

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: HUMAN 21      Title: HUMANITIES IN MID. EAST  
Full Title: The Humanities in the Middle East  
Last Reviewed: 3/14/2016

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	17.5	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable  
Grading: Grade or P/NP  
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP  
Also Listed As:  
Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
An interdisciplinary exploration of the arts, ideas and values among the cultures of the Middle East (aka Near East), with focus upon works of literature, film, visual art, music, theatre and dance. Class will focus on philosophy and religion as pertaining to the various disciplines of the humanities in the Middle East.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: An interdisciplinary exploration of the arts, ideas, and values among the cultures of the Middle East (aka Near East) with focus upon works of literature, film, visual art, music, theatre and dance. Class will focus on philosophy and religion as pertaining to the various disciplines of the humanities in the Middle East. (Grade or P/NP)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.  
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>	
	E	Humanities		Fall 2007		
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>	
	C2	Humanities		Fall 2007		
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>			<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>	
	3B	Humanities		Fall 2007		
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>	Transferable		<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 2007	<b>Inactive:</b>	Fall 2023
<b>UC Transfer:</b>	Transferable		<b>Effective:</b>	Fall 2007	<b>Inactive:</b>	Fall 2023

### **CID:**

### **Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze representative works from specific Middle Eastern cultures and describe their distinguishing characteristics within cultural contexts.
2. Discuss the ideas, beliefs, and values communicated in artistic expressions of at least three Middle Eastern cultures.
3. Compare, contrast and evaluate specific Middle Eastern ideas, beliefs and values with specific Western ideas, beliefs and values and with their own ideas, beliefs and values.
4. Analyze class, gender and other sociopolitical concerns as reflected in literature and the arts.
5. Demonstrate an ability to compare, contrast, and link cultural expressions of the various disciplines in the humanities including mythology, literature, visual arts, film, theatre, music, dance, religion and philosophy.

### **Topics and Scope:**

- I. The course must cover at least three distinct geo-cultural areas such as Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara and/or Yemen.
- II. The course may be arranged chronologically, by period, geographically, by region or thematically.

- III. The course may include major forms of expression including use of representative primary sources and texts in areas such as mythology, literature, visual arts, film, theatre, music, dance, religion and philosophy such as:
- A. Visual arts: The effect of Islam on cultural production. Principal achievements in Islamic architecture 680-1600 AD/CE. Mosque architecture, decorative arts, mosaic and calligraphy. Pre-Islamic and Islamic architecture design and decoration. Persian miniatures as well as Muslim and Sufi illuminated manuscripts. Byzantine art and architecture.
  - B. Primary philosophical/religious texts: Hebrew Bible, New Testament, The Q'uran, The Egyptian Book of the Dead, origin and development of Sufism.
  - C. Pre-historical and pre-Islamic literature and philosophy from such civilizations as Mesopotamia (Babylonian creation story, Epic of Gilgamesh, Code of Hammurabi), Sumer/Mesopotamia, Assyria, Egypt (Book of the Dead), Graeco/Roman and Judeo/Christian influences in the Near East.
  - D. Film: Cairo, Egypt as a center of cinema. Middle Eastern film history such as Youssef Chahine's Cairo Station (1968) and Saladin (1963), Bourlem Guerdjou's Living in Paradise (1998, Algeria) and Silences of the Palace by Moufida Tlatli.
  - E. Music: Arab culture in World Music. Storytelling and chant. Egyptian epic poetry as the basis of the Arab musical tradition. Classic vocalists such as Umm Kulthum, or instrumentalists such as Abdesadek Chekara. Popular music: Cheb Mami, Assi Al-Hilani, or Hakim.
  - F. Dance: Folk dance from Morocco, origins of belly dance.
  - G. Literary arts: Poets such as Mohamed Bennis (Morocco), Nizar Qabbani (Syria), Salma Khadra Jayyusi and Mahmoud Darwish (Palestine). Dramatists such as Sa'dallah Wannus. Prose fiction by writers such as Abdelrahman Munif, Tariq Ali, Naguib Mahfouz, Amin Malouf, Nawal Al Sa'adawi, Fatima Mernisi, Ibn Khaldun, Ibn Batutta, Mohammed-Ali Jamalzadeh, Sadeq Hedayat, Sadeq Chubak, Simin Daneshvar, Bozorg Alavi, Ebrahim Golestan, Bahman Sholevar, Zoya Pirzad, Orhan Pamuk, Sait Faik Abasiyanik, Beyaz Kale, Nihal Atsiz, Orkun Ucar, Burak Turna, or Ihsan Oktay.
- IV. The course will cover cultural interactions between the Middle East and the West such as the effect of the Silk Road, the Crusades, cultural developments in el Andalus (Muslim Spain) and North Africa, Byzantium, the Ottoman Empire as well as the colonial period and the discourse of Orientalism. Travel writings from and about the Middle East. Post-colonial and modern topics may also be included.
- V. The historical role of women in the Middle East. Modern feminist discourse and cultural contributions of women in post-colonial Middle East. Effect of religious law on family structure.
- VI. The course may examine minority communities such as the Kurds and Berbers, religious minorities who are Arab but not Muslim, and Jewish communities in the Arab countries. Course may also cover traditional practices of caravan culture, (Bedouin) nomadic cultural production, oasis life.
- VII. Class relations in the Middle East

## Assignment:

Assignments will include:

1. Reading and analysis of 20-50 pages of assigned primary texts and supplemental readings to establish cultural context.
2. Two to ten examinations or projects, which include quizzes, midterm exams and/or take-home exams. A final is required.
3. Two to four written essays (1 to 5 pages) requiring students to analyze representative works of Middle Eastern literature, visual art, music, theater, dance, philosophical and religious thought. Students may be asked to examine, compare and contrast ideas, values and beliefs, and integrate materials from more than one discipline.
4. Optional assignments may include participation in cultural activities, museum, field trips and panel discussions.

## Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essays

Writing  
50 - 85%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving  
0 - 0%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 0%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, midterms and final exams

Exams  
15 - 50%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Activities, field trips, creative projects (optional)

Other Category  
0 - 30%

## Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Samples include:

Classic:

The Arabian Nights: Tales From A Thousand And One Nights by Byatt, A.S.

(Introduction). Burton, Richard. Modern Library: 2004  
 The Egyptian Book Of The Dead. Wallis, E.A Budge. Kessinger  
 Publishing: 2005  
 Essential Rumi (Paperback). Barks, Coleman. Harper San Francisco: 1997  
 The Exploits Of The Incomparable Mulla Nasrudin/The Subtleties Of The  
 Inimitable Mulla Nasrudin, Shah, Idries. Paperback Octagon Press: 1989  
 Gilgamesh: A New English Version. Mitchell, Stephen. Free Press: 2006  
 The Hebrew Bible And New Testament  
 The Muqaddimah: An Introduction To History. Khaldun, Ibn and Trans:  
 Dawood, Lawrence, and Rosenthal. Princeton University Press: 2004  
 Night & Horses & The Desert: An Anthology Of Classical Arabic Literature:  
 Irwin, Robert (Ed) Anchor. 2002  
 The Qua'ran (Koran), Anonymous and Dawood, N.J. Penguin Classics: 2004  
 The Rubaiyat Of Omar Khayyam, Trans. by Whinfield, Edward Henry (HTML at  
 Fordham). 2008

#### Aesthetics:

Architecture of The Islamic World: Its History And Social Meaning.  
 Mitchell, George Ed. Thames & Hudson: 1995  
 Beauty In Arabic Culture. Behrens-Abouseif, Doris and Weiner, Marcus: 1999  
 Islamic Art And Architecture (The World of Art). Hillenbrand, Robert  
 Thames & Hudson: 1998

#### Criticism:

Culture and Imperialism. Said, Edward. Vintage International: 1994  
 Orientalism. Said, Edward. Random House: 1979

#### Anthologies:

A Mansion In The Sky and Other Short Stories. Taraghi, Goli. Faridoun  
 Farrokh, U Texas at Austin: 2003  
 An Introduction to Arabic Literature. Allen, Roger. Cambridge University: 2000  
 Islam And The West. Lewis, Bernard. Oxford U Press: 1994  
 Modern Arabic Fiction: Jayusi, Salma Khadra. Columbia University  
 Press: 2005  
 Modern Arabic Poetry. Jayusi. Salma Khadra. Columbia University  
 Press: 1987

#### Novels/ Fiction/Travel Narratives:

Balthasar's Odyssey. Malouf, Amin. Arcade Books: 2000  
 The Book of Saladin. Ali, Tariq. Verso Press: 1998  
 The Bookseller of Kabul. Seierstad, Asne. Back Bay Press: 2002  
 Cities of Salt: Munif, Abdelrahman. Vintage International: 1987  
 Fountain and Tomb. Mahfouz, Naguib. Lynne Rienner Publications: 1998  
 Shadows of The Pomegranate Tree. Tariq, Ali. Verso Press: 1993.  
 The Storyteller's Daughter. Shah, Saira. Anchor Books: 2003  
 The Trench. Munif, Abdelrahman. Vintage International: 1993  
 Variations on Night and Day. Munif, Abdelrahman. Vintage International: 1994

#### Women's Studies

A Walnut Sapling On Masih's Grave and Other Stories by Iranian Women.  
 Green, J. and Yazdabfar, F. Eds. Heinemann Press: 1993

Dreams Of Trespass, Tales of a Harem Childhood. Mernissi, Fatima. Perseus Books: 1994

The Forgotten Queens of Islam. Mernissi, Fatima and Lakeland, Mary Jo  
Univeristy of Minnesota Press: 1997

The Hidden Face of Eve, Women In The Arab World. Sa'a'dawi, Nawal Al.  
Zed Books: 1980

Memoirs from the Women's Prison. Al Sa'a'dawi, Nawal. UC Press: 1994

Memoirs of A Woman Doctor. Sa'a'dawi, Nawal. AlCity Lights: 1989

The Sewing Circles Of Herat. Lamb, Christina . Harper Collins Perennial: 2002.

Writing Woman's Worlds: Bedouin Stories. Abuilughod, Lila. UC  
Berkeley Press: 1993