

**WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE**  
**BUSINESS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**  
**GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE**

HST	231	History of the Middle East to 1453	(3 - 0)	3
Course Prefix	Course Number	Course Title	Lec-Lab	Credit Hours

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Surveys the Ancient Near East and Middle East from its origins in Ancient Sumer up to 1453. Emphasis will be placed on social, political, economic, religious, and military institutions. The process of change and broad continuities will be examined in relationship to the historical evolution and growth of the region. IAI S2-918-N

**TOPICAL OUTLINE**

- I. Prehistory
- II. Agricultural Revolution
- III. Old Canaanites
- IV. Elamites
- V. Sumerians
- VI. Akkadians
- VII. Israelites
- VIII. Babylonians
- IX. Hurrians
- X. Hittites
- XI. Mitanni
- XII. Assyrians
- XIII. Phygrians
- XIV. Neo-Assyrians
- XV. Medes
- XVI. Neo-Babylonians
- XVII. Egyptians
- XVIII. Persians
- XIX. Persian Empire
- XX. Greeks in the Near East
- XXI. Alexander
- XXII. Rome in the Near East
- XXIII. Roman Empire
- XXIV. Decline of Rome
- XXV. Rise of Christianity
- XXVI. Rise of Islam
- XXVII. Byzantines/ Byzantine Empire
- XXVIII. Seljuk Civilization
- XXIX. Mongol Period
- XXX. Crusades/Church
- XXXI. Mamluks

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION**

1. Lecture
2. Discussion
3. Designated readings
4. Cooperative learning
5. Oral reports
6. Simulations
7. Debates

8. Appropriate media and selected films

**STUDENT OUTCOMES:** (The student should . . .)

1. explain the origins of Ancient Near and Middle Eastern civilizations.
2. explain the contributions of early year and Middle Eastern civilizations.
3. explain how early civilizations spread and interacted in the Near and Middle East.
4. explain the origin of the state and regional economic systems.
5. explain the origins and spread of settled agricultural communities and the impact of domestication.
6. explain the political expansion in the Ancient Near and Middle East to the time of the Mamluks.
7. evaluate the conflict between power and culture.
8. explain the rise of Islam.
9. outline the influences of Greece and Rome in the Near and Middle East.
10. trace the rise of the Byzantines.
11. explain the rise of the Seljuk Civilization.
12. explain the rise of the Mongols.
13. understand the influence of the Church and Crusades in the Middle East.
14. trace the rise of the Mamluks

**METHOD OF EVALUATION**

1. Three (3) essay examinations
2. Three (3) document-based case studies
3. One oral presentation
4. One 15-page primary source research paper

**TEXTBOOK**

Goldschmidt, Arthur, Jr., A Concise History of the Middle East, Westview, 8th ed., 2006.

Lewis, Middle East, 2003.

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