words a minute

Troubleshooting basic computer problems

Working through problems you can't resolve on your own with remote support technicians

Required Technology

In order to fully participate in this course you will need an internet-connected computer with the *most updated versions* of your preferred web browser installed.

PLEASE NOTE:

Smartphones and tablets are not recommended for taking this course. A laptop or desktop will work much better.

Back-up Plans for Emergencies

In the event that your computer crashes or the Internet goes down, *it is essential to have a back-up plan to be able to log in from another computer or another location* as needed.

You should keep backup files on all of the documents that you upload for the course. You might consider using a service such as OneDrive, Dropbox, Google Drive, Box, or Copy. (This is not an endorsement of any of these services. Be cautious of any site that asks you for any personal information.)

Technical Assistance

For Moodle technical issues that you cannot resolve on your own, please contact the eLearning and Instructional Support office:

Phone : (248) 805-1625

Submit a help ticket: <http://www2.oakland.edu/elis/help.cfm?lms=2>

But: If you have general questions about the course (such as due dates, content, etc.) or any trouble accessing any of the content in this course, please contact me (the professor).

Contacting the Professor:

Please contact by email or by phone.

Phone: 248-370-3525

E-mail: matthews@oakland.edu

You are also welcome to drop by my office during office hours or by appointment.

Office: Varner 404

Professor and Student Expectations

There are grades and assignments throughout the course with specific due dates.

Students are expected to...

ensure that their computer is compatible with Moodle.

login *at least* 3 times a week; daily login is highly recommended.

follow the calendar of events and complete all assignments by their deadline.

respond to emails within 2 days.

participate in a thoughtful manner.

respect rules of [netiquette](#):

Respect your peers and their privacy.

Use constructive criticism.

Refrain from engaging in insulting, insensitive, or denigrating comments.

The professor will...

login onto the course at least 6 days per week.

moderate conversations in forums.

respond to forum replies and email within 1-2 days.

grade assignments within 5-7 days of the assignment deadline.

Working Ahead of the Course Schedule

You are permitted to work ahead of the course schedule. You may complete quizzes, tests, and activities before they are due, *but you must respond to other students' posts in the forums by the specified deadline each week.*

Organization of the Course

The course is composed of 3 modules.

Module 1: Fundamental Concepts and Early Islam

Module 2: The Impact of the West and Modernity

Module 3: Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges

Each module covers about 4 weeks, and each week addresses a specific topic.

Components of the Final Grade

The final score for the semester will be based on the following components:

Weekly Multiple-Choice Quizzes (1% each)	12%
Forum Posts (7 @ 1% each)	7%
Module 1 Essay Test, <u>first</u> draft	20%
Module 1 Essay Test, <u>final</u> draft	7%
Module 2 Essay Test	27%
Module 3 Essay Test	27%

Every assignment is graded on a 100-point scale. The total score for the course will be calculated according to the components above and the 100-point scale then converted to the University's letter-grade scale. Here is the scale:

95–100 pts. = A
 90–94 = A-
 87–89 = B+
 84–86 = B
 80–83 = B-
 77–79 = C+

74–76 = C
 70–73 = C-
 67–69 = D+
 60–66 = D
 <60 = F

Quizzes

The weekly quizzes are made up of 20 multiple-choice questions on concepts in the weekly PowerPoint presentation, reading assignments, pod casts, and films. You will take the quiz by logging onto the Moodle course page and clicking on the week’s quiz. You have 10 minutes to take the quiz and are allowed *one attempt*.

Forum Posts

You are required to post a paragraph of *at least* 100 words, using complete sentences in standard English on one of about five key concepts each week by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time and to post a response of at least 40 words to two other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time. In total, you must post comments on *three different* concepts.

Your original post must be on a concept that either no one has posted a paragraph on or on one of the concepts that has fewer posts. Responses to other students’ original posts must add substantive information, provide context, or offer constructive criticism or identify strong points in their paragraphs. It is not sufficient to repeat information in the original post or to simply praise the quality of the post. The goal of the assignment is for every member of the class to help everyone else master the course’s essential concepts. *Your posts must in your own words.*

Carefully read the grading rubric for the forum posts below.

Scoring Rubric for Forum Posts

Category	Maximum points
Meaningful, original post of least 100 words, posted on time	40
Locating the concept in place and time	20
Correct spelling, grammar, and style	20
Responses of at least 40 words to posts of two other students, posted on time	20
Total maximum points	100

The key concepts for each module appear below:

Module 1 Key Concepts: Fundamental Concepts and Early Islam

Byzantine Empire	Sultan
Sasanid Empire	‘Abbasid Caliphate
Muhammad	Shi’ism/Shiites
The Qur’an	Shari’a
Five Pillars of Islam	Sufism
Caliph	Salah al-Din (Saladin)
Rashidun Caliphate	Crusades
Umayyad Caliphate	

Module 2 Key Concepts: Impact of the West and Modernity

Ottoman Empire	Reza Shah Pahlavi
Safavid Empire	Mustafa Kemal “Ataturk”
Janissaries	Sa’d Zaghlul
Sulayman the Magnificent	Mandates
Mehmet ‘Ali	King Faysal
Tanzimat	Amin al-Husayni
Ibn Sa’ud	Zionist movement
Aramco	

Module 3 Key Concepts: Contemporary Conflicts and Challenges

Gamal Abd al-Nasir (Nasser)	Hizballah (Hezbollah)
June War/Six-Day War	Osama Bin Laden
October/Yom Kippur War	ISIS
Occupied Territories	Intifada
Yasir ‘Arafat	Oslo Accords
The Camp David Accords	Arab Spring
Ayatollah Khomeini	Muslim Brotherhood
Iran Hostage Crisis	The Gulf War
Saddam Hussein	The Iraq War
Hamas	OPEC

Module Essay Tests

The Module Essay Tests are essays in response to a prompt about a major theme of each module of the course and are *based on assigned readings, films, podcasts, and presentations*. **You are not permitted to use or cite sources from the Internet other than those posted on the course Moodle page.**

The essays will be graded on accuracy, comprehensiveness, and context, as well on as grammar and style. They are also graded on formatting. You may use the MPA, APA, or Chicago style of citation. See the grading rubric below.

The essay must be **at least 1,500 words**, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and in a standard twelve-point font. Write as if you are explaining the issue to an educated person who has no expertise in the history, politics, and culture of the Middle East.

And...

Your essay must draw on the relevant key concepts of the module and demonstrate your understanding of those concepts. Your essay also must provide context by referring to the place and time of the events that you describe.

For the Module 1 Essay test, you will submit a first draft (**not** a rough draft), which I will grade and return to you with my feedback. You will then submit a final version, which will incorporate my comments and corrections. The first draft is worth 20% of the course grade, and the final version is worth 7%, so be sure to give the first draft your full effort.

I will post the prompt for each essay 10 days before it is due. You will upload your essay to the course Moodle page in a Microsoft Word document by the indicated deadline.

See the statement in this syllabus on cheating and plagiarism.

Carefully read the grading rubric for Integrative Essays below.

SCORING RUBRIC FOR TEST ESSAYS:

Category	Maximum points
Accuracy and comprehensiveness	35
References to and understanding of <i>key concepts</i> of the module	20
Use of assigned texts (in pdf on the Moodle page)	10
References to place and time	15
Correct spelling, grammar, and style	15
Correct formatting	5
Total maximum points	100

Help Outside of Class

If you need help, do not hesitate to ask me. I am available during my office hours, frequently at other times, by appointment, by e-mail and by phone. I recommend writing out the identifications of all the key terms before the test and sending them to me for comment. *I am happy to read drafts of essays and to give you feedback before you submit the final version*, but please allow adequate time for me to read them and give them thought. If any problems arise, please let me know.

Special Considerations

Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should contact OU's Disability Support Services office. They should also contact the instructor as soon as possible so any required arrangements can be made.

Late Work

Quizzes, and forum posts will not be accepted after the deadlines stated in the syllabus except in cases of documented emergencies. Essays will be penalized 5% for each day or part of a day that they are late.

Incompletes

An incomplete (grade of "I") will only be given in the case of documented emergencies that prevent the student from completing the course requirements. See the undergraduate catalog for details on the I grade.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, falsifying reports/records, and unauthorized collaboration are considered serious breaches of academic conduct. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. For more information visit the Oakland University home page and search for Academic Conduct Policy.

Plagiarism is representing someone else's words or ideas as your own. If you use someone else's words, you must enclose them in quotations. If you quote someone, the quotation must be reproduced exactly as found in the original. As a general rule, more than about three words in sequence, taken from another source, should be set off in quotation marks, and the source must be indicated with a citation in the form of a footnote, endnote, or parenthetical reference. Also, anytime you use someone else's ideas or information, you must indicate the source with a citation. Information that is common knowledge does not require a citation.

Plagiarism is a violation of the university's academic conduct policy and is a form of cheating. Suspected cases or cheating on tests will be reported to the Assistant Dean of Students. Anyone found to have committed plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the class, in addition to any penalties imposed by the Academic Conduct Committee.

One More Important Point

Remember that the **PowerPoint presentations are introductory**. You will need to **read all of the assignments, listen to the podcasts, and view the films** to fully prepare for the essays.

THE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS & ACTIVITIES

MODULE 1: FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS AND EARLY ISLAM

Week 1: 9/5–9/9

Assignments

1. Read the syllabus carefully.

Activities

1. Introduce yourself on the forum “Introductions” as soon as possible and respond to at least 2 other students’ posts by Sunday 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. Take the Kresge Library “Plagiarism Tutorial” and email the badge to me. The tutorial will take about an hour. You can enter the tutorial through the course Moodle page under Topic 1. Here also is the url:
https://research.library.oakland.edu/sp/subjects/tutorial.php?faq_id=35

Week 2 9/10–9/16

Assignment: Geography and Peoples:

1. Read the PowerPoint Presentation “Middle East Geography.”
2. Read Held, “The Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East,” (on the Moodle page).
3. Read Goldschmidt, 1–11.
4. View the film “Introduction to Arabic” (6 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHKKxO3JmGA>
5. Listen to my podcast on geography.

Activities

1. Take the quiz “Geography” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time

Week 3 9/17–9/23

Assignment: Early Islam

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “Early Islam.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 12–43.
3. Listen to my podcast on Ibn Ishaq
3. Read “The Constitution of Mecca” & “The Jewish Opposition,” 74–76 (on the course Moodle page)
4. Read “Submission of Idolaters” & “Primer,” 91–93 (on the course Moodle page)
4. View the film “Empire of Faith,” Pt. 1 (53 min.)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX3UHNhQ1Zk>

Activities

1. Post a paragraph of at least 100 words on one of the 5 major concepts to “Forum: Early Islam” by Wednesday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. Comment on 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the quiz “Early Islam” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

Week 4 9/24–9/30

Assignment: Caliphates & Conquests

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “Caliphates & Conquests.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 44–73.
3. Listen to my podcast on the Caliphate.
4. Read “The Executive Caliphate,” 36–38 (on the course Moodle page).

5. View the film “Empire of Faith,” Pt. 2 (53 min):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1PxJomypQE>

Activities

1. Post a paragraph one of the 5 key terms to “Forum: Caliphates and Conquests” by Wednesday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. Comment on 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the Quiz “The Caliphates & Conquests” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

Week 5 10/1–10/7

Assignment: Islamic Civilization

1. Read the PowerPoint Presentation “Islamic Civilization.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 74–120.
3. Listen to my podcast on the historian al-Masudi.
4. Read “The Culture of the ‘Abbasid Caliphate,” 99–105

Activities:

1. Post a paragraph on one of the 5 key terms to “Forum: Caliphates and Conquests” by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time
2. Comment on at least 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the quiz “Islamic Civilization” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

MODULE 2: IMPACT OF THE WEST & MODERNITY

Week 6 10/8–10/14

DUE: MODULE 1 ESSAY TEST, first draft, by Sun., 11:55 PM, Eastern Time.

The Ottoman & Safavid Empires

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “The Ottomans & Safavids.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 120–136.
3. Listen to my podcast on the Ottomans in Damascus.
4. Read Rogan, *The Arabs*, 39–43 (on the Moodle page)
5. View the film “Empire of Faith,” Pt. 3 (53 min.):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRMqZrjGNd8>

Activities:

1. Take the quiz “The Ottomans & Safavids” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. NO FORUM POSTS THIS WEEK. Focus on the Module 1 Test.

Week 7 10/15–10/21

First drafts with professor’s feedback returned by 10/22

Ottoman Modernization

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “Ottoman Modernization.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 137–181.
3. Listen to my podcast on individuals during Ottoman Modernization.
4. Read Toledano, “Shemsiyal: A Circassian Slave,” 48–57 (on the Moodle page).
5. Read Rogan, *The Arabs*, 94–98 (on the Moodle page).

Activities:

1. Post a paragraph on one of the 5 key terms to “Forum: Ottoman Modernization” by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time
2. Comment on 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the quiz “Ottoman Modernization” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

Week 8 10/22–10/28

DUE: Final draft of Module 1 Essay Test, by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time

World War I & Three Independent Countries

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “World War I & Three Independent Countries”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 182–224.
3. Listen to my podcast on “Helidé Edib.”
4. Read “Helidé Edib,” 127–132.
5. View the 2 episodes of the film “Blood and Oil” (6 min. each):
“Mustafa Kemal:” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFGC3ZWdfVE>
“The Greco-Turkish War:” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHWA2-Zs5nY>

Activities:

1. Post a paragraph on one of the 5 key terms to “Forum: World War I & Three Independent Countries” by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time
2. Comment on 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the quiz “World War I & Three Independent Countries” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

Week 9 10/29–11/4

The Arab Struggle for Independence

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “The Arab Struggle for Independence.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 225–268.
3. Listen to my podcast on Huda al-Sha‘arawi.
4. Read Rogan, *The Arabs*, 166–69 (on the Moodle page).
5. View the two segments of the film “Blood and Oil” (7 min. each.):
“New Nations:” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyWwli4Msug>
“Hollow Victory:” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_0IpkPiwNM

Activities:

1. Post a paragraph one of the 5 key terms to “Forum: The Arab Struggle for Independence” by Wednesday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time
2. Comment on 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the quiz “The Arab Struggle for Independence” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

MODULE 3: CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS & CHALLENGES

Week 10 11/5—11/11

Assignment: The Arab-Israeli Wars

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “The Arab-Israeli Wars”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 269–326.
3. Listen to my podcast on Israeli & Palestinian perspectives.
4. Read “Zionist Colonialism,” 167–168
5. Read “What Is There to Understand?” 467–469.

6. Watch the film “The Six-Day War: 1967” (47 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAlo59qghzg>

Activities:

1. Take the quiz “The Arab-Israeli Wars” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. Post a paragraph one of the 4 key terms to “Forum: The Arab-Israeli Wars” by Wednesday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Comment on at least 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

Week 11 11/12–11/18

DUE: MODULE 2 ESSAY TEST by Sun., 11:55 PM Eastern Time

Assignment: The Arab-Israeli Peace Process & Its Collapse

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation “The Peace Process.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 329–334, 351–359, 371–381, 407–416.
3. View the films: “Israeli Settlements Explained” (9 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0uLbeQlwjw>
“Israel-Gaza Crisis (2014)” (3 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZAnAxW7j0&t=66s>
“Inside Gaza Tunnels” (3 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wYwe0XRWPc&t=116s>

Activities:

1. Take the quiz “The Arab-Israeli Peace Process” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. NO FORUM POSTS THIS WEEK. Focus on the Module 2 essay.

Week 12 11/19–11/21 Thanksgiving

Assignment: Islamist Movements

1. Read the PowerPoint presentation, “Islamist Movements”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 335–346, 383–400, 417–436.
3. View the film “The Rise of ISIS” (6 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzmO6RWy1v8&t=34s>
4. View the film “Islamic State and Hizbollah”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pvil3E3QgMY>

Activities:

1. Take the quiz “Islamist Movements” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
2. NO FORUM POSTS THIS WEEK. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Week 13 11/26–12/2

Assignment: Two U.S. Wars in Iraq

1. Read the PowerPoint Presentation “Two U.S. Wars in Iraq.”
2. Read Goldschmidt, 347–351, 364–375, 400–407.
3. Listen to my podcast on Iran and U.S. Wars in Iraq.
4. Read, Maloney, “...Iran’s Regional Strategy,” 1–12.

Activities:

1. Post a paragraph one of the 5 key terms to “Forum: Two Wars in Iraq” by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time
2. Comment on at least 2 other students’ posts by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.
3. Take the quiz “Two Wars in Iraq” by Sunday, 11:55 PM Eastern Time.

4. Watch the film “Events that Led to Iraq War,” (4 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6daSrkgDX0k>

Week 14 12/3–12/8

Assignment: Writing the Module 3 essay test (due during the exam period)

1. Devote this week to working on the Module 3 essay test, which is due Dec. 10.
2. Read Potter, “Sectarianism in the Middle East,” (on the Moodle page).
3. View the film “The Middle East’s Cold War” (10 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veMFCFyOwFI>
4. View the film “Syria’s War” (7 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFpanWNgfQY>
5. View the film “Shia‘ Militias Taking Back Iraq”(6 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcZT3YZqkYs>

Activities:

1. Feel free to use the forum to share ideas and questions with the class. (Posts are not required and are not graded).
2. Feel free to send me drafts of your essay so that I can give you feedback and guidance.

Exam Period: 10–15 December

DUE: MODULE 3 TEST by 11:55 PM Eastern Time, Mon., Dec. 10